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[www.CriticalCareRoundtable.org](http://www.CriticalCareRoundtable.org)

## NATIONAL CRITICAL CARE AWARENESS & RECOGNITION MONTH

*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](http://www.CriticalCareRoundtable.org).*

### Critical Care Awareness & Recognition Month

**“Digital nursing: Consultant uses social media, the Web to share expertise,” *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, May 23, 2011**

The Roundtable’s National Preparedness & Infrastructure Working Group Co-Chair Barbara McLean, an Atlanta-based critical care nurse and consultant, is profiled for her use of Internet technology and social media in her nursing practice. Barbara helps hospitals develop programs to reduce sepsis mortality and has a website that offers continuing medical education for nurses. She uses social media to advertise her mission trips, connect patients to treatments and raise money to bring ICU nurses from Haiti to Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta so they can improve their critical care skills.

**“Doctors' ICU mock up aims to erase mystery,” *The Augusta Chronicle*, May 26, 2011**

In honor of National Critical Care Awareness and Recognition Month, Doctors Hospital in Augusta, GA, opened its ICU to the public on Thursday. The west Augusta hospital hosted the open house, featuring a mock up of the typical ICU room, to help people see how a unit operates and what intensive care really means.

### National Summit Update

The Roundtable will be hosting the **Third Annual National Summit on Critical Care Policy on Wednesday, June 8, 2011, at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, DC.** The National Summit on Critical Care Policy Summit will provide a timely forum bringing together key officials from the Administration, medical professional societies, public health advocacy, academia and inside-the-beltway politics. Join us as they provide insights to a select group of thought-leaders to consider policy priorities to optimize federal policy impacting the delivery of U.S. critical care, and to continue to build consensus and recommendations for action.

**Among the confirmed speakers are:**

**Kevin Yeskey, MD**, Director, Office of Preparedness and Emergency Operations, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

**Ronald Brownstein**, Political Director, Atlantic Media; Editorial Director, The National Journal Group, Inc.

**Terri Postma, MD**, Medical Officer, Performance-Based Policy Staff, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

**Jean Moody-Williams, RN, MPP**, Director, Quality Improvement Group, Office of Clinical Standards and Quality, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

**Lewis Rubinson, MD, PhD, FCCP**, Commander, U.S. Public Health Service; Deputy Chief Medical Officer, National Disaster Medical System, Office of Preparedness and Emergency Operations, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

**Jeri L. Miller, PhD**, Head, Office of End-of-Life Science and Palliative Care, Investigator Training, and Education, National Institute of Nursing Research, National Institutes of Health

**Allen S. Lichter, MD**, Chief Executive Officer, American Society of Clinical Oncology

**Raymond P. Pepe, JD**, Chair, Drafting and Enactment Committees for the Uniform Emergency Volunteer Health Practitioners Act; Uniform Law Commissioner; Partner, K&L Gates LLP

**Mary Casey-Lockyer, MHS, BSN, RN, CCRN**, State Nurse Liaison Advisor for Region 4 and Disaster Health Services, American Red Cross; Emergency Preparedness and Response Coordinator, Northwest Community Hospital

**Blair G. Childs**, Senior Vice President, Public Affairs, Premier, Inc

**Mary Sue Gorski, RN, PhD**, Fellow, Center to Champion Nursing in America, American Association of Retired Persons; Assistant Professor, Department of Nursing, Gonzaga University

**Space is limited! Next week is the last week to [REGISTER](#) for the Third Annual [National Summit on Critical Care Policy!](#)**

## **Capitol Hill Events and Updates**

**House Energy and Commerce Committee: Health Subcommittee hearing on “PPACA’s (Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act) Effect on Maintaining Health Coverage and Jobs: A Review of the Health Care Law’s Regulatory Burden”**

*The Subcommittee on Health has scheduled a hearing on “PPACA’s Effects on Maintaining Health Coverage and Jobs: A Review of the Health Care Law’s Regulatory Burden.” Witnesses to be announced.*

**Date:** Thursday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Time:** 2:00 p.m.

**Location:** 2322 Rayburn House Office

## Federal Activity

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) posted a review protocol for an upcoming evidence report intended to help prepare for large-scale health emergencies—one of 13 "urgent issues" flagged for immediate attention by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) shortly following the 2008 Presidential election. The GAO's concern was based on ample evidence that the nation's emergency care system, including emergency medical services (EMS), hospital-based emergency departments, and the inpatient wards and intensive care units (ICUs) of many hospitals, are so overburdened that currently, most are ill prepared to cope with a large-scale public health emergency.

The report, "Evidence Review on the Allocation of Scarce Resources During Mass Casualty Events (MCEs)," will build on the framework of previous governmental and non-governmental reviews—including studies performed by the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR), a literature review conducted by AHRQ in 2007, and a Letter Report on "Crisis Standards of Care" produced by the Institute of Medicine's Forum on Medical and Public Health Preparedness for Catastrophic Events—by identifying existing and proposed allocation strategies, various ways groups have engaged providers and the public, and the key concerns of the public regarding implementation of crisis standards of care. The report seeks to describe the level of evidence regarding each of these topics by highlighting the strengths and gaps in the existing evidence base. The goal of the report will be to inform a research agenda that can quickly improve the nation's capacity to prepare, respond, and quickly recover from large-scale health emergencies.

For the full review protocol on allocation of scarce resources during mass casualty events, please click [here](#).

## News and Reports

### **"Johns Hopkins receives \$10 million to open patient safety institute," *Los Angeles Times*, May 26, 2011**

Johns Hopkins Medicine in Baltimore has received \$10 million from a donor to establish the Armstrong Institute for Patient Safety and Quality, which will focus on the development of methods to improve patient safety through prevention of infections, misdiagnosis, treatment errors and other problems. Experts say the institute—which will conduct research and develop methods for use at hospitals worldwide that could prevent infections, misdiagnoses, improper treatments and other errors—will be the first of its kind in the U.S.

### **"HHS Director Praises UHS Hospitals Safety Model," *WNCT – Greenville, North Carolina*, May 23, 2011**

HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius toured critical care units at University Health Systems and Pitt County Memorial Hospital in North Carolina to see firsthand how they have cut hospital-acquired infections by 50% in two years. A proactive hygiene protocol is part of the program, which Secretary Sebelius said holds everyone accountable and allows everyone to share information and know what others are doing.