

**SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES: *Become A Disease Detective: Discover Public Health!* The University of Texas at Austin, April 2012**

**Roodly Archer, PhD, Center for Global Health**

**Presentation: *Global Disease Detective: Oh the Places You Will Go!***

**Synopsis:** Thrill-seeker, I am not. But like most of global disease detectives who completed the Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) program, I get an adrenaline rush when I am called to the field either for an H1N1 outbreak investigation in Georgia, USA or for an emergency response in Haiti. On Tuesday, January 12, 2010, when an earthquake struck Haiti, I watched the magnitude of the catastrophe unfold in my home country. I have been to Haiti before, but I knew I was needed more than ever during this time of devastation. On Sunday, January 31, 2010, I went back to Haiti, my country of birth, to help my people. The reality is, I was fortunate to be an EIS officer during this unique and tragic time. During the emergency response, I witnessed horror and yet beauty in life and in my fellow human beings. During this presentation, I will share with you my experience in Haiti as a CDC global disease detective aka epidemiologist.

**Biography:** Dr. W. Roodly Archer was born in Arcahaie, Haiti and raised in Montreal, Canada. Dr. Archer holds a doctorate degree in nutrition from Laval University and a bachelor's degree in microbiology and immunology from McGill University, Canada. She worked in CDC's Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity where she was involved with the development, translation, and dissemination of the recommendations of the Guide to Community Preventive Services (the Community Guide) Obesity Chapter for the work-site setting prior to becoming an Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) officer. As an EIS officer, Dr. Archer was assigned to the Georgia Division of Public Health in the Acute Disease Epidemiology Section. Her work focused on conducting epidemiologic investigations, research, and public health surveillance. She has investigated numerous outbreaks such as 1) 2009 Pandemic Influenza A (H1N1) virus among school-aged children in Georgia and in Pennsylvania; 2) Methicillin-Sensitive Staphylococcus Aureus infections following intra-articular injections in a primary care clinic in Atlanta; and 3) Human Metapneumovirus outbreak in a research facility in Atlanta. In January 2010, she was deployed to Haiti for a month to support the post-earthquake public health efforts. She joined the CDC's Health Systems Reconstruction Office in July 2010. She has been involved in CDC's reconstruction response in Haiti since the earthquake providing technical assistance for the development of surveillance systems, outbreak investigations and nutrition projects. She also traveled to Africa to assess the National Nutrition Sentinel Surveillance System in Botswana and evaluate the Dracunculiasis (Guinea Worm Disease) Eradication Program in Chad and Burkina Faso.

**DAVID CARPENTER, PhD, MBA, Southern Illinois University**

**Presentation: *CSI: Public Health-- Tackling Emerging Diseases and More in the Laboratory***

David Carpenter is currently Associate Professor in the Department of Medical Microbiology and Immunology, **Southern Illinois University School of Medicine** in Springfield, Illinois. His current teaching responsibilities focus on infectious diseases basic sciences education and training of medical students and graduate students, with special emphasis on diseases of public health significance.

Prior to joining the SIU School of Medicine, Dr. Carpenter was Director of Laboratories for the **Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH)**, a position he held from 1986 to January, 2000. In this position, he had responsibility for directing all operations of the IDPH clinical and environmental laboratories within the IDPH Division of Laboratories.

From 1977 to 1986, he was employed by **BAXTER Healthcare** of Deerfield, IL. He held positions in the BAXTER Dialysis Therapies division, conducting marketing research in support of new product development, and in the BAXTER R&D Division, managing laboratory units responsible for assuring and maintaining sterility of Baxter's marketed products.

Prior to moving to Illinois, he was a Research Microbiologist at the **US Army R&D Laboratories** in Natick, Massachusetts, where he conducted research on processes to mitigate the microbial spoilage of food rations.

Dr. Carpenter received his **BS** in Mycology/Microbiology from the University of Vermont, and his **PhD** in Microbiology from the University of New Hampshire. Following, he held a Postdoctoral Research Associateship of the NAS/NRC. In 1986, he received an **MBA** in Marketing from Lake Forest College Graduate School of Management in Lake Forest, Illinois.

Dr. Carpenter has authored several scientific publications and holds a U.S. patent for a medical device. He is a member of many professional societies: American Society for Microbiology; Illinois Public Health Association; American Association of Bioanalysts; American Public Health Association where he served as chair of the Laboratory section in 1998-2000. In 1995, he was President of the Association of Public Health Laboratories. From 2003-2006, he was a member of the USDA National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection. He also served on the Advisory Committee to the Director of National Center for Environmental Health at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta.

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**CAROL DAVIS, MSPH, CPH, Texas Department of State Health Services**

**Presentation: *Epidemic Case Study: Tracking down influenza in Texas***

**Biography:** Carol M. Davis has worked as an epidemiologist at the local, regional and state level in Texas. She currently works for the Texas Department of State Health Services as the lead Epidemiologist for respiratory and invasive diseases. Her routine duties include infectious disease surveillance, outbreak investigation, health data analysis, and technical assistance for regional and local health departments. Carol earned her Masters of Science in Public Health with a concentration in Epidemiology at the Texas A&M University System Health Science Center School of Rural Public Health where she graduated with honors. Carol first became interested in public health while she was researching graduate schools. She wanted to find a program where she could study the impact of diseases upon populations without having to focus on the clinical aspects of disease progression in individuals. Epidemiology was a perfect fit.

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**NOHA H. FARAG, MD, PhD, Texas Department of State Health Services.**

**Presentation: *Beating Back the Devil: The CDC Epidemic Intelligence Service***

**Biography:** Noha H. Farag is an Epidemic Intelligence Service officer with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. She received her medical degree from Assiut University, Egypt in 1993 and her PhD in Epidemiology from the University of Oklahoma in 2009. She completed 2 postdoctoral training programs at the University of California, San Diego and the University of Oklahoma and received funding from the National Institutes of Health through a Post-doctoral National Research Service Award. She has over 30 peer-reviewed publications in leading scientific journals. Her research interests include psychosocial determinants of health, maternal and child health, health disparities, and global health.

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**SUSAN P. FISHER-HOCH, MD, UT School of Public Health, Brownsville Regional Campus**

**Presentations:**

**1. How to Save \$47 Trillion: the Price of Global Neglect of Non-Communicable Diseases**

**2. Level 4: Virus Hunters of the CDC**

**Synopsis:** Non-communicable diseases will cost \$47 trillion dollars over the next 20 years. They will cause 63% of all deaths, and by 2030 will kill 53 million people a year; more than all other causes combined. These diseases are to a large extent depend on modifiable behavioral factors. What should be done to prevent these diseases which produce economic and social burdens far greater than the worst years of malaria or AIDS?

**Biography:** Sue Fisher-Hoch was born in England in 1940. After completing High School she attended the Sorbonne in Paris, then continued linguistic and cultural studies in Rome. She gained admission to the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine in 1970 at a time when women, particularly married women were not offered places, and was later given the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson fellowship, in memory of the first English woman doctor. She graduated First Class in 1975 with seven prizes for excellence. After internship with Dr. Sheila Sherlock at the Royal Free Hospital, she joined the Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford to train in virology. Between 1978 and 1982 she taught medical students, ran virology laboratories and conducted research, publishing several papers. By 1981 she had membership of the Royal College of Pathology in Virology, a Master's degree in Microbiology with distinction and a doctoral degree in epidemiology (MD) from London University. Her doctoral thesis findings were published in the *Lancet* and were the first identification of hot water systems as the source of outbreaks of Legionnaire's disease, as opposed to air conditioning. In 1982 she obtained a Wellcome Trust Fellowship to study the pathophysiology of Ebola hemorrhagic fever in primates in the Porton Down BSL4 facilities using biological respirators. (BSL4 or BSL4 is the highest level of containment that exists, used for the most dangerous viruses such as Ebola and Lassa.) This led to better understanding of the processes involved in shock and death in Ebola. In 1982 she spent three months in Bangkok, working on treatment of rabies using intrathecal ribavirin. In 1984 she was invited to the CDC, Atlanta space suit BSL4 laboratory and published her findings on Lassa fever virus in the *Journal of Infectious Diseases*, providing key information on the pathophysiology of Ebola and Lassa viruses. Back in England she was central to the discovery that the parvovirus B19 was responsible for Fifth's Disease (Slapped Cheek Syndrome).

In 1985, she moved to the Central Public Health Laboratory to head the VHF unit, with its newly constructed glove box BSL4 laboratory. During this time she spent four months at the CDC Lassa Fever project in Sierra Leone to study the hematology of shock and bleeding in Lassa virus infected patients. She was at this time the UK representative on various WHO working groups, particularly hemorrhagic fevers and biosafety. Because the restrictive attitude of the UK

authorities to work on BSL4 agents she moved in early 1986 to the CDC, Atlanta, where she remained for eight years, becoming Deputy Branch Chief, Special Pathogens Laboratory, and serving as Acting Branch Chief. Her responsibilities included primate studies of pathophysiology, vaccine evaluation, clinical and epidemiological advice for the United States and other countries, and supervision of the Sierra Leone Lassa Fever Research Unit. She published several major papers, notably efficacy of a Lassa Virus vaccine, comparative pathophysiology of Ebola isolates, and longitudinal studies of Ebola virus infections in monkeys. She was one of the team responsible for opening and operating the newest BSL4 laboratory at CDC.

Dr. Fisher-Hoch traveled widely and gained extensive experience working in China, Thailand, Indonesia and several countries in Africa, conducting studies and publishing reports. While with the CDC, she investigated outbreaks of Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever in South Africa, Senegal and Saudi Arabia, where she gave an invited lecture in Mecca. She investigated devastating outbreaks of Lassa fever in Nigeria. She played a major part in the investigation of the Reston outbreak in the US in monkeys imported from the Philippines, visiting Indonesia and the Netherlands to try to track the source of the virus, and then returning to the laboratory to perform primate studies. She was appointed an Adjunct Professor at Emory University, School of Public Health during this time, and taught students in their MPH program. She was responsible for supervision of field studies, including clinical trials of antiviral agents, and was involved in audit of a trial, and prepared study protocols for FDA approval. In 1991, Dr. Fisher-Hoch moved to the division of Bacterial and Mycological Diseases at CDC, and broadened her experience in epidemiology and biostatistics. In 1992, she married Dr. Joseph McCormick, who was by that time with the Malaria Branch at CDC, and in 1993, they both moved to Karachi, Pakistan, to return to the field, taking up positions at the Aga Khan University. Dr. Fisher-Hoch was Research Professor, supervising the Clinical Microbiology Laboratory, the largest in Pakistan. She established a molecular epidemiology and molecular virology laboratory, and worked and published studies on important pathogens, such as hepatitis C (HCV), tuberculosis, typhoid and cholera. She identified and advised on an outbreak of CCHF in Quetta, Pakistan, and investigated on an outbreak of cholera in Gilgit, Northern Areas. She provided consultation to the Director of the Aga Khan Health Services, Kenya, on HIV and blood transfusions in hospitals in Nairobi, Kisumu, Mombasa and Dar-es-Salaam. At the Aga Khan Hospital, Dr. Fisher-Hoch has also gained further teaching experience, designing and teaching a virology course for medical students, tutoring and encouraging young faculty, and teaching on short regional epidemiology training courses.

Early in 1997, she and her husband moved to Lyon, France, where she took charge of the design, building and scientific program of a new BSL4 suit laboratory, financed by Charles Mérieux. This is now the most technologically advanced laboratory for handling dangerous viruses in the world. She launched

a comprehensive scientific program with collaborators in Europe, the United States and Africa. The President of France, M. J. Chirac, officially inaugurated the laboratory in March 1999. Dr Fisher-Hoch has been awarded the Chevalier de Legion d'Honneur, Le Medaille de Lyon by the mayor and former Prime Minister of France, Raymond Barre, and Le Prix Scientifique du Group Paris-Lyon, for her work in designing, constructing, and rendering operational the BSL4 laboratory of Lyon. The laboratory was given official permission to operate at BSL4 on June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2000. During this period Dr. Fisher-Hoch participated in a meeting in Novosibirsk, Siberia, to try to develop scientific programs with the BSL4 laboratory there, and also was involved in reviews of the Nipah outbreak in Malasia, and worked with a team in Gabon performing immunological studies on patient samples from a recent Ebola outbreak in that country.

In January 2001, she moved to Brownsville, Texas, with her husband who was appointed Assistant Dean for the new Brownsville campus of the UT School of Public Health. She is a full professor in the new school. Since then she has established a solid research program in diabetes and complications of diabetes, including tuberculosis. This program has attracted solid NIH funding, and has made major advances in understanding of these diseases in minority populations. She has established a molecular microbiology laboratory, with a BSL3 for handling pathogens such as *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* and West Nile Virus.

Dr. Fisher-Hoch speaks fluent French, and Italian, and some Spanish. She carries both American and British passports. She has over the years contributed many chapters to major textbooks, written review articles, reviewed for several journals, and has more than 100 major publications. She has written invited editorials for the Lancet, and provided expert advice to the lay press and television, being featured personally in both media, and in books dealing with hemorrhagic fevers. With her husband, Joe McCormick she has published a popular account (*Level 4, Virus Hunters of the CDC*, now published in nine languages) of their adventures which has sold more than 70,000 copies, was translated into seven languages, and has been reissued in hard cover and paperback by Barnes and Noble.

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## **VINCENT P. FONSECA, MD, MPH, Intellica Corporation**

**Presentation: *College Students: What's Going to Get You...and What You Can Do about It!***

**Biography:** Since May 2006, Dr. Vince Fonseca has been the Texas State Epidemiologist at the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS). Before coming to DSHS, he spent 9 years in the Population Health Support Division (PHSD) of the Air Force Medical Service. PHSD is a center of expertise

in preventive medicine and managed care. It is a think tank to promote evidence-based medicine and an effective, efficient managed-care system.

Dr. Fonseca was a preventive medicine physician at the US Army Center for Health Promotion as the Chief, Health, Fitness and Performance Branch. He also served with the United Nations Mission in Haiti as the preventive medicine officer, and was the disease surveillance physician at the office of the US Army Surgeon General. He has also been a medical director and a primary care physician at Army health facilities in Germany. He completed a public health and general preventive medicine residency at Walter Reed Army Institute of Research and he is board-certified in Public Health and General Preventive Medicine. He received his MD from Boston University, a Master of Public Health in quantitative methods from Harvard University, and a BA in psychology from Rice University.

Dr. Fonseca has co-authored articles in: JAMA on morbidity surveillance following Hurricane Andrew; American Journal of Preventive Medicine on cardiorespiratory fitness; American Journal of Health Promotion on weight gain as a barrier to smoking cessation; Tobacco Control on the short-term health effects of smoking in a young, healthy population; Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report on costs of smoking in the Air Force; Annals of Epidemiology on relative risk in cohort studies, Military Medicine on topics in unplanned pregnancy, breast cancer screening, costs of overweight, prevention of weight gain, and healthcare system workload trends and expenditures; Aviation, Space, and Environmental Medicine on clinical preventive services; in Disease Management on integrating behavioral healthcare into primary care and in Professional Psychology: Research and Practice on a clinical guide to manage suicidal patients.

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**MICHELE FORMAN, PhD, MA, University of Texas at Austin**

**Presentation: *The Behaviors That Can Take Your Breath Away: A Lens Into the Lifecourse Approach to Prevention***

**Synopsis:** My career has spanned 38 years of field and clinical nutritional epidemiology research. The unfortunate convergence of an epidemic of behavioral risk factors like smoking and obesity worldwide is well known today. Yet in the 1980's I had to fight at the Centers for Disease Control for a surveillance system to monitor obesity, alcohol consumption, and other risk factors in the United States. The result was the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System that maps the epidemic of obesity across the United States. In my talk, I will focus on the role of early life exposures on risk for obesity, age at menarche and other factors that are related to risk for chronic diseases like diabetes and cancer.

**Biography:** Dr. Forman is the Bruton Endowed Chair and Professor in the Department of Nutritional Sciences at The University of Texas at Austin. She is also an adjunct professor at Department of Pediatrics, Baylor School of Medicine, and at the Department of Epidemiology at the UT School of Public Health. She was formerly a professor in the Department of Epidemiology in the Division of Cancer Prevention and Population Sciences at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center and worked at the CDC and NIH.

Her career spans 38 years focusing on field and clinical nutritional epidemiology research across the globe with an emphasis on early life exposures and risk for cancer as well as the role of nutrition in growth and health across the life course. She has over 150 peer reviewed publications, book chapters, and papers in press. She serves on the editorial board of Cancer Epidemiology and reviews for many journals. She is currently the chair of the Interagency Breast Cancer and the Environment Coordinating Committee tasked with the review of the science, integration of research across federal agencies and enhanced dissemination of cancer results to the advocacy and larger community.

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**MATT GOLDSHORE, MPH, MD/PhD Candidate George Washington University**

**Presentation: *Ready to Take the Next Step? Graduate Education in Public Health***

**Biography:** Matt Goldshore is an MD/PhD student at the George Washington University School of Medicine and the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. He completed his undergraduate work at the University of Texas at Austin where he participated in the Public Health Internship program at the Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department. He completed his Master of Public Health degree in the Department of Epidemiology and a graduate certificate in the Department of Global Health at the George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services in 2009. His graduating thesis was titled “Comparative evaluation of two data collection systems for the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation (EGPAF).” His research focus is perinatal epidemiology and demography and is currently works on projects centered around the implications of overweight and obesity during pregnancy on the subsequent health of the mother and child.

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**PRUDENCE GOSS, MA, Emory University Rollins School of Public Health**



**Presentation: *Ready to Take the next Steps? Graduate Education in Public Health***

**Biography:** Prudence Goss is the Associate Director of Admissions and Recruitment at the Rollins School of Public Health (RSPH) of Emory University. She is responsible for managing all outreach initiatives, advising prospective students and coordinating the new student orientation program. She currently serves on the Association of Schools of Public Health's Recruitment Committee and the RSPH Career Services Advisory Council.

Previous to her current role, Prudence was the Associate Director of Student Financial Programs at RSPH where she managed and assisted in the development of the Rollins Practical Experience Program. The Program is a financial aid initiative which offers hundreds of Rollins students the opportunity to engage in relevant part-time work experiences with partnering public health-focused organizations such as the CDC, CARE and Arthritis Foundation.

Prior to joining Rollins in 2010, Prudence was the Program Coordinator/Assistant Director of the Office of Multicultural Programs and Services at Emory. She started her career in the field of higher education in 2005 at Emory as a Financial Aid Advisor for undergraduate students.

Prudence is a 2004 graduate of Spelman College and a 2005 graduate of Columbia University with a Master of Arts in Higher and Postsecondary Education.

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**GARY HESELTINE**

**Presentation: *Outbreak of Pseudomonas aeruginosa Surgical Site Infections after Arthroscopic Procedures: Texas, 2009***

**Biography:**

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**PETER J. HOTEZ, MD, PhD, FASTMH, FAAP, Baylor College of Medicine**

**Keynote Presentation: *Innovation in the Control of the Neglected Tropical Diseases***

**Synopsis:** The neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) represent a group of chronic parasitic and related infections such as hookworm, schistosomiasis, lymphatic filariasis, oncocerciasis, and trachoma. Overall the NTDs are the most common infections of the world's poorest people, a group known as "the bottom billion", in

whom they produce a profound level of disability. Moreover the NTDs not only occur in the setting of poverty but in addition they represent a stealth cause of poverty because of their adverse impact on child growth and intellectual development, pregnancy outcome, and worker productivity. Recently, international efforts and partnerships have been established in order to eliminate the most common NTDs. These efforts include scaled up mass drug administration in order to integrate the control and elimination of seven NTDs, as well as a new END 7 advocacy campaign. In parallel are international R&D efforts to produce new and improved drugs, diagnostics, and vaccines for the NTDs. Such efforts could lead to the elimination of key NTDs as public health problems by the end of this decade.

**Biography:** Peter J. Hotez, MD, PhD, is Dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine and Professor of Pediatrics and Molecular Virology & Microbiology at Baylor College of Medicine where he is also chief of a new Section of Pediatric Tropical Medicine and the Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics. He is also President of the Sabin Vaccine Institute where he is also Director of the Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development.

Dr. Hotez is an internationally-recognized clinician and investigator in neglected tropical diseases and vaccine development. He leads the only product development partnership for developing new vaccines for hookworm infection, schistosomiasis, and Chagas disease, diseases affecting hundreds of millions of children and adults worldwide. The hookworm vaccine is currently in clinical trials. In 2006 at the Clinton Global Initiative he co-founded the Global Network for Neglected Tropical Diseases to provide access to essential medicines for more than 100 million people

He obtained his undergraduate degree in molecular biophysics from Yale University in 1980 (*phi beta kappa*), followed by a Ph.D. degree in biochemical parasitology from Rockefeller University in 1986 and an M.D. from Weil Cornell Medical College in 1987.

He completed pediatric residency training at Massachusetts General Hospital from 1987 to 1989 and postdoctoral fellowship training in infectious diseases and molecular parasitology at Yale from 1989 to 1991.

Dr. Hotez has authored more than 240 original papers, including lead articles in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, *Lancet*, *Science*, and *Scientific American*, and more than two dozen op-ed pieces or editorials, including pieces in the *New York Times*, *LA Times* and the *Washington Post* and 61 textbook chapters. He has also authored or edited 10 books, including the acclaimed *Forgotten People, Forgotten Diseases* (ASM Press). He has been an invited speaker or visiting professor on hundreds of occasions at leading institutions nationally and internationally and has been the recipient of many national or international awards.

Dr. Hotez serves as founding Editor-in-Chief of *PLoS Neglected Tropical Disease*. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene and has served in membership or leadership roles with a multitude of professional organizations, including as a current member of the NIH Council of Councils and Past President of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene. He is an elected member of the Institute of Medicine (IOM) of the National Academy of Sciences and The Academy of Medicine, Engineering and Science of Texas. In 2011 he was awarded the Abraham Horwitz Award for Excellence in Leadership in Inter-American Health by the Pan American Health Organization of the WHO.

He currently serves as principal investigator for research grants from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Dutch government, and NIH, as well as co-principal investigator for a research grant from the Carlos Slim Health Institute.

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**PHILIP HUANG, M.D., MPH, Austin /Travis County Health and Human Services Department**

**Presentation: *On the Front Lines: Local Public Health!***

**Biography:** Dr. Philip Huang is currently the Medical Director and Health Authority for the Austin/Travis County Health Department. Prior to this, he served as Medical Director for Chronic Disease Prevention at the Texas Department of State Health Services and Chief of the Bureau of Chronic Disease and Tobacco Prevention at the former Texas Department of Health (TDH) for over 15 years where his responsibilities included oversight of state activities related to cardiovascular disease, diabetes, cancer, Alzheimer's disease, asthma and tobacco use prevention. Dr. Huang received his undergraduate degree in Civil Engineering from Rice University, his MD from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, and his Master's in Public Health from Harvard with a concentration in Health Policy and Management. While at Harvard, Dr. Huang led the successful movement to have Harvard divest of its tobacco stocks. Dr. Huang completed his residency training in Family Medicine at Brackenridge Hospital in Austin. He served 2 years as an Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) officer with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention assigned to the Illinois Department of Public Health where he conducted epidemiologic studies in chronic disease and infectious disease outbreak investigations. He is an author or co-author of numerous publications related to chronic disease and tobacco use prevention. Dr. Huang is Board Certified in Family Medicine.

**CATHERINE JAMAL, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion**

**Presentation: *CDC Zombie Apocalypse: Emergency Preparedness 101 – A Viral Public Health Campaign***

**Synopsis:** CDC and Zombies?! Millions asked this question last Spring when CDC launched a mini campaign that came to be known as the CDC Zombie Apocalypse. The campaign took the popularity of zombies and combined it with important information about emergency preparedness, boosting visits to CDC websites for the start of hurricane season. The idea was, if you're prepared for a zombie apocalypse, you're prepared for any emergency (including real ones like hurricanes, tornados, or wildfires). The campaign went viral and succeeded in driving traffic to CDC's emergency webpage, where people were able to learn more about how to protect their families and homes during a disaster. I'll explain how we did it, why we did it, and what happened afterwards in the hopes that attendees will leave inspired to think creatively (and perhaps be a bit daring!)

**Biography:** Catherine Jamal leads Web and Social Media for Chronic Diseases at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). She recently came to Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion after leading the Emergency Web & Social Media Team in CDC's Emergency Operations Center. Over the last nine years, Catherine has brought a User-Centered Design approach to Public Health focusing on communication strategy, product development, and evaluation of CDC websites, social and emerging media, and public health campaigns for a variety of topics including Salmonella, Malaria, Travelers' Health, Cancer, Heart Disease, Obesity, Earthquakes, Hurricanes, Radiation Emergencies... and Zombies. Catherine received a Master of Science in Human-Computer Interaction and a Bachelor of Science in Applied Psychology from the Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech), where she researched Attention, Working Memory, Human Factors, and Healthcare Informatics topics partially funded through a grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF.)

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**JUD JANAK, MPH, PhD Candidate, UT School of Public Health, Austin Campus**

**Presentation: *Why I Chose Graduate Education in Public Health***

**Biography:** Jud Janak received his Bachelor of Arts from the University of Texas in 2007 in Biology and Government. After working two years as a social worker for the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services he completed a Master of Public Health degree in the Department of Epidemiology at the University of Texas School of Public Health in 2011. He is currently a PhD

student in Epidemiology at the University of Texas School of Public Health Austin Regional Campus. His graduating thesis was titled "The Association Between Physical Fitness and Academic Achievement: An Ecologic Study." His research focus is physical activity and neuroepidemiology and is currently working on research regarding child and adolescent fitness as well as examining the relationship between physical activity and cardiovascular disease among a cohort of women in the Healthy Women's Study.

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### **KANAKA SATHASIVAN, MPH**

Kanaka graduated from the University of Texas at Austin in 2007 with a Bachelor of Arts in English and a Bachelor of Science in Biology. Always interested in combining her two passions, she worked for two years as a freelance writer, editing and writing Biology-related material. She also had the chance to work as a Health Educator with the "Steps to a Healthier Austin" campaign, which cemented her desire to pursue an MPH and work in obesity prevention among youth. While studying Behavioral Sciences and Health Education at Emory University, Kanaka dedicated herself to learning more about Health Communications, studying perceptions of public health in the media and the use of innovative media-based public health interventions. Her research was in the use of video games for public health, and her final capstone paper was titled "An Interdisciplinary Approach to the Development of an HIV and Sexual Health Video Game for Igbo Adolescents." Kanaka is currently working as a freelance writer and web designer for the University of Texas and several local cancer clinics. She hopes to continue her video game research this summer under a new grant.

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### **TAHA A. KASS-HOUT, MD, MS, Public Health Surveillance Program Office**

#### **Presentations: *Digital Disease Detection: The Exciting World of Public Health Informatics***

**Synopsis:** [#OccupyCloud9](#) Don't remember that disease outbreak? That's because it never actually happened. BioSense 2.0, an interactive partnership between the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the public health community, is designed to track health problems in the United States as they evolve. BioSense 2.0 provides officials and the public with the timely information to make better decisions about how to protect and improve the health of all people in a collaborative manner.

**Biography:** Taha A. Kass-Hout, MD, MS, is director of the Division of Informatics Solutions and Operations in the Public Health Surveillance and Informatics Program Office (proposed). He previously served as deputy director for information services in the Division of Notifiable Diseases and Healthcare Information (DNDHI). Dr. Kass-Hout has more than 15 years of professional experience in health, public health, and informatics.

While DNDHI deputy director, Dr. Kass-Hout managed the BioSense program where he oversaw the program's many features that assist state health departments and CDC in data collection, standardization, storage, analysis, and collaboration. BioSense is the first Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) program hosted completely in the Internet cloud, in alignment with the White House cloud initiative.

Implementation of Dr. Kass-Hout's vision of BioSense and public health surveillance practice resulted in significant savings in overhead costs to CDC and state and local health jurisdictions. In turn, these savings can be used to support creation of additional jobs at all levels for increased public health disease surveillance. The new vision for BioSense incorporates innovative features such as a horizontal sharing model, which allows timely data to be shared among multiple parties, in alignment with the needs of state and local jurisdictions. Dr. Farzad Mostashari, national coordinator for health information technology at the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology at HHS, praised BioSense 2.0 and publically gave it his support during a formal address in December 2011.

Dr. Kass-Hout also managed CDC's Distribute project. First used during the influenza H1N1 pandemic, Distribute has been further developed by CDC in partnership with the International Society for Disease Surveillance. In December 2009, Distribute was acknowledged by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy as a model case study for open government because of the project's voluntary participation, low cost to acquire data, and exceptional public transparency. Dr. Kass-Hout also was active in responding to the 2003 SARS outbreak, where he led the informatics and information response for the National Center for Infectious Diseases.

Dr. Kass-Hout is credited with these innovations:

- InSTEDD's Riff—an open source social networking platform for integrated early warning and response (InSTEDD was fielded by Google in 2006). On Jan 17, 2010, the Thomson Reuters Foundation used Riff to launch a first-of-its kind, free disaster-information service for the people of Port Au Prince, Haiti. The use of Riff enabled survivors of Haiti's earthquake to receive critical information by text message directly to their phones, free of charge.

- The Global Disease Surveillance Platform (GDSP™), patent pending (WO/2008/013553-US 2009/0319295 A1)—a situation awareness platform to help predict, monitor, detect early, and enable timely response to public health events such as an influenza pandemic.
- eQuest—a just-in-time Web-based survey creation-and-analysis solution for epidemiologic and disease outbreak investigation. eQuest was the primary tool used by field epidemiologists during their investigation of the 2003 global SARS outbreak. eQuest has been used in hundreds of disease outbreak investigations and in field studies conducted by public health entities at all levels.

Dr. Kass-Hout received a master-of-science degree from the University of Texas, School of Public Health, Department of Biostatistics. His medical doctor degree is from the University of Texas, Health Sciences Center, Houston. Dr. Kass-Hout also completed clinical training at Harvard's Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and at the University of Texas Health Sciences Center in Houston.

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**GRACE KUBIN, PhD, Texas Department of State Health Services**

**Presentation: *CSI: Public Health—Tackling Emerging Diseases and More in the Laboratory***

**Biography:** Grace Kubin, Ph.D. is currently the Director of Laboratory Services Section at the Texas Department of State Health Services. She oversees the activities of the Laboratory Services Section, the Laboratory Operations Unit, including Microbiological Sciences, Environmental Sciences, Biochemistry & Genetics, Emergency Preparedness, the Quality Assurance Unit, and the Health Facilities Lab Unit including the Women's Health Laboratory in San Antonio and the South Texas Laboratory in Harlingen. She has held various positions in the laboratory such as performing testing in support of food borne outbreak investigations, managing biological and chemical threat testing, and serving in the DSHS State Medical Operations Center. Dr. Kubin received her bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Texas at Austin.

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**JAELAH KUEHMICHEL, Peace Corps**

**Presentation: *Working in Global Health—What Does It Take?***

**Biography:** Jaelah studied Fine Arts at Missouri State University and dreamed of living abroad, beyond the bubble of the Western world. With a volunteer

background in HIV/AIDS awareness, she qualified to become a health volunteer in the Peace Corps after graduation. She served from 2007-2010 in a small rural village of Burkina Faso, West Africa as a Community Health Education volunteer touching on issues such as malaria prevention, nutrition, family planning, hygiene, and HIV/AIDS. She worked in conjunction with the local clinic, primary school, and community organizations such as the community theatre troupe that she helped to organize. This grass roots experience gave her insight into the complexity of cultural barriers navigated when promoting healthy behavior change in the developing world. Jaelah currently holds the position of Peace Corps Recruiter in the International Office of UT and continues to paint and produce artwork related to her experiences.

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### **JOSEPH MCCORMICK, MD, UT School of Public Health, Brownsville Regional Campus**

#### **Presentations:**

1. ***Tall Tales of an Infectious Disease Cowboy: Ebola and Lassa in Africa***
2. ***Level 4: Virus Hunters of the CDC***

**Biography:** Joseph B. McCormick, MD is Regional Dean, Brownsville campus of the University of Texas School of Public Health. In addition, he serves as the Vice President for South Texas Programs, UT Health Science Center San Antonio. He was raised on a farm in Indiana. After graduating cum laude from Florida Southern College with majors in chemistry and mathematics, he attended the Alliance Francaise and the Free University in Brussels in preparation for teaching sciences and mathematics in French in a secondary school in the Congo. There in the local hospital he was introduced to medicine, particularly tropical medicine. He entered Duke Medical School in 1967 graduating in 1971 with an intercalated MS from Harvard School of Public Health (1970). His internship and residency were at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia under Dr. C. Everett Koop. In 1974 he became an Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer (EIS), at the CDC, and a fellow in Preventive Medicine. He was a PAHO/CDC consultant for the Brazilian government for the extensive meningitis outbreaks of 1974/6. In 1977 he went to West Africa to found the CDC Lassa fever Research Project in Sierra Leone, where he received an emergency call to join the team investigating the first Ebola epidemic in 1976 and again in 1979. In Sierra Leone he conducted extensive and definitive studies of the epidemiology and treatment of Lassa hemorrhagic fever, publishing a landmark publication in the New England Journal of Medicine on effective antiviral treatment for this disease. He returned to Atlanta in 1979 and became Chief, Special Pathogens Branch, Division of Viral Diseases at the CDC, directing the Biosafety level 4 laboratories for 9 years. He became involved in AIDS and led the original team that did the



first AIDS investigation in Africa and established the Project SIDA in Kinshasa, Zaire, and later the Project Retro-Ci in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. He co-authored numerous papers in major journals, including Science, and established a key point in the natural history of HIV infection in Africa by testing specimens saved in his laboratory from the 1976 Ebola outbreak from which the oldest HIV virus was isolated. In 1993, he became Chairman, Community Health Sciences Department, at the Aga Khan University Medical School (AKU) where he established an epidemiology program, resembling the CDC Field Epidemiology Training Programs, and a Masters' degree in Epidemiology. Over 45 papers have now been published by faculty and trainees from this period. In 1997 he moved to France where he founded epidemiology programs for the Institute Pasteur and for Aventis Pasteur. He returned to the US in 2001 to start a new regional campus of the UT Houston School of Public Health in Brownsville, Texas where he is the Regional dean and the James H. Steele professor of epidemiology. His awards include the USPHS Meritorious Service Medal, and humanitarian awards from Florida Southern College and Duke University Medical School, and Friend of Public Health award from the Texas DSHS. Dr. McCormick has over 200 scientific publications with co-authors from over 20 different countries. He has acted as reviewer for many journals, and has contributed to television, newspapers and periodicals and is featured in several books for the lay reader (e.g., The Coming Plague, The Hot Zone). With his wife, Sue Fisher-Hoch he co-authored a popular account (Level 4, Virus Hunters of the CDC) of their adventures that was translated into seven languages, and has been reissued in hard cover and paperback. He is an accomplished amateur pianist, and enjoys outdoor activities such as running, back packing, skiing and fly-fishing.

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## **CAITLIN MEREDITH, MPH, Doctors Without Borders**

### **Presentation: *Working In Global Health—What Does It Take?***

Caitlin Meredith, MPH, is an epidemiologist whose first assignment with Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) took her to the Darfur region of Sudan at the height of the crisis in 2004, where she used her expertise to track trends in diseases with epidemic potential.

Responding to the needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the south and west of Darfur, MSF ran primary health care, nutrition, surgical and emergency preparedness programs in one of its largest emergency responses to date. Ms. Meredith helped to implement a mass measles vaccination campaign for tens of thousands of IDPs. In 2006, Ms. Meredith resumed her work with MSF, conducting an epidemiological survey of an area in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo, a region that has been host to ongoing and often intense conflict for a decade. Her work helped MSF to improve its programs for

the local people who are frequently the targets of violence and have limited access to health care.

Ms. Meredith has a master's degree in public health from Tulane University, where her focus was on HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa. In addition to her contributions to MSF, she has conducted HIV/AIDS research for various non-governmental organizations based in Kenya, where she also worked in refugee camps for Somali refugees with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. She currently works as a health planner in the Immunization and Refugee Program for Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services based in Austin.

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**NEIL PASCOE, RN, BSN, CIC, Texas Department of State Health Services**

**Presentation: Epidemic Case Study: The Case of Mistaken Identity in a Texas Hospital**

**Biography:** Neil Pascoe is the Nurse Epidemiologist for the Texas Department of State Health Services Infectious Disease Control Unit. He provides consultation on healthcare-associated infections and serves as the liaison between the Department and the Texas infection prevention community. In his role at the state health department Neil assists facilities in the investigation and control of communicable diseases. He also serves as the department lead for regulated medical waste, MRSA and Clostridium difficile.

He has been a Registered Nurse for over 30 years and recently observed his 18th year in the field of infection control. Neil is board certified in infection control and currently serves on the CDC's national healthcare safety network steering work group, and the Board of Directors for the Association of Professional in Infection Control

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**EVA PERLMAN, MPH, Association of Public Health Laboratories**

**Presentation: *CSI: Public Health—Tackling Emerging Disease and More in the Laboratory***

**Biography:** Ms. Perlman has over 20 years of experience in public health and non-profit association management, with a concentration on training and continuing education. Currently she serves as Senior Director of Professional Development for the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL). She provides leadership, guidance and oversight in the operations, administration and coordination of APHL sponsored workforce development, training and continuing education initiatives, including the National Center for Public Health Laboratory Leadership (NCPHLL), the National Laboratory Training Network (NLTN); and, the Emerging Infectious Diseases Fellowship and Traineeship Programs. She received her MPH at the University of Pittsburgh School of Public Health, and her BA at Case Western Reserve University.

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### **DENNIS PERROTTA, PhD, CIC, UT School of Nursing**

#### **Presentation: *How to Survive the Zombie Apocalypse!***

**Biography:** Dennis M. Perrotta, PhD is Associate Director for Emerging Infectious Diseases of the National Center for Emergency Medical Preparedness and Response at the Texas A&M Health Science Center in Houston, Texas. Prior to this, he was Associate Professor of Epidemiology and Biosecurity at the University of Texas School of Public Health in Houston from 2004-2007. Until his retirement in late 2004, he was the Texas State Epidemiologist, and Scientific Director of the Center for Public Health Preparedness and Response, Texas Department of Health where he worked for nearly 20 years.

He received his undergraduate degree in biology/chemistry from St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas in 1973. Dennis attended the University of Texas at San Antonio where he received his Master's of Science in biological sciences in 1977. From 1979 through 1982, he was completing his doctoral degree in epidemiology with minors in environmental science and biometry at the University of Texas, School of Public Health in Houston. Since that time, he has been successfully board certified in infection control (4 times, each 5 years).

Dr. Perrotta worked as the assistant state epidemiologist for the State of Utah (1982-1986) until he returned to Texas to be the environmental epidemiologist at the Texas Department of Health. Over the next 20 years, he served as the bureau chief of epidemiology, the scientific director of the Center for Public Health Preparedness and Response, and the State Epidemiologist, all at the Texas Department of Health.

Having worked in public health for more than 25 years, his career interests span a wide range of subject areas from bioterrorism, asthma, influenza, environmental health to infectious disease epidemiology. He has served as President of the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists and as President of the Armed Forces Epidemiological Board. He served on the 1997-99 Institute of Medicine Committee to Improve Civilian Medical Response to Chemical and Biological Terrorism and led state health department efforts

regarding bioterrorism preparedness. He is Adjunct Associate Professor of Community Health Nursing at the University of Texas, School of Nursing where he teaches graduate level epidemiology as well as the Texas A&M School of Rural Public Health and the University of North Texas School of Public Health. Dr Perrotta recently served on the CDC Healthcare Infections Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC) and was the principal investigator on two major bioterrorism grants as well as a CDC Emerging Infections Program grant. He is a Fellow of the Society of Healthcare Epidemiology of America and member of numerous professional organizations.

In his current role as Associate Research Scientist, Dr. Perrotta works to improve the competency of the current public health workforce, to encourage students to investigate public health as a career, and providing varied advice and counsel to local, state and federal public health agencies.

He was the 2005 recipient of the National Epidemiology Award, also known as “The Pump Handle Award” for outstanding achievement in the field of applied epidemiology.

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## **ARACELI REY, MPH, United States Public Health Service**

### **Presentation: “*Beating Back the Devil*”: The CDC Epidemic Intelligence Service**

**Biography:** CDR Araceli Rey is a Commissioned Officer in the United States Public Health Service. She is currently serving as CDC’s Career Epidemiology Field Officer (CEFO) assigned to the Texas Department of State Health Services in the Community Preparedness Section. In her role as CEFO, she has been working on several projects to help build epidemiologic, surveillance, and emergency response capacity. Some examples include assisting with the pandemic influenza H1N1 response, evaluating the H1N1 mortality surveillance system, and providing training to local and regional epidemiologists for emergency preparedness. She recently completed two deployments where she served as the epidemiologist on a team supporting the Deepwater Horizon response at the National Incident Command Center in Washington, DC; and as the training team lead to implement a cholera case fatality program in Haiti.

CDR Rey began her federal career at CDC as an Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) Officer in 2005. During that time, she was assigned to Maine, where she worked on a broad range of projects to include injury prevention research, outbreak investigations, and coordination of vaccination clinics and evaluation of surveillance and disease control programs. She also spent time overseas assisting with a clinical trial in Madagascar. Following EIS, Araceli worked at CDC’s National Center for Public Health Informatics in the Division of Integrated Surveillance Systems and Services. In this role, she served as the subject matter expert on nationally notifiable diseases and program manager of the

outbreak management program. Here, she developed implementation plans for the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS) and collaborated with internal and external partners on informatics projects concentrating on integrated surveillance and GIS.

She received her Bachelor of Science degrees in Biology and Nursing from the University of Texas at El Paso, and her Masters of Public Health from the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. Her clinical experience includes working as an ER/Trauma Nurse and a pediatric Critical Care nurse.

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### **EDUARDO SANCHEZ, MD, MPH, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas**

**Presentations:** *Improving Health Globally: A Career in Public Health Can Make It So!*

**Biography:** Dr. Eduardo Sanchez serves as Vice President and Chief Medical Officer for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas (BCBSTX). Prior to joining BCBSTX, he was director of the Institute for Health Policy at The University of Texas (UT) School of Public Health. Dr. Sanchez served as Commissioner of the Texas Department of State Health Services from 2004-2006 and the Texas Department of Health from 2001-2004.

Dr. Sanchez chairs the Advisory Committee to the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Partnership for Prevention Board of Directors. He serves on the American Diabetes Association National Prevention Committee and on the IOM Standing Committee on Childhood Obesity.

Dr. Sanchez is a board certified family physician with an interest in public health. He has received numerous awards including the American Heart Association Louis B. Russell Memorial Award in April 2004 and the American Academy of Family Physicians Public Health Award in 2005. More recently, he was named the recipient of the 2011 Texas Public Health Association James E. Peavy Memorial Award and the 2011 American Diabetes Association of North Texas J. Dennis McGarry Award for Outstanding Healthcare Professional/Community Advocate.

Dr. Sanchez received an M.D. in 1988 from the UT Southwestern Medical School in Dallas. He holds an M.P.H. from the UT School of Public Health, an M.S. in biomedical engineering from Duke University, and two degrees—a B.S. in biomedical engineering and a B.A. in chemistry—from Boston University.

**SAM STEW, BS Microbiology, University of Texas at Austin**

**Presentation: *CSI: Public Health—Tackling Emerging Disease and More in the Laboratory***

**Biography:** Sam Stew graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a B.S. in Microbiology in 2010 and is currently participating in the Emerging Infectious Diseases (EID) Laboratory Fellowship Program sponsored by the Association of Public Health Laboratories and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. He was assigned to the State Hygienic Laboratory at the University of Iowa where he is learning how molecular techniques are used to detect microbes in clinical specimens. While at UT-Austin, he participated in both the Public Health Internship Program at the Texas Department of State Health Services and the Texas/Mexico Border Health Internship at University of Texas School of Public Health-Brownsville Regional Campus. He plans on applying to a doctoral program in pathobiology this fall.