

Editor's Note

SCOTT C. RATZAN

Editor-in-Chief

In 2003, the responsibility for achieving and maintaining health security is a multisectoral challenge, with politicians, policymakers, physicians and other health professionals, the media, and the public all playing important roles.

As cataclysmic world events have changed the mindset of so many, ethical decision-making practices based on evidence and reason have not always followed. Furthermore, traditional science and proven approaches often have limited application to new exigencies. These pressures are especially profound when the situation has catastrophic elements of death and disease.

This dedicated supplement to the *Journal of Health Communication* provides important analyses on the events and responses to the anthrax scare in the United States in the fall of 2001. While the case of anthrax and the use of biological weapons remain salient in America, the articles articulate important challenges and approaches in our effort to better communicate public health information in general.

I am pleased that May Kennedy of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention served as guest editor. She selected fine contributors and provided editorial support for one of the first peer-reviewed compilations of such important research.

It is my hope that readers of this issue will continue to serve an important role in evidence-based health communication. These articles should encourage further dialogue among the multiple stakeholders aimed at advancing policies that will safeguard and enhance our most important societal and personal asset—our good health.

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