



## Division of Protective Medicine Center for Disaster Medicine Preparedness



### U of L's Division of Protective Medicine Partnering with American Medical Association to Prepare Medical Personnel, First Responders, and Disaster Volunteers to Respond When Disaster Strikes

With the current outbreak of the H1N1 Influenza virus and the ever present threat of natural and man-made disasters around the world and right here at home, it is critical that our medical personnel, first responders, and disaster volunteers receive new and innovative training to prepare them for these imminent threats.

On April 15, 2009, the University of Louisville's Division of Protective Medicine (DPM), Department of Emergency Medicine, continued its efforts to bring cutting edge, innovative education opportunities to healthcare providers, first responders, and disaster volunteers by becoming an accredited National Disaster Life Support Foundation (NDLSF) Regional Training Center and a voting member of the National Disaster Life Support Education Consortium (NDLSEC). The NDLSF was created in 2003 when the American Medical Association (AMA) joined with four major academic centers to help standardize emergency response training nationwide and strengthen our nation's health system. In 2004, the AMA and NDLSF formed a multidisciplinary to provide the requisite knowledge and

consortium, NDLSEC, which was tasked to provide the requisite knowledge and expertise for the regular review and critique of the National Disaster Life Support™ (NDLS™) courses.

The NDLS courses stress a comprehensive, all-hazards approach to help deal with catastrophic emergencies from terrorist acts as well as from explosions, fire, natural disasters, and infectious diseases.

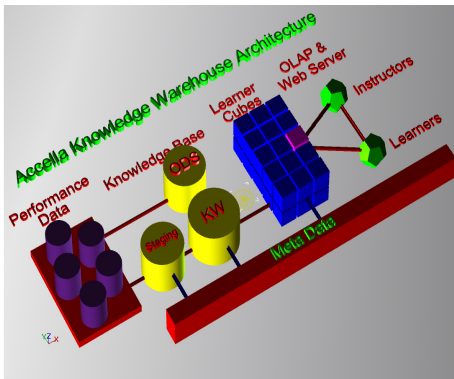
As a member of the National Disaster Life Support Foundation, Inc, the Division of Protective Medicine is offering free CME Credit for the eCDLS™. The added advantage of the on-line approach is that the student may take the course in multiple sessions over a period of several days or weeks; it is self paced. This course was developed by the AMA under a grant received from the US Department of Homeland Security.

Please contact [protective.medicine@louisville.edu](mailto:protective.medicine@louisville.edu) (502) 852-6599 for more information about the eCDLS or other courses that are currently being offered at the Center for Disaster Medicine Preparedness.



## What’s Happening at DPM and the Center for Disaster Medicine Preparedness?

### Research and Development



The DoD’s Telemedicine and Advanced Technology Research Center (TATRC) at Ft Detrick, MD, has identified a need for state-of-the-art simulation and training applications for military and civilian healthcare teams.

The Department of Protective Medicine at the University of Louisville and Accella Learning LLC are receiving a \$2.8 million appropriation in FY’09 to complete the TATRC project by establishing a fully operational, first-of-its-kind, Knowledge Warehouse infrastructure in the DPM – U of L. The establishment of this Intelligent Tutoring System and training center will enable the DPM to offer state-of-the-art training using their content libraries, and learning management system. This fully operational training center will initially target civilian and military healthcare providers and first responders.

- Summer Research Projects*
- Gaming for Adult Learners*
  - Gaming for Children*
  - Adaptive Learning*

### Planning/Preparedness

#### Natural Death Surge Planning

This year’s emphasis is on the Transportation Plan sub-component of the NDS Plan that was developed last year. The focus is on the key elements of movement, information processing, and internment. The project will culminate with a statewide exercise in August.



#### AGRO-BioTerrorism



“Don’t drink the water” is a common reminder to travelers, but what happens when the message is “Don’t eat the food” and it’s coming from your own community? The Division of Protective Medicine is partnering with the Bio-Technology program at Owensboro Community and Technical College to conduct a one-day seminar on the vulnerability of our food chain.



## What’s Happening at DPM and the Center for Disaster Medicine Preparedness?

### Training/Exercise

The Division of Protective Medicine is currently developing two courses that will be available late summer. Throughout the Commonwealth, varies after action reports have showed a critical need for courses related to disaster communications and triage.

#### “Disaster Communication”

When a disaster strikes, it is important to have effective communication. This course examines Joint Information Systems, Joint Information Centers, various methods and styles of communication as well as looking at social media as a new method of communication.



#### “Triage: A Practical Review of Best Triage Practices”

Triage is a critical factor in any multiple injury environment; making the right call at the right time can mean the difference between life and death. This course examines various methods with specific focus on the AMA’s National model and application of its procedures.

### Director’s Corner

### Are We Really Prepared??

At a conference that utilized a fun and exciting methodology of debate for lectures and presentations. I am sure those of us who frequent the conference circuit have had the opportunity to enjoy a good “give and take” allowing highly qualified and credentialed speakers to debate topics that are hot on the minds of like professionals.

With that frame of mind continued, I would ask for the debate to occur, even if it is in your, the reader’s, own head. No need to verbalize, I am not asking for a rebellion, I am just asking for us to take a step back and ask if what we are doing as Preparedness Professionals is really working to prepare our communities? Over the last year, I have seen a great demonstration of how the Nation’s work has helped prepare the country, with a better Hurricane response, a reasonable response to H1N1 Flu underway, and many other positives that could be listed.

However, I can also point out that with policy and funding decisions at the state level, training and exercise activities are harder than ever to fund and agencies and regions continue to buy equipment and supplies typically budgeting a couple thousand dollars towards training (if they have a couple of thousand). Two main problems exist. First, I am afraid of the practice of equipping and supplying without proper education and training. Knowledge increases abilities, you have to have abilities in order to enhance your capabilities. Secondly, and in closing, we are all seeing a decline in preparedness funding. Since many of us are in grant funded positions, we should all have this final question in mind. If grant funds are decreasing, what policies are being put in place to keep the counties, universities, and state preparedness infrastructures in place? When grant funds are gone, what will we have left other than a lot of equipment with no personnel to use or to manage?