Learning in Disaster Health 2014: Registration Open

The National Center is hosting the 2014 Learning in Disaster Health Workshop (LDH ’14) in the DC Metropolitan area (Fort Myer, VA) on September 9-10, 2014! This event is the only National workshop of its kind that addresses learning and disaster health. There is no registration fee for this event, so register today! The keynote speakers for LDH ’14 include Edward J. Gabriel, MPA, EMT-P, CEM, CBCP, the Principle Deputy Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and Arthur L. Kellermann, MD, MPH, the Dean of the F. Edward Herbert School of Medicine at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.

“We are excited to hold our second workshop addressing learning issues specific to disaster health,” said NCDMPH Acting Director Kenneth W. Schor, DO, MPH, FAAP.

This event will focus on education and training for disaster health in an interdisciplinary forum centered on the following objectives:

1. Explore concepts of adult learning in the context of disaster health
2. Highlight the implications of the latest research and practice for disaster health learning and performance and identify key areas for future research
3. Present a unique opportunity for collaboration among disaster health, human resource development and adult education professionals
4. Identify potential solutions for maximizing learning in a resource constrained environment

LDH ’14 will bring together a diverse group of presenters from universities and state, local, and federal government. The event also offers unique networking opportunities via its “Showcase of Practice: A Roundtable Networking Session” where attendees can learn about ongoing research and practice from professionals from a variety of institutions. LDH ’14 will also feature an interactive poster session featuring research in the field.

In addition to a lively networking session, LDH ’14 will feature National experts leading sessions on:

- Inter-professional Disaster Education Practices
- Disaster Behavioral Health: Applying Evidence to Learning
- Enhancing Recovery through Learning, Education and Training
- Expanding the Disaster Workforce through Volunteers
- Learning to Build Resilience at the Neighborhood Level

More details about the agenda can be found on the workshop website. (ncdmph.usuhs.edu)
NCDMPH Releases "Radiation Disaster Issues in Children: A Case-Based Activity"

This spring, NCDMPH released an accredited case-based activity complementary to the previously released primer, Radiation Disaster Issues in Children: An Approach to the Patient, and knowledge check. Similar to the primer, this new activity discusses the unique needs of pediatric patients during and after exposure to a radiological disaster. This activity is accredited for continuing education for physicians and nurses. NCDMPH Acting Director Kenneth Schor, DO, MPH and Project Associate Thomas Fitzgerald, MPH authored the lesson.

“The cases are designed to be most helpful to primary care practitioners,” Dr. Schor said. “This case-based activity fills a big need that hasn’t been previously addressed in the field.”

The activity presents a scenario in which an improvised nuclear device (IND) is detonated in a medium-sized city. There are three pediatric case examples which highlight patient management. The lesson has a practical focus and raises awareness of algorithms and other resources that can be used in patient management during and after a radiological disaster.

Dr. Schor and Mr. Fitzgerald aimed to create an approachable product for those less-acquainted with radiation issues.

“We’ve tried to keep it fairly simply and not too heavily focused on radiation physics” Dr. Schor said. “This activity is intended to allow the user to direct their learning to the level they find most useful for them. This flexibility is a unique feature.”

The learning activity centers on the following learning objectives:

1. Gather subjective and objective data from the patient, family, and relevant response authorities to initially risk stratify pediatric patients
2. Describe the use of Radiation Emergency Medical Management: REMM (US Department of Health and Human Services) algorithms to evaluate a pediatric patient who may be exposed to and/or contaminated by radiation
3. Provide basic safety anticipatory guidance to pediatric patients and their families

Learners can also access this lesson on the Public Health Foundation’s TRAIN services under the course number 1050965. Visit ncdmph.usuhs.edu for other accredited and pediatric-focused online lessons.

Recent & Upcoming Publications

The National Center continues to be a center of scholarly activity through the authoring of manuscripts and publications.

Recently Published:


This article explores the discrepancies in the 2012 pyramid learning framework from the article “Core Competencies for Disaster Medicine and Public Health” (2012; 6: 44-52) by categorizing 35 different disaster health competency sets within four levels of the original competency framework. The manuscript reveals discrepancies in the original pyramid and proposes a revised pyramid. This full-text manuscript of this article can be accessed online.

Upcoming Publication:

Acting Director Dr. Kenneth W. Schor, MPH is contributing a chapter in a book written by a diverse group of experts in the fields of disaster and geriatric medicine:


For more updates on the National Center’s scholarly activities, follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/NCDMPH and Facebook at facebook.com/NCDMPH.
Collaboration between Two USU Centers Produces Curriculum Recommendations

The National Center for Disaster Medicine and Public Health and the Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress (CSTS), two research centers at the Uniformed Service University of the Health Sciences (USU), recently collaborated on a set of curriculum recommendations. “Curriculum Recommendations for Disaster Health Professionals: Disaster Behavioral Health” is the second in a series of peer-reviewed curriculum recommendations from NCDMPH. These recommendations provide resources and topics for education and training activities on behavioral health factors in disasters to educators working with disaster health professionals.

The project began when NCDMPH reached out to CSTS to produce these curriculum guidelines. Dr. Brian Flynn, Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and a leading national expert in disaster behavioral health, decided to take the lead for CSTS with Kelly Gulley managing the NCDMPH side of the project. Over the course of several months, the two centers collaborated on curriculum content and defined learning outcome goals. Dr. Flynn eventually reached out to USU assistant professor and scientist at CSTS, CDR Joshua Morganstein for assistance in identifying resources and clarifying topics. The recommendations then underwent significant peer review by national experts.

When approaching content decisions, Dr. Flynn used his experience in disaster behavioral health as a point of reference. “Having been in this field for many years I approached the project by thinking, ‘What would I have wanted to know at various parts of my career?’” Dr. Flynn said.

The curriculum recommendations are not prescriptive, but rather adaptable to the needs and circumstances of the educator. Users can engage with the curriculum to create lectures on specific content or produce an entire course on the topic in general.

“One of the things that excite me about the curriculum recommendations is that it has such a wide utility and can be suited to many needs,” Dr. Flynn said.

The curriculum recommendations feature resources in the following areas of disaster behavioral health: Defining Disaster Behavioral Health; The Disaster Environment; Key Partners; Individual and Collective Response to Disaster; Populations with Special Needs and At Risk Individuals; Providing Care; and Playing Additional Important Roles.

The National Center for Disaster Medicine and Public Health benefited greatly from this collaboration with CSTS. “This collaboration has enhanced our efforts to educate the nation in disaster health,” said NCDMPH Acting Director Dr. Kenneth Schor.

To get a sneak peek at what LDH’14 has to offer, read the proceedings from Learning in Disaster Health 2013 (http://ncdmph.usuhs.edu/Documents/Proceedings-of-Learning-in-Disaster-Health.pdf) and watch the following webinars:

- CDC Responder Workforce Needs Assessment, presented by Gabrielle O’Meara, BA, Silvia M. Trigoso, MPH, and Capt Gail Williams, MPH
- Training Social Worker Students through Disaster Work, presented by Patricia Findley, DrPH, MSW
- Integration and Performance of Mental Health Triage Core Competencies in Los Angeles County Statewide Disaster Exercise, presented by Sandra Shields & Dr. Merrit D. Schrieber

Continue to visit ncdmph.usuhs.edu and follow us on Facebook and Twitter using the #LDH14 hashtag to hear about the latest announcements regarding this unique interdisciplinary event.
National Center Welcomes Alice O’Donnell to Staff

In October 2013, the National Center for Disaster Medicine and Public Health formalized an agreement between the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences and the Society for Disaster Medicine and Public Health (SDMPH) that facilitates NCDMPH providing editorial support to SDMPH’s journal Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness (DMPHP). DMPHP is published by Cambridge University Press and explores scholarly topics related to disaster medicine and public health. It is the first comprehensive and authoritative journal emphasizing public health preparedness and disaster response for all healthcare and public health professionals globally. The journal seeks to translate science into practice and integrate medical and public health perspectives.

Last winter, Alice O’Donnell joined NCDMPH and SDMPH as Managing Editor for Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness. In this role, O’Donnell oversees all aspects of the journal’s peer review, production, and publication, both print and online. She also works with the editors and the Society to develop and implement marketing outreach strategies to the multidisciplinary and global subscribership, and represents the journal and the Society at various medical and public health meetings. SDMPH’s mission is to advance and promote excellence in education, training and research in disaster medicine and public health for all potential health system responders based on sound educational principles, scientific evidence and best clinical and public health practices.

Prior to joining NCDMPH, O’Donnell worked for several scholarly publishing programs including The American Physiological Society, American Geophysical Union, and The Endocrine Society. During this time, she helped test and develop one of the earliest online submission and peer review systems, and published one of the earliest open access journals, Journal of Vision. O’Donnell began her career in commercial publishing and advertising in Dublin. She worked for The Times in London, before finally settling in Rockville, MD, to further develop her interest in science editing and publishing.

The National Center welcomes Alice to the NCDMPH team!

NCDMPH Disaster Learning Webinar Series

NCDMPH continues to deliver monthly webinars dedicated topics related to disaster education and training.

All of our webinars are archived online and can be accessed from all devices at ncdmph.usuhs.edu/NewsEvents/Webinars.htm. This summer you can enjoy a variety of webinars spanning a vast array of topics at no cost.

The National Center encourages our stakeholders to attend these unique learning opportunities.

Upcoming webinars:

- July 29, 2014 at 1PM E.T. “The Measured Impact of Community Disaster Readiness Capability on Response and Recovery Outcomes” presented by Rebecca S. Zukowski, Ph.D, RN, Associate Academic Dean & Chairperson, Division of Nursing, Mount Aloysius College
- August 29, 2014 at 1PM E.T. “Using Gender Research to Enhance Disaster Public Health,” by Dr. Elaine Enarson