



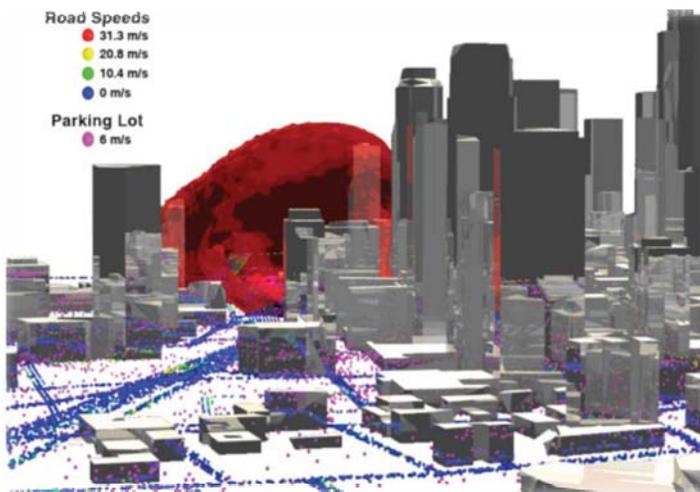
National Center for the Study of Preparedness and Catastrophic Event Response (PACER)

A DHS Center of Excellence

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, promote and sponsor academic advancement, support decision making, and enhance the Nation's security.

MISSION: The mission of PACER is to improve the nation's preparedness and ability to respond to disasters through rigorous scientific research focused on medical and public health preparedness strategies, response capabilities, and surge capacity.

PACER provides a scientifically rigorous and educationally challenging environment that fosters intellectual discovery, creates and transmits innovative knowledge and tools, and advances and promotes the field of medical and public health preparedness and response.



Center Goals: Research PACER highlights multidisciplinary, trans-institutional investigations of high priority problems, as identified by DHS.

Basic and Applied Research: Generate the fundamental scientific foundation for understanding disaster preparedness and response. Build upon this foundation using applied methodologies designed to solve the practical problems of the modern world, with a research focus on:

- (1) Medical and public health preparedness strategies and response capabilities;
- (2) Surge capacity (medical and public health);
- (3) Situation awareness (particularly as it relates to medical response);
- (4) Bio-threat modeling.

PACER has particular interest in: Minimal datasets for clinical and public health decisions; decision support tools, development of crisis 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 community resilience; and health preparedness and response related modeling and simulation tools.

Translation: Translate new knowledge by developing tools, models, and other practical applications for medical and public health preparedness and response. Communicate findings to practitioners and policy makers.

Decision and Policy Support: Develop and disseminate tools that enable decision makers, leaders, and policy producers to leverage up-to-date, relevant and timely information in the formulation and approval of policies and selection of appropriate courses of action. Assess and evaluate policy implications of all PACER projects and results.

Center Goals: Education PACER emphasizes training the next generation of scientists and leaders in the area of homeland security. Unique, broad and collaborative programmatic efforts are undertaken to promote and sponsor academic advancement in the following areas:

Training: Transfer knowledge generated by PACER research by training the next generation of practitioners and scholars in the fields of medical and public health preparedness and response and related areas of effort.

Scholarship: Build the academic foundation for preparing the next generation of educators and practitioners by creating the premier terminal degree program in Disaster Health, along with a definitive textbook in Disaster medicine and Public Health Preparedness. Such endeavors will fulfill HSPD-21's call to establish *Disaster Health* as a new autonomous academic discipline.

Advocacy: PACER seeks to found an academic society to promote research, education, policy, and advocacy for disaster medicine and public health preparedness.

Principal Investigator (dual): Gabe Kelen, M.D. FRCP(C), FACEP, FAAEM, Director, The Johns Hopkins Office of Critical Event Preparedness and Response (CEPAR); Professor and Chair, Department of Emergency Medicine, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

Representative list of collaborating partners and affiliates:

Brookings Institution
Columbia University
Dartmouth College
Howard University
Meharry Medical College
Morehouse College
University of Chicago
University of Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh Center for Biosecurity
Vanderbilt University Medical Center
American Medical Association
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
MITRE Corporation
National Medical Association
Johns Hopkins Hospital
Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab (APL)
Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health
Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

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