Laboratory Response Network for Biological Threats Preparedness (LRN-B) Technical Meeting

Innovate to Elevate: Strengthening the LRN for The Future

November 13-15, 2024

Atlanta, GA

Final Program

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Meeting Goals and Objectives

The Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Office of Laboratory Systems and Response (OLSR), Division of Laboratory Systems (DLS) is pleased to convene the 2024 Laboratory Response Network for Biological Preparedness (LRN-B) Technical Meeting from November 13-15 in Atlanta, GA.

The purpose of this meeting is to convene LRN-B stakeholders and provide information on various aspects of the network. By the end of this meeting attendees will be able to:

- Discuss organizational changes at CDC to strengthen laboratory preparedness and response
- Describe partnerships and coordination for laboratory preparedness and response.
- Describe the evolving role of the LRN and articulate its accomplishments and vision.
- Discuss how the LRN supports public health.
- Explain various methods and new initiatives for peer-to-peer networking in the LRN-B.
- Describe evaluation and implementation of new technologies for LRN-B testing.
- Describe the evolving role and uses of artificial intelligence in laboratories.
- Discuss the impact of federal regulations on laboratory testing.
- Explain the role of various partners and how they work in tandem with the LRN-B.
- Celebrate the accomplishments of their peers
- Describe the critical role of timely testing and reporting in public health responses.
- Describe various case studies and how testing is performed in LRN-B laboratories.

The LRN-B Technical Meeting is a combination of science, policy, networking and partnerships with a focus on innovation, technologies and strengthening relationships within the network. Typical attendees are members of the network who serve as laboratory directors, supervisors, biothreat preparedness and response coordinators, training and outreach staff, biosafety officers as well as partners who work to advance the role of the network in threat detection and response.

WELCOME!

Welcome to the first LRN-B Technical Meeting – *Innovate to Elevate: Strengthening the LRN for The Future* – in Atlanta, GA!

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the 2024 LRN-B Technical Meeting Planning Committee, I am thrilled to welcome everyone to Atlanta for the inaugural LRN-B Technical Meeting. The past few years have presented unprecedented challenges due to the global pandemic, which we have all been responding to and continue to address. As we reflect on the lessons learned from this period and look forward to the future of the LRN-B network, this year's theme *Innovate to Elevate: Strengthening the LRN for the Future* captures our commitment to progress.

This first LRN-B Technical Meeting provides a unique opportunity for network members and partners to engage in deeper discussions, foster innovation, creative thinking and encourage collaboration with critical stakeholders. The LRN has evolved over the years, and as we work to define our new normal, we are eager to explore how the network can further strengthen and adapt. This year's meeting features an exciting lineup, including plenary sessions, roundtable discussions, peer-to-peer networking opportunities, and poster presentations. These sessions are designed to encourage the exchange of best practices, cutting-edge strategies and the latest advancements in technology being implemented across the LRN-B. The strength of the LRN-B lies in the laboratories and partnerships, and as we move forward, we will continue investing in innovative technologies to remain at the forefront of science. I encourage everyone to take full advantage of the opportunities here—connect with colleagues, share experiences and expertise and build lasting professional relationships that will benefit us all in the future.

I would like to extend my gratitude to the Planning Committee for their efforts in developing this year's agenda, as well as to the poster submitters, moderators and presenters for sharing their valuable insights. Special thanks also to APHL and CDC staff for managing the logistics that made this event possible. Lastly, I extend a special thank you to Ms. Rana Rahmat, APHL's Specialist for the Laboratory Response Network, for her dedication and support in making this inaugural LRN-B Technical Meeting a success.

I look forward to seeing you all here in Atlanta!

Jeremy Corrigan, DrPH

Chair, LRN-B Technical Meeting Planning Committee

2024 LRN-B Technical Meeting Planning Committee

Planning Committee Chair

Jeremy Corrigan, DrPH
Director, Agency Operations
Public Health Services – Laboratory
County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency
San Diego, CA

Planning Committee Members

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Team Lead, LRN-B Operations
National Laboratory Response Systems Branch
Division of Laboratory Systems
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
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NYC PHL LRN Biothreat Coordinator
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Tyler Wolford, MS
Manager, Emergency Preparedness and Response
Association of Public Health Laboratories
Bethesda, MD

General Information

Location

Grand Hyatt Atlanta in Buckhead
3300 Peachtree Road NE
Atlanta, GA 30305
404.237.1234

Event Check-In and Information Desk Hours

The check-in desk where attendees can pick up their badges will be located on the Lower Lobby level of the hotel.

Check-in will begin at 8:00am on Wednesday, November 13.

APHL staff will be available throughout the event and at the information desk should you have any questions. Please call Rana Rahmat at 240.485.2763 for information or questions.

Continuing Education Credits

APHL is an approved provider of continuing education programs in the clinical laboratory sciences through the American Society of Clinical Laboratory Sciences (ASCLS) P.A.C.E.® program. Contact hours are available for the entire meeting. The contact hours to be awarded to participants who successfully complete the sessions are as follows:

Day 1 of the meeting: 6 contact hours

Day 2 of the meeting: 6.25 contact hours

Day 3 of the meeting: 1.75 contact hours

In total the meeting will offer 14 contact hours. Contact hours will only be provided for a **full day** attendance. You must attend all sessions and complete the evaluation provided at the end of each day in order to receive contact hours. The level of instruction for this meeting is intermediate as some basic knowledge of the LRN-B is required. It is meant for staff with some years of experience in public health.

We Value Your Opinion!

We take your evaluation of the LRN-B Technical Meeting seriously. Please plan on providing your feedback in an online survey provided after the meeting via email. Your feedback is vital to helping us plan a better and more beneficial meeting in the future.

Emergency Procedures

APHL encourages all attendees to review and be familiar with emergency evacuation procedures. Please ensure you are aware of the location of emergency exits for all meeting rooms. Please pre-

identify a location away from the Grand Hyatt where you and your colleagues will meet in the event of an emergency.

About LRN

The Laboratory Response Network (LRN) was established in 1999 through a collaborative effort involving founding partners Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) to ensure an effective laboratory response to bioterrorism. Today, the LRN is an integrated network of local, state and federal public health, hospital-based, food testing, veterinary, environmental testing and international laboratories providing laboratory diagnostics and capacity for biological and chemical threats, other public health emergencies and looking to integrate radiological testing as well. The LRN is a unique asset in the nation's growing preparedness for public health threats. The linking of state and local public health laboratories, veterinary, agricultural, military and water and food testing laboratories is vital and unprecedented.

About APHL

APHL is a national non-profit organization working to strengthen laboratory systems serving the public's health in the United States and globally. APHL represents state and local governmental health laboratories in the United States which include public health, agricultural, environmental and other related laboratories. Its members monitor, detect and respond to public health threats.

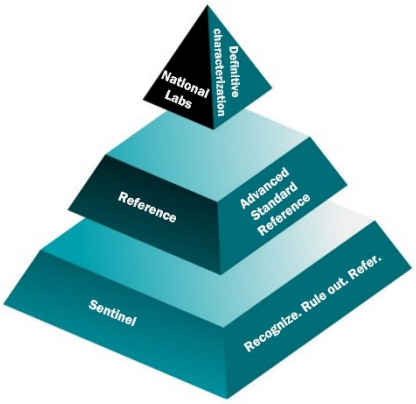
APHL works closely with federal agencies to develop and execute national health initiatives. During public health emergencies, it operates as a coordinating center for laboratory response. APHL also works internationally to build effective national laboratory systems and expand access to quality diagnostic testing services. With over 20 years of experience in more than 30 countries, APHL is recognized internationally as a leader in laboratory science and practice.

About CDC

CDC is one of the major operating components of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). CDC's top organizational components include the Office of the Director, Coordinating Centers and Offices and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. These components collaborate to create the expertise, information and tools that people and communities need to protect their health through health promotion, prevention of disease, injury and disability and preparedness for new health threats. In addressing the preceding components of health, decisions are based on scientific excellence, requiring well-trained public health practitioners and leaders dedicated to high standards of quality and ethical practice.

LRN Structure for Biological Threats Preparedness

The LRN for Biological Threats Preparedness (LRN-B) is composed of 3 levels: Sentinel, Reference and National Laboratories. Reference laboratories are further subdivided into Reference, Standard and Advanced. Capabilities for each level are as follows:



National Laboratories: there are currently three national laboratories (1) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, (2) United States Army Medical Research Institute for Infectious Diseases and (3) the Naval Medical Research Center. These laboratories have specialized testing capabilities (e.g. Biosafety Level 4 facilities, strain characterization) and provide test development and agent-specific subject matter expertise which can be leveraged as needed by the network.

Reference Laboratories: over 130 laboratories are categorized as Reference, Standard and Advanced. These laboratories provide testing for high priority threat agents in a variety of matrices. In addition to their testing function, these laboratories also conduct outreach to sentinel and clinical laboratories, first responders and other partners. As needed, these laboratories also participate in multicenter evaluation studies and assist CDC with assay and technology evaluations.

Sentinel Laboratories: thousands of laboratories, notably hospital-based, work closely with local and state public health and federal laboratories to recognize and rule-out potential biological threat agents and other emerging threats to public health. Sentinel laboratories are an integral part of the LRN with the system relying heavily on their ability to recognize, rule-out and/or refer potential threats.

LRN-B Technical Meeting 2024

Innovate to Elevate: Strengthening the LRN for the Future

Program At-A-Glance

Wednesday, November 13	Event Check-in and Badge Pick-up Welcome Addresses LRN of the Future: Beyond Biothreats Plenary Sessions
Thursday, November 14	Event Check-in Plenary Sessions Poster Session Round Tables
Friday, November 15	Event Check-in Award Ceremony Plenary Sessions Case Studies

Innovate to Elevate: Strengthening the LRN for the Future

Wednesday, November 13

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. **Event Check-In and Badge Pick-Up**
Lower Lobby Level of the Grand Hyatt Atlanta in Buckhead

C.E.U.s and Objectives **6 contact hours for today's sessions**
Course #588-522-24
At the conclusion of Day 1, the participant will be able to:

- Discuss organizational changes at CDC to strengthen laboratory preparedness and response
- Describe partnerships and coordination for laboratory preparedness and response.
- Describe the evolving role of the LRN and articulate its accomplishments and vision.
- Discuss how the LRN supports public health.
- Explain various methods and new initiatives for peer-to-peer networking in the LRN-B.

Welcome Panel and Opening Plenary Session
Grand Ballroom

Welcome Panel
9:00 am – 9:30 am
Grand Ballroom

Speakers:

- *Jeremy Corrigan, DrPH, Planning Committee Chair, Director-Agency Operations, County of San Diego Health and Human Services*
- *Tonia Parrott, PhD, Deputy Director, Georgia Public Health Laboratory*
- *Jasmine Chaitram, MPH, Acting Deputy Director Readiness and Response, Office of Laboratory Systems and Response, CDC*
- *Scott J. Becker, MS, Chief Executive Officer, APHL (Video)*

9:30 am – 10:45 am Opening Plenary Session
Call to Action: Leadership for Preparedness and Response
Grand Ballroom

This fireside chat session will address recent organizational changes within the CDC aimed at enhancing the role of laboratories in national preparedness and response efforts. Senior leaders will

discuss how these structural adjustments are designed to improve the efficiency, agility and resilience of laboratory systems in the face of emerging public health threats.

In addition, the session will highlight initiatives to strengthen the laboratory workforce by addressing challenges such as recruitment, retention, training and career development. Attendees will learn about efforts to ensure that laboratories are not only equipped with the latest technologies and protocols but also staffed by highly skilled professionals capable of responding swiftly and effectively to public health emergencies. Through this discussion, participants will gain valuable insights into CDC's strategic vision for bolstering laboratory capacity and ensuring a coordinated, comprehensive approach to future threats.

Moderators: *Joanne Andreadis, PhD, Associate Director, Office of Science and Laboratory Readiness, Office of Readiness and Response, CDC*

Peter Kyriacopoulos, Chief Policy Officer, Public Policy, APHL

Speakers: *Nirav Shah, MD, JD, Principal Deputy Director, CDC*

Henry Walke, MD, MPH, Director, Office of Readiness and Response, CDC

Daniel Jernigan, MD, Director, National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases, CDC

Reynolds M Salerno, PhD, Director, Office of Laboratory Systems and Response, CDC

10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. **Networking Break**

The LRN of the Future: Beyond Biothreats
Grand Ballroom

11:00 am – 12:15 pm

In this session, speakers will present an overview of their organization's strategic approach to strengthening the LRN-B. They will emphasize the critical role of partnerships both within and outside the public health sector that are integral to building a resilient national response testing framework capable of addressing current and future biological threats.

Attendees will gain insight into the collaborative efforts between federal agencies and state and local public health laboratories. These alliances have been pivotal to the success of the LRN-B in rapid testing, data sharing and coordinated responses. The session will also explore innovative technological advancements being integrated into the LRN-B operations. Speakers will highlight the use of these technologies and how, when combined with strategic partnerships, they were crucial in identifying and responding to emerging threats. By the end of the session attendees will understand the unique value of the LRN-B as a cornerstone of the nation's ability to detect and respond to biological threats and safeguard the public's health.

Moderators: *John Bowzard, PhD, Acting Branch Chief, National Laboratory Response System Branch, Division of Laboratory Systems, Office of Laboratory Systems and Response, CDC*

Chris N Mangal, MPH, Director, Public Health Preparedness and Response, APHL

Speakers:

Jasmine Chaitram, MPH, Acting Deputy Director Readiness and Response, Office of Laboratory Systems and Response, CDC

Robert Bull, PhD, Forensic Examiner, Scientific Response and Analysis Unit, FBI Laboratory, FBI

Colonel Robert Von Tersch, PhD, MSS, Chief Science Officer, U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases, Department of Defense

Ewa King, PhD, Chief Program Officer, APHL

12:15 p.m. - 1:15 p.m. **Lunch**

Provided in the Lower Lobby outside the Grand Ballroom

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25 Years of the LRN: Innovation and Collaboration
Grand Ballroom

1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

The CDC and APHL will provide a brief history of the LRN, including the LRN for Chemical Threats and LRN for Radiological Threats. Presenters will also discuss recent organizational changes within the CDC and how these adjustments impact LRN-B operations. Attendees will gain insight into current offered trainings, future trainings and resources available through APHL.

Moderator: *Tyler Wolford, MS, Manager, Emergency Preparedness and Response, Association of Public Health Laboratories*

Speakers: *Patricia Blevins, MPH, Team Lead, LRN-B Operations, Laboratory Readiness and Informatics Branch, Division of Laboratory Systems, Office of Laboratory Systems and Response, CDC*

Rana Rahmat, MPH, Specialist, Laboratory Response Network, APHL

Peer-to-Peer Networking
Grand Ballroom

2:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

In this session, attendees will delve into the dynamic world of peer-to-peer networking opportunities provided by APHL. Speakers will share their insights and firsthand experiences from site visits, training sessions and remote mentoring, highlighting the invaluable connections and lessons from these interactions. Additionally, the session will provide a laboratory perspective on the operations of laboratories within the LRN-B, illustrating their function across diverse laboratory settings.

Moderator*: Remedios Gose, MSPH, RM, State Laboratories Division, Hawaii State Department of Health*

Speakers:

Jason Wholehan, MLS (ASCP), Bioterrorism Training Coordinator, Bureau of Laboratories, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

Andrea Morris, MPH, Biological Threat Coordinator, Biological Safety Officer, State Hygienic Laboratory at the University of Iowa

Erin Swaney, Biothreat Team Leader, Emergency Preparedness Branch, Texas Department of State Health Services Laboratory

Lisa Smith, MS, PhD, Public Health Laboratory Scientist, Bioterrorism and Special Pathogens, Alaska State Public Health Laboratories

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3:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. **Networking Break**

Responding to Threats: Federal Bureau of Investigation and Civil Support Team Partnerships with LRN
Grand Ballroom

3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

This session will provide information on evidence handling and how the LRN is supported from a scientific perspective by the FBI and the National Guard Bureau (NGB). A public health laboratory scientist will discuss their collaborative approach to working with these agencies, shedding light on best practices for partnership in threat detection and response. Additionally, the session will explore cutting-edge technologies used I the field to screen for threats. Speakers will also address the legal aspects of response, including the prosecution of cases, with a focus on the expectations surrounding the evidentiary and discovery processes.

Moderator: *Maureen Collopy, MPH, MT(ASCP), Microbiologist, Bureau of Laboratory Services, New Hampshire Division of Public Health Services*

Speakers:

Nicholas Paquette, MS, CBSP, Operational Microbiologist, Scientific Response and Analysis Unit, FBI Laboratory, FBI

Kevin Caspary, MPH, Science Officer, National Guard Bureau

Andrew Corbin, Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Coordinator, FBI

Phil Lee, MSc FIBMS, Lead Biological Defense Coordinator, Bureau of Public Health Laboratories – Jacksonville, Florida Department of Health

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5:00 p.m.	**Adjourn for Day 1**
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Thursday, November 14

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. **Event Check-In and Badge Pick-Up**
Lower Lobby of the Grand Hyatt Atlanta in Buckhead

C.E.U.s and Objectives **6.25 contact hours for today's sessions**
Course #588-523-24
At the conclusion of Day 2, the participant will be able to:

- Describe evaluation and implementation of new technologies for LRN-B testing.
- Describe the evolving role and uses of artificial intelligence in laboratories.
- Discuss the impact of federal regulations on laboratory testing.
- Explain the role of various partners and how they work in tandem with the LRN-B.

Advancing Laboratory Science to Detect Biological Threats
Grand Ballroom

9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

This session will provide an overview of the latest technologies and evaluation strategies and how they can be applied to the LRN-B. Attendees will learn about advancements in genomic sequencing and the evaluation of threat agnostic sentinel surveillance systems designed to enhance preparedness and response capabilities. Attendees will also learn new information on technologies and evaluation strategies undertaken by the National Bioforensic Analysis Center.

Moderator: *Aaron M.T. Barnes, MD, PhD, Emergency Preparedness and Response Unit Coordinator, Infectious Disease Laboratory, Minnesota Department of Health*

Speakers:

MJ Rosovitz, PhD, Senior Principal Investigator, Battelle National Biodefense Institute, National Bioforensic Analysis Center, National Biodefense Analysis and Countermeasures Center (NBACC), Department of Homeland Security

Matthew Mauldin, PhD, Senior Advisor for Strategic Foresight and Innovation, Office of Science and Laboratory Readiness, Office of Readiness and Response, CDC

Michael Perry, MS, MS Ed, DrPH, Associate Director, Biodefense Laboratory, David Axelrod Institute, New York State Department of Health

Darin Carroll, PhD, Director, Division of Core Laboratory Services and Response, NCEZID, CDC

10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. **Networking Break**

Evaluating and Implementing New Platforms and Methods

Grand Ballroom

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The LRN-B must stay ahead of changing technologies and new threats. In February 2022, ThermoFisher Scientific announced the discontinuation of the Applied Biosystems™ (ABI) 7500 Fast Dx Real-Time PCR instrument, a platform that is widely used across LRN-B, influenza and other programs. APHL and CDC have been working collaboratively to identify alternate platforms. In this session, attendees will learn about efforts underway to evaluate new platforms for the LRN-B. Further, speakers will share information on efforts to strengthen preparedness for evolving threats such as mpox and multicenter studies to evaluate methods for the detection of biothreat agents in potable water samples as well as the validation of two real-time PCR assays, *Francisella tularensis* and *Yersinia pestis.*

Moderator: *Mary Ritchie, PhD, HCLD, Assistant Laboratory Director, Bureau of Public Health Laboratories, Florida Department of Health*

Speaker:

John Bowzard, PhD, Acting Branch Chief, National Laboratory Response System Branch, Division of Laboratory Systems, Office of Laboratory Systems and Response, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Jill K. Hacker, PhD, MPH, Chief, Vaccine Preventable Diseases Section, Viral and Rickettsial Disease Laboratory, California Department of Public Health

Crystal Gigante, PhD, Microbiologist, Poxvirus and Rabies Branch, Division of High Consequence Pathogens and Pathology, NCEZID, CDC

Sathesh Panayampalli, PhD, Team Lead, Poxvirus and Rabies Branch, Division of High Consequence Pathogens and Pathology, NCEZID, CDC

Mila Cohen, MS, Microbiologist, Preparedness, Response, and Outbreak Services Branch, Division of Core Laboratory Services and Response, NCEZID, CDC

Mia Mattioli, PhD, MS, EIT, Environmental Engineer, Environmental Microbiology and Engineering Laboratory Team Lead, Waterborne Disease Prevention Branch, Division of Foodborne, Waterborne, and Environmental Diseases, National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases, CDC

12:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m. **Lunch and Poster Exhibit**

Provided in the Lower Lobby outside the Grand Ballroom

Posters located in Buckhead Ballroom II

Use of Artificial Intelligence in Public Health Laboratories

Grand Ballroom

1:15 p.m. - 2:15p.m.

As laboratory science evolves with the adoption of new technologies, laboratorians will face the growing challenge of integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) into their workflows. This session will explore the implementation of AI in laboratory settings, focusing on its various applications, including automation of routine tasks, predictive analytics and real-time decision-making. Speakers will highlight available AI products, practical considerations for integration and the benefits of using AI for efficiency and accuracy in a laboratory.

In addition, the session will address critical policies needed to ensure the responsible use of AI in laboratories, including data privacy, potential regulatory guidelines, and transparency. It will also discuss the challenges of utilizing AI, including the need for human oversight.

Moderator: *Anewar Burka, MA, Manager, Data Science, Quality Systems and Analytics, APHL*

Speakers:

Alexis Carter, MD, Physician Informaticist and Molecular Genetic Pathologist, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta

Alexandra Portman, BS, Bioterrorism Preparedness Coordinator, Microbiologist, Dallas County Health and Human Services

Troy Willitt, JD, MPA, General Counsel, APHL

Public Policy and Regulatory Compliance

Grand Ballroom

2:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

On May 6, 2024, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a final rule aimed at helping to ensure the safety and effectiveness of laboratory developed tests (LDTs). The rule amends the FDA's regulations to clarify that in vitro diagnostic products (IVDs) are devices under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FD&C Act) including when the manufacturer of the IVD is a laboratory. In this session attendees will learn more about the regulation of LDTs, CDC and public health laboratory approaches to implementing the new rule as well as potential challenges to laboratory services. The session will also provide a forum for attendees to provide their feedback on the impact (s) of this new rule.

Moderator*: Jill Taylor, PhD, Senior Advisor of Scientific Affairs, Executive Management and Governance, Association of Public Health Laboratories*

Speakers:

Amanda Cosser, MPH, Manager, Regulatory and Public Policy, Association of Public Health Laboratories

Wendi Kuhnert, PhD, National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Christina Egan, PhD, Deputy Director, Division of Infectious Diseases, New York State Department of Health- Wadsworth Center

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3:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. **Networking Break**

Round Tables
Buckhead Ballroom II
3:30p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Attendees have the opportunity to rotate to various discussion tables to learn more about LRN operations, partners and policies.

Moderator*: Rana Rahmat, MPH, Specialist, APHL*

Topics:

1. Proficiency Testing Policy and Challenge Panels
   Speaker: Rebecca Roulo
   Topic: The speaker will discuss proficiency testing within the LRN-B and be available for questions members may have regarding challenge panels.

2. Processing of Samples Suspected to be Contaminated with Fentanyl
   Speaker: Destiny Hairfield
   Topic: The speaker will discuss the protocols used to process samples suspected to be contaminated with fentanyl as well as biosafety and biosecurity precautions taken in the laboratory.

3. What's Next for BioWatch
   Speaker: Eric Jamoom
   Topic: The speaker will discuss ongoing and upcoming BioWatch projects.

4. Electronic Laboratory Reporting and Data Integration
   Speaker: Beth Schweitzer
   Topic: The speaker will discuss details of and answer questions regarding ELR and the discontinuation of the use of LRN Results Messenger.

5. Fellowships and Internships
   Speakers: Jill Sutton Hanratty, Stormy Chester
   Topic: The speakers will provide information on the APHL fellowships and internships program, particularly those relating to the Emergency Preparedness and Response Fellowship and the Biosafety and Biosecurity Fellowship.

6. LRN-B Operations
   Speaker: Patricia Blevins
   Topic: This table will provide an opportunity to meet the CDC LRN-B Operations Team and ask any questions.

7. Select Agents and the LRN
   Speaker: Shaw Gargis
   Topic: Join the Division of Regulatory Science and Compliance for information and questions regarding select agents and their application in the LRN-B.

8. Sentinel Laboratory Outreach and Partnerships
   Speaker: Alana Sterkel
   Topic: This table will provide information, tips and best practices on outreach and partnerships with sentinel laboratories.

9. Laboratory Partnerships for Response to Emerging Threats
   Speaker: Sean Courtney
   Topic: This table will provide information on clinical laboratory partnerships and how they can be leveraged in emergency response efforts.

10. Poliovirus Containment
    Speaker: Lia Haynes Smith
    Topic: Attendees will have a chance to learn more about recent CDC efforts in poliovirus efforts.

11. Biosafety and Biosecurity Tools
    Speaker: Michael Perry
    Topic: The speaker will provide information and answer questions on recently developed biosafety and biosecurity tools, such as the new exercise toolkit.

12. Implementing Exercises and Drills
    Speaker: Rupesh Naik, Todd Talbert, David Dickerson
    Topic: Attendees will have a chance to learn more about the new PHEP requirements for exercises and drills.

13. Surge Capacity Planning
    Speakers: Chris Mangal, Tyler Wolford
    Topic: The speakers will provide information on surge capacity planning tools and recently undertaken projects to improve planning efforts.

14. OneLab Network
    Speaker: Alicia Branch
    Topic: Attendees will have a chance to learn more about OneLab and applicable resources that are available through the platform.

15. Development of an Mpox Assay on the Panther Platform
    Speaker: Michael Adjei
    Topic: Attendees will be able to learn more about the Washington D.C. laboratory's efforts in developing an assay for mpox testing on the Panther platform.

16. Division of Core Laboratory Services and Response Table
    Speaker: Jennifer Folster

Topic: Attendees will have an opportunity to meet with and ask questions of the DCLSR team.

5:00 p.m. **Adjourn for Day 2**

Friday, November 15

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. **Event Check-In and Badge Pick-Up**
Lower Lobby Level of the Grand Hyatt Atlanta in Buckhead

C.E.U.s and Objectives **1.75 contact hours for today's sessions**
Course #588-524-24
At the conclusion of Day 3, the participant will be able to:

- Celebrate the accomplishments of their peers
- Describe the critical role of timely testing and reporting in public health responses.
- Describe various case studies and how testing is performed in LRN-B laboratories.

Award Ceremony
Grand Ballroom

9:00 a.m. - 10:00a.m.

Join us in honoring the remarkable achievements and inspiring stories as we celebrate the best of the best of the LRN-B. As the spotlight shines on our exceptional nominees, we'll revel in their journeys and contributions, reminding us all of the power of passion and perseverance.

Presenters: *Jeremy Corrigan, DrPH, Planning Committee Chair, Director-Agency Operations, County of San Diego Health and Human Services*

Jasmine Chaitram, MPH, Acting Deputy Director Readiness and Response, Office of Laboratory Systems and Response, CDC

Awards Presented:

Excellence in Public Health Response
Outstanding Outreach with Clinical Communities
Innovative Collaboration with First Responder Communities
Excellence in Partnership
Excellence in Methodology and Technology Evaluation
Excellence in Leadership
Excellence in Public Service
Award for Implementing Continuous Quality Improvement Systems
Lifetime Achievement Award
Certificates of Recognition
Photo/Video Contest Winners
Poster Winners

10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. **Networking Break**

Readiness for Response: Surge Capacity Planning and Exercises

Grand Ballroom

10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

During responses, laboratories are often faced with capacity challenges. Planning for surge capacity is a key expectation for all LRN-B Reference Laboratories, with public health laboratories that receive funding from the CDC Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Cooperative Agreement having an additional requirement to develop surge capacity plans and incorporate related surge activities in jurisdictional exercises. During this session, speakers will share stories of how public health laboratories in Canadian provinces and territories quickly reached internal surge capacity for diagnostic testing for COVID-19, the approach of the National Microbiology Laboratory (NML) within the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) to create the Federal Surge Laboratory Network (FSLN) and its critical role in timely testing and reporting, and US public health laboratories approach to surge capacity planning and exercises. Speakers will also share tools for surge capacity planning and exercises.

Moderator*: Victoria Ruiz, PhD, Chief of Biothreat Response, NYC Public Health Laboratory LRN Biothreat Coordinator, Division of Disease Control, New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene*

Speakers:

Elizabeth McLachlan, PhD, Biologist, Bioforensics Assay Development and Diagnostics, National Microbiology Laboratory Branch, Public Health Agency of Canada

Victoria Ruiz, PhD, Chief of Biothreat Response, NYC Public Health Laboratory LRN Biothreat Coordinator, Division of Disease Control, New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Grace Kubin, PhD, Associate Commissioner, Laboratory Director, Texas Department of State Health Services

A Curious Case in the LRN-B

Grand Ballroom

11:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

In this session, attendees will explore a series of unique case studies from LRN-B laboratories. Expert speakers will walk participants through their case specifics and laboratory workflows, offering insights into the methods, technologies and protocols used in the detection of each biological threat. They will also delve into the critical coordination efforts required when working with sample submitters, including healthcare professionals and field investigators, epidemiologists and other key stakeholders. Attendees will gain a comprehensive understanding of the end-to-end process, from

sample collection to analysis and how timely communication between partners contributes to efficient and accurate response to public health emergencies.

Moderator: *Renee Johnson, BS MLS (ASCP), Bioterrorism Coordinator, Division of Laboratory Services, Tennessee Public Health Laboratory*

Speakers: *Alana Sterkel, PhD, D(ABMM), SM(ASCP)CM, Associate Director, Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene*

Amanda Moore, BS, M(ASCP), Supervisor, Special Pathogens Laboratory, South Carolina Department of Health

Latoya Griffin-Thomas, MS, PhD, Lead Scientist, Bioterrorism-Special Pathogens Response Coordinator, Virginia Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services

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12:00 p.m. **Adjourn & Boxed Lunch**

Please pick up boxed lunch in the area outside the Grand Ballroom

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Posters

Posters will be displayed from Wednesday, November 13 at 10:00am to Thursday, November 14 at 3:00pm. **Poster presenters will be available for questions on Thursday, November 14 from 12:30pm to 1:00pm.**

1. **10 Years of Challenge Panels**

   Rebecca Ruolo, Challenge Panel Coordinator, Technical Advisor, LRN-B Operations, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

2. **Amplify the Response: Advancing Mpox Testing Capabilities in New York State**

   Melissa D'Amico, MLS(ASCP)CM, Research Scientist, New York State Department of Health- Wadsworth Center

   Zahra LaTerra, Research Scientist, New York State Department of Health- Wadsworth Center

   Christina Egan, PhD, Deputy Director, Division of Infectious Diseases, New York State Department of Health- Wadsworth Center

   Michael Perry, DrPH, Associate Director, Biodefense Laboratory, David Axelrod Institute, New York State Department of Health

3. **CODE RED: New York State First Responder Training and Outreach Programs**

   Alan J. Antenucci, All Hazards Training Coordinator, New York State Department of Health

   Michael Perry, DrPH, Associate Director, Biodefense Laboratory, David Axelrod Institute, New York State Department of Health

   Christina Egan, PhD, Deputy Director, Division of Infectious Diseases, New York State Department of Health- Wadsworth Center

4. **Core Operations, Outbreak Response, and Services Laboratory (COORS)**

   Jennifer Folster, PhD, Team Lead for COORS, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

   John Michael Metz, MS, Team Member, COORS, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

   How-Yi Change, PhD, Microbiologist, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

   Mila Cohen, MS, Microbiologist, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Matthew Hayden Flanders, BS, Team Member, COORS, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Catisha Hines, MPH, Microbiologist, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Ausaf Ahmad, PhD, Team Member, COORS, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

GT Moore, BS, Team Member, COORS, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Pankaj Sharma, PhD, Team Member, COORS, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Melissa Whaley, MS, MPH, Microbiologist, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

5. Design, Optimization, and Validation of Singleplex, Duplex, and Multiplex TagMan Real-time PCR Assays for the Detection of 14 Enteric Bacterial Pathogens in Specimens from Non-Human Primates

   Ausaf Ahmad, PhD, Biologist, National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

   Pankaj Sharma, PhD, Team Member, COORS, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

   Jaia Armstrong, Biologist, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

   Charlotte Lane, Biologist, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

   Nancy Strockbine, Biologist, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

   Patricia Fields, Biologist, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

   Monica Im, Biologist, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

   Cynney Walters, Biologist, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

   Jennifer Folster, PhD, Team Lead for COORS, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

6. Diagnostic Reagent/Kit Production, The Process of Kit/Reagent Production Serviced and Provided by DCLSR's Diagnostic Manufacturing Laboratory

   Vien T. Duong, Team Lead, Diagnostic Manufacturing Laboratory Team, Division of Core Laboratory Services and Response, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

7. From Validation to Routine Competency and Proficiency Testing: Fulfilling Regulatory and Accreditation Requirements for Biothreat and Emerging Infectious Disease Testing

   Jessica Reinhardt, MLS, M(ASCP), Quality Manager, US Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases

8. Impact of Poor Infrastructure on Public Health Response: A Look at San Diego County Public Health Laboratory Road to Recovery

   Ishita Gulati, MS, PHM, M(ASCP)CM, Senior Public Health Microbiologist, San Diego County Public Health Laboratory

9. Improving LRN Testing Algorithms for *Yersinia pestis* and *Francisella tularensis*

   Elizabeth Dietrich, PhD, Research Microbiologist, Division of Vector-Borne Diseases, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

   Brook Yockey, BS, Microbiologist, Bacterial Diseases Branch, Division of Vector-Borne Diseases, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

   Jeannine Petersen, PhD, Lead, Diagnostic and Reference Team, Bacterial Diseases Branch, Division of Vector-Borne Diseases, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

10. Integrated Preparedness and Response Strategies: Strengthening Clinical Laboratories, First Responders, and Partner Agencies

    Linda Galicia, BS, Microbiologist III, City of Houston, Houston Health Department

11. Probe Capture Enrichment-enabled Analysis of Samples from Pediatric Patients with Hepatitis of Unknown Origin during the 2021-2022 Global Outbreak

    R. Taylor Raborn, PhD, Associate Principal Investigator, National Biodefense Analysis Center

    Sean Lovett, BS, MS, Bioinformatics Analyst, National Biodefense Analysis Center

    Karla Garcia, BS, MS, Bioinformatics Analyst, National Biodefense Analysis Center

    Diana Radune. BS, MS, Research Scientist, National Biodefense Analysis Center

    Parker Kisha, BS, MS, Research Scientist, National Biodefense Analysis Center

    Katie Caviness, PhD, Senior Principal Investigator, National Biodefense Analysis Center

    Jennifer Goodrich, PhD, Director, National Biodefense Analysis Center

    Nicholas Bergman, PhD, Laboratory Director, National Biodefense Analysis Center

12. Safe Handling of Items Contaminated with Fentanyl

    Taylor Crothers, Senior Research Scientist, Battelle National Biodefense Institute, National Biodefense Analysis Center

    Mary Reddick-Elick, Senior Research Scientist, Battelle National Biodefense Institute, National Biodefense Analysis Center

13. **Tennessee Department of Health LRN-B Laboratory Maintaining Partnerships with First Responders, Law Enforcement, Civil Support Team, and Sentinel Laboratories**

    Amanda Uhls, M(ASCP), Public Health Laboratory Scientist 4, Tennessee Department of Health Laboratory

    Renee Johnson, BS, MLS (ASCP), Bioterrorism Preparedness Coordinator, Tennessee Department of Health Laboratory Services

    Russell Bowden Jr., MS HAS, MT, Sentinel Laboratory Preparedness Outreach Coordinator, Tennessee Department of Health Division of Laboratory Services

14. **Explore Career Pathways in Public Health Laboratory Science Through the Association of Public Health Laboratories Fellowships**

    Stormy Chester, BS, Senior Specialist, Biosafety and Biosecurity, APHL

    Stephanie Barahona, MS, Specialist, APHL

    Jill Sutton Hanratty, BS, Specialist, APHL

    Michael Marsico, MS, Manager, APHL

15. **Strengthening Laboratory Biosecurity: A Comprehensive Exercise Toolkit for Laboratory Preparedness**

    Stormy Chester, BS, Senior Specialist, APHL

    Michael Perry, DrPH, MS, MS Ed, Associate Director, Biodefense Laboratory, David Axelrod Institute, New York State Department of Health

16. **Conventional Methods Training Course for the Institute of Epidemiological Diagnosis and Reference**

    Tyler Wolford, MS, Manager, Emergency Preparedness and Response, APHL

17. **20 Years of the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Cooperative Agreement**

    Jill Sutton Hanratty, Specialist, APHL

    Rana Rahmat, MPH, Specialist, APHL

18. **Piloting the ISO 35001 Standard: Cruising Towards Biorisk Management**

    Michael Marsico, MS, Manager, APHL

    Julianne L. Baron, PhD, Science and Safety Consulting LLC

Stormy Chester, BS, Senior Specialist, APHL

19. Empower, Equip, Excel: Training Opportunities for Biosafety Professionals

    Stormy Chester, BS, Senior Specialist, APHL

    Michael Marsico, MS, Manager, APHL

20. Resources for Public Health Laboratory Continuity of Operations Planning

    Jill Sutton Hanratty, BS, Specialist, APHL

Commonly Used Acronyms

AAVLD	American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians
AML	Area Medical Laboratory
APHIS	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
APHL	Association of Public Health Laboratories
ASM	American Society for Microbiology
ASTM	American Society for Testing and Materials
BA	Bacillus anthracis
BAIT	Biological Agent Identification and Counterterrorism Training
BOTE	Bio-Response Operational Testing Exercise
BSL	Biosafety Level
BTRA	Bioterrorism Risk Assessment
CAP	College of American Pathologists
CBCT	Confidence Building Competency Test
CBNR	Chemical, Biological, Nuclear, and Radiological
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CLIA	Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments
CoC	Chain of Custody
COOP	Continuity of Operations Plan
CRCPD	Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors
CRP	Critical Reagents Program
CST	Civil Support Team (U.S. Army National Guard)
CWA	Chemical Warfare Agents
DEOC	Director of the Emergency Operations Center (Federal)
DHS	Department of Homeland Security
DLN	Defense Laboratory Network
DoD	Department of Defense
DoD GEIS	United States Department of Defense Global Emerging Infections Surveillance and Response Systen

DOE	Department of Energy
DOJ	Department of Justice
DLS	Division of Laboratory Systems
DTRA	Defense Threat Reduction Agency
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ERLN	Environmental Response Laboratory Network
EUA	Emergency Use Authorization
FBI	Federal Bureau of Investigation
FDA	Food and Drug Administration
FERN	Food Emergency Response Network
FSIS	Food Safety and Inspection Service
GC-MS	Gas chromatography-mass spectroscopy
HHS	Department of Health and Human Services
HMRT	Hazardous Materials Response Team (FBI field hazmat teams)
HSEEP	Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program
ICLN	Integrated Consortium of Laboratory Networks
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
JBAIDS	Joint Biological Agent Identification and Diagnostic System
JLC	Joint Leadership Committee
JPM CBMS	Joint Program Executive Office for Chemical and Biological Medical Systems
LDT	Laboratory Developed Test
LIMS / LIS	Laboratory Information (Management) System
LLNL	Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
LPX	Laboratory Preparedness Exercise
LRN	Laboratory Response Network
LRN-B	Laboratory Response Network for Biological Threats Preparedness
LRN-C	Laboratory Response Network for Chemical Threats
LRN-R	Laboratory Response Network for Radiological Threats
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSDS	Material Safety Data Sheet

NAHLN	National Animal Health Laboratory Network
NCEH	National Centers for Environmental Health
NELAC	National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Conference
NGB	National Guard Bureau
NIOSH	National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
NMRC	Naval Medical Research Center
NPDN	National Plant Diagnostic Network
NRC	Nuclear Regulatory Commission
OIG	Office of Inspector General
PCR	Polymerase Chain Reaction
PHEP	Public Health Emergency Preparedness
PT	Proficiency Testing
QA	Quality Assurance
QAPP	Quality Assurance Program Plan
REEF	Radiological Evidence Examination Facility
RT-PCR	Real Time Polymerase Chain Reaction
SAP	Select Agent Program
SARS	Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome
USAMRIID	U.S. Army Medical Research Institute for Infectious Diseases
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
WLA	Water Laboratory Alliance
WMD	Weapons of Mass Destruction
WMDC	WMD Coordinator (FBI Field Office Coordinator)
WMDD	Weapons of Mass Destruction Directorate