

Joseph A. Barbera, MD
Biography
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Joseph A. Barbera, M.D. is Co-Director of the George Washington University Institute for Crisis, Disaster, and Risk Management (ICDRM). He is an Associate Professor of Engineering Management and Clinical Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine at The George Washington University. Dr. Barbera teaches two Masters and Doctoral level academic courses at the George Washington University. He has completed multiple research projects focusing on health and medical systems in emergency response, including a Sloan Foundation supported project that defines a single system for managing bioterrorism or any other mass casualty incident: **The Medical and Health Incident Management System** model and final report, which are available on the ICDRM web site. With Dr. Macintyre, he has co-authored a handbook on hospital preparedness and response for mass casualties, including injuries and illness from chemical and biological terrorism: **Jane's Hospital Mass Casualty Handbook: Hospital Emergency Preparedness and Response** (Jane's Information Group at www.janes.com), and is currently the principle investigator in developing an **Emergency Management for Healthcare Systems** curriculum for the Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

Through ICDRM, Dr. Barbera has also accomplished extensive research in general emergency management, including an analysis of the Pentagon 9-11 response and the development of a model emergency management program and emergency operations plan for the Office of Emergency Management in Arlington County, Virginia.

Dr. Barbera has enjoyed a two-decade career as an emergency responder and consultant on emergency preparedness. He was the lead medical consultant for the Federal Emergency Management Agency in the development of the National Urban Search & Rescue (US&R) Response System. As member of the Fairfax County (Virginia) Urban Search & Rescue Task Force (VA-TF1), he participates as a medical officer for the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance International Search & Rescue Program and for the FEMA US&R Incident Support Team. His experience has included scene-response to hurricanes (2005 Hurricane Katrina and others), mine disasters, earthquakes (Baguio City Philippines, Northridge California, Tou-Liu Taiwan), mass terrorism (the Oklahoma City Bombing and the 9-11 Pentagon and World Trade Center attacks), biological terrorism and, most recently, to the tsunami in Banda Aceh, Indonesia. He has helped plan and execute medical contingency capabilities for high security events (presidential inaugurations, State of the Union Addresses, the NATO 50th Anniversary Summit) and participated in numerous mass casualty exercises, including the development and execution of the TOPOFF Bioterrorism exercise in Denver, Colorado (May 2000) and as an observer in TOPOFF2 Illinois (May 2003).

Dr. Barbera was medical director for the emergency preparedness committee at Bronx Municipal Hospital Center for four years, and chair of the emergency preparedness committee at The George Washington University Hospital for another four years. He coordinated the implementation of a mass patient decontamination and treatment facility at the old George Washington University Hospital, one of the first in the U.S. Dr. Barbera, along with Dr. Anthony Macintyre, has provided a hospital preparedness model for chemical terrorism through professional articles (JAMA), recommendations to the Office of Emergency Preparedness, US Public Health Service (now the Office of Emergency Response, Department of Homeland Security), and presentations at national medical conferences.

As founding chair of the District of Columbia Hospital Association (DCHA) Emergency Preparedness Committee, Dr. Barbera shepherded the implementation of a comprehensive Hospital Mutual Aid System (HMAS) for Washington, D.C. The HMAS structure and communications system became the medical information distribution and healthcare interaction system for the National Capital Region (NCR) during 9-11 and again during the October/November 2001 anthrax bioterrorism. Dr. Barbera established (and moderated) a daily conference call between all the hospitals, public health authorities, and major medical practitioner groups in the NCR during the anthrax event.

Dr. Barbera has provided consultation to the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public Health Emergency Preparedness (OASPHEP), Department of Health and Human Services, in the development of the Secretary's Emergency Response Team, and on incident management and mass casualty response initiatives. He was co-principal investigator for a recently released strategy guide on managing medical surge capacity, a project sponsored by the OASPHEP and performed under contract with The CNA Corporation. The product, **Medical Surge Capacity and Capability: A Management System for Integrating Medical and Health Resources During Large-Scale Emergencies**, is available at http://www.hhs.gov/ophep/mscc_handbook.html.