

A consortium of leading universities, premier corporations with extensive research and development infrastructure, and key government and national organizations have joined together to create the *National Center for the Study of Preparedness and Catastrophic Event Response (PACER)*. The consortium, led by Johns Hopkins University and sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), is organized to engage in multi-disciplinary, trans-institutional research to create knowledge directed toward increased national preparedness against weapons of mass destruction and other catastrophic high-consequence events. The mission of PACER is to improve the Nation's preparedness and the ability to respond in the event of a high consequence natural or manmade disaster to alleviate the event's effects by developing and disseminating best scientific practices.

Guiding Principles—The Center will:

- Focus on all hazards, but especially chemical, biological, and explosives events as well as natural and pandemic catastrophes with serious medical consequences or that may challenge the medical systems;
- Conduct inquiries that serve the goals of DHS and the National Response Plan;
- Engage in trans-institutional, multidisciplinary endeavors to develop new knowledge;
- Engage all levels of government and the private sector for a fully integrated approach;
- Leverage the resources of PACER partners to augment efforts;
- Consider obligations to EPSCoR states and Minority Serving Institutions (MSI);
- Develop educational programs and concepts for



higher education approaches to train future leaders, experts, and scholars;

- Engage in appropriate efforts to achieve sustainability; and,
- Maintain flexibility, given the potential changing threats.

Specific Research and Educational Goals—The Center has highlighted multidisciplinary, trans-institutional investigations of high priority problems, as identified by DHS. Along these lines, PACER has three major goals:

Research: To generate the scientific foundation for understanding catastrophic event preparedness and response, with a focus on the following research areas:

- (1) Surge Capacity (Medical or Public Health);
- (2) Medical or Public Health Preparedness and/or Response;
- (3) Situation Awareness (particularly as it relates to Medical Response).

PACER has a particular interest in: minimal datasets for clinical and public health decisions; development of decision support tools development

of altered standards of medical and public health care; allocation of scarce medical and public health resources; information technology tools and data, including surveillance; data sharing; health system capacity management; continuity of health operations, including health work force resilience; and health preparedness and response related modeling and simulation tools.

Translation: To translate new knowledge, tools, models, and other PACER applications and findings into the practice of medical and public health preparedness and response.

Education: To transfer knowledge generated by PACER research to the next generation of practitioners and scholars in the fields of medical and public health preparedness and response and related areas of effort.

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Principal Investigator (dual): Lynn Goldman, M.D., M.P.H, FAAP, Professor of Environment Health Science, and Chair, Interdepartmental Program in Applied Public Health, Bloomberg School of Public Health (JHSPH), Johns Hopkins University

Major Collaborating Partners and Lead Investigator

Morgan State University

University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB)

University of Buffalo (UB)/Calspan-University at Buffalo Research Center (CUBRC)

Florida State Universities Consortium
(representing: Florida Agricultural and Mechanical (A&M) University, Florida State University, University of South Florida, and Florida Atlantic University)

The Brookings Institution

Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab (APL)

Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health

Johns Hopkins University School Education

Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies

Johns Hopkins University Whiting School of Engineering

Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

Tuskegee Area Health Education Center (TAHEC)

Howard University

University of Puerto Rico at Ponce

