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The Critical Care News Summary is an update from the Roundtable on Critical Care Policy. For further information on the Roundtable, please visit our website at www.CriticalCareRoundtable.org.

Capitol Hill Events and Updates

[“Rogers Introduces Bill to Protect against Chemical, Biological Weapon Attacks,”](#) (press release) Office of Congressman Mike Roger (R-MI), June 28, 2011

Rep. Mike Rogers, a senior member of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, introduced a bipartisan bill on Tuesday to protect against pandemics and attacks from chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) weapons. Rogers’ bill, H.R. 2405, would reauthorize portions of the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act (PAHPA), including the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA), which Rogers originally authored in 2006. The bill would also reauthorize Project BioShield’s Special Reserve Fund (SRF), which was created to procure medical countermeasures against anthrax, smallpox, botulism and other threats for the Strategic National Stockpile.

[“DeGette, Rooney Introduce Bill to Combat Drug Shortages,”](#) (press release) Office of Congresswoman Diana DeGette (D-CO), June 21, 2011

Bipartisan House legislation introduced one June 21st by Rep. Diana DeGette (D-CO) and co-sponsored by Rep. Tom Rooney (R-FL) would mandate drug firms notify FDA about any discontinuance or interruption in prescription drug manufacturing at least six months in advance, or in the case of an unplanned supply shortage as soon as possible. The measure covers all prescription drugs -- including all biologics -- as opposed to its Senate counterpart, proposed in February by Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), which does not include certain biologic products. Including all biologics in the measure ensures that certain drugs to combat cancer, for example, would be covered by the bill because some of those medicines are biologics. The Preserving Access to Life-Saving Medications Act would also require FDA to publish notifications of shortages on the agency’s website.

[House Energy and Commerce Committee: Health Subcommittee Hearing on “PDUFA \(Prescription Drug User Fee Act\) V: Medical Innovation, Jobs, and Patients”](#)

The Subcommittee on Health will hold a hearing on “PDUFA V: Medical Innovation, Jobs, and Patients.” Witnesses to include Dr. Janet Woodcock, Director, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, Food and Drug Administration; Mr. Paul J. Hastings, President and CEO, OncoMed Pharmaceuticals, Inc; Mr. Jonathan Leff, Managing Director, Warburg Pincus LLC; Mr. Marc Boutin, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, National Health Council; Dr. Ellen Sigal, Chairperson and Founder, Friends of Cancer Research; Mr. Allan Coukell, Director of Medical Programs, Pew Health Group, The Pew Charitable Trusts.

Date: Thursday, July 7th
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Location: 2322 Rayburn House Office Building

Off-the-Hill Events

[Living Well at the End of Life Policy Summit Series](#)

National Summit keynote speaker Ron Brownstein, Editorial Director of the National Journal, will be joining Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) and a panel of experts for a discussion on the unique end-of-life policies and programs in the Pacific Northwest and how they compare and contrast to other regions. The event will be webcast live [here](#) at 11:30am EST. To register for the event, please click [here](#).

Date: Wednesday, July 6th
Time: 8:00am Registration
8:30am to 10:45am: Program
Location: Renaissance Seattle Hotel, Madison Ballroom
515 Madison Street
Seattle, Washington

Federal Activity

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services today awarded more than \$352 million to continue improving disaster preparedness of hospitals and health care systems within every state, and three large metropolitan areas. These Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) grants support preparedness activities for hospitals and health care facilities, including the medical surge capability in communities across the nation. Grant recipients use the HPP funds to employ experts who have developed and maintained preparedness plans and to purchase equipment, including mobile medical units and equipment to communicate with local emergency responders. HPP funds have been used to train and educate staff on disaster response, including the National Incident Management System, which provides a standardized management structure for disaster response. Grant recipients are required to test this capability through disaster exercises.

Using HPP funds, grant recipients put systems in place to track the number of hospital beds available which helps hospitals handle a surge of patients after disasters, as well as systems to register volunteers. The funds also support planning, training and exercises for evacuating facilities, for sheltering patients and staff in place, and for managing mass fatalities. In addition, HPP funds may be used to purchase pharmaceutical caches for use during an emergency response.

Additional HHS funding for state and local preparedness activities is expected to be released in August through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Public Health Emergency Preparedness cooperative agreement program (PHEP). PHEP funds help to prepare public health systems for emergencies. The grants focus on 15 public health capabilities, such as strengthening public health surveillance and epidemiological investigation, emergency public health information and warning capability, medical countermeasure dispensing, public health laboratory testing, and responder safety and health.

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

"Explore Your Treatment Options," a new multimedia ad campaign announced Thursday by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) and the Ad Council, encourages patients to become more informed about their options before choosing a treatment for a health condition or illness. The goal of this campaign is to increase consumers' involvement in their care by providing easy access to unbiased information about treatment options

and tools to encourage patients to work with their doctors, nurses, pharmacists and other clinicians to make health care decisions. It features television, radio, print, web and outdoor ads that encourage consumers to visit AHRQ's Effective Health Care Program Web site to find plain-language guides that summarize the scientific evidence on treatments for numerous medical conditions.

For more information on the ad campaign, please click [here](#).

Government Accountability Office

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) on Monday released a report entitled "Influenza Pandemic: Lessons from the H1N1 Pandemic Should Be Incorporated into Future Planning." The reports looks at how HHS used the \$6 billion funding available for the response to the 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic, the key issues raised by the federal response, and the actions taken to identify and incorporate lessons learned. GAO reviewed documents and interviewed officials from five states about their interaction with the federal government. The report recommends that the Homeland Security Council (HSC) direct the National Security Staff (NSS), in concert with HHS and DHS, to incorporate lessons from the H1N1 pandemic into future planning and share these lessons with key stakeholders.

To view the full report, please click [here](#). For a summary of the report click [here](#), and for report highlights, please click [here](#).

News and Reports

["ICU checklist reduces deaths by half,"](#) *United Press International*, June 23, 2011

When ICU physicians used a checklist, mortality rates decreased by 50%, according to a study by researchers at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine. The report in the American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine said the checklist, similar to those used by airline pilots, focused on issues that often are overlooked during daily rounds, such as ventilator weaning and antibiotic duration.

["Hospitals launch ad campaign against Medicare, Medicaid cuts,"](#) *The Hill (Healthwatch Healthcare Blog)*, June 27, 2011

The American Hospital Association, the Federation of American Hospitals and other hospital groups introduced a multiweek, multimillion-dollar campaign that involves radio, television and print advertisements of the negative effects of health care funding cuts on patient care and provider training.

["Rapid research response needed for future pandemic: experts gather to plan,"](#) *The Brandon Sun (Manitoba)/Canadian Press*, June 27, 2011

The International Forum for Acute Care Trialists is hosting a conference in Toronto on preparing for the next big pandemic. Organizers say the goal is to focus on research and readiness so that health care providers have the information on diseases and treatments they need when the next pandemic hits.