



805 15th Street NW, Suite 650 | Washington, DC 20005 | (202) 466-8700
www.CriticalCareRoundtable.org

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.

Roundtable News

The Roundtable is pleased to invite you to a **Washington Breakfast & Congressional Outreach Day on Wednesday, October 5th in Washington, D.C.** At our Washington Breakfast, participants will be briefed on the latest legislative and regulatory issues impacting the critical care community. We will also review background material and priority messages for the day's Congressional meetings. Following the breakfast, participants will head to Capitol Hill for our Outreach Day. We will be meeting directly with Congressional leaders and staff, as well as with senior committee staff responsible for these policy areas, to detail the challenges to the critical care system and garner support for the Critical Care Assessment and Improvement Act.

Join your fellow leaders in critical care to build on the momentum created by the Roundtable's recent efforts, and to continue to have a voice and impact on federal policy initiatives. We will be scheduling appointments with Congressional offices and senior committee staff in the coming days, so please advise us of your attendance to ensure that you are able to meet with your Members of Congress and dialogue with them about major issues facing the critical care community. **Please RSVP to sskubikowski@CriticalCareRoundtable.org**, or call us at (202)466-8700 with any questions.

- Who:** The Roundtable on Critical Care Policy
- What:** Washington Breakfast & Congressional Outreach Day
- When:** Wednesday, October 5, 2011
8:30a.m. – 2:30p.m
- Where:** Capitol Hill
Washington, D.C.
- RSVP:** sskubikowski@CriticalCareRoundtable.org

Capitol Hill Events and Updates

Congress returned from the Labor Day recess this week, turning all its attention turning to the Super Committee. As you'll recall, the Budget Control Act of 2011 created a 12-member Commission made up of equal numbers of House and Senate Democrats and Republicans. The Commission is charged with putting together a plan to reduce the deficit over the next ten years. If it is successful, then the President is authorized to submit an increase in the debt limit sufficient to give the federal government borrowing authority past the 2012 elections. If it fails, or comes up short, then across-the-board cuts

would take place beginning January 1, 2013. The timeline for the Super Committee's deliberations is as follows:

- August 16 -- Appoint Committee Members
- September 16 -- First Meeting
- October 14 -- Standing Committees Submit Recommendations
- November 23 -- Issue Recommendations
- December 23 -- Full Congress to Consider Recommendations

This past week, a Ways and Means Democratic memo leaked outlining potential health care cuts the Super Committee may consider in the coming months. The list is predominately comprised of proposals that emerged previously from MEDPAC, Simpson-Bowles and Biden Commission debt discussions. Of note to the critical care community are potential cuts to graduate medical education, eliminating rural hospital payment add-ons and bad-debt payments to hospitals, as well as pegging public programs to the chained consumer price index (CPI) instead of regular CPI which would result in significant Medicare provider payment reductions. For more information on the specific proposals, please click [here](#).

[Senate Health, Education, Labor & Pensions Committee: Full Committee Hearing on "Securing the Pharmaceutical Supply Chain"](#)

The Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions will hold a full committee hearing titled, "Securing the Pharmaceutical Supply Chain" on Wednesday, September 14th at 10:00am. Witnesses will include Deborah Autor, J.D. , Deputy Commissioner for Global Regulatory Operations and Policy, FDA, Silver Spring, MD ; Marcia Crosse, Ph.D , Director, Health Care, Government Accountability Office, Washington, DC; Kendra Martello, J.D. , PhRMA, Washington, DC; Gordon Johnston , Senior Advisor for Regulatory Sciences, GPhA, Washington, DC; Allan Coukell BScPharm , Director of Medical Programs, Pew Health Group, Washington, DC; and Martin VanTrieste, R.Ph , Past Chair, Rx360, Thousand Oaks, CA.

Date: Wednesday, September 14th

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: 430 Dirksen Senate Office Building

[House Energy and Commerce Committee: Health Subcommittee hearing on "Cutting the Red Tape: Saving Jobs from PPACA's \(Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act\) Harmful Regulations"](#)

The House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health has scheduled a hearing on "Cutting the Red Tape: Saving Jobs from PPACA's Harmful Regulations." Witness list to be announced.

Date: Thursday, September 15th

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: 2123 Rayburn House Office Building

Federal Activity

Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute

PCORI announced its next Board of Governors meeting, which will take place September 19-20 at Cedarbrook Lodge, located at 18525 36th Avenue, South Sea Tac, WA. The public sessions are scheduled for Monday, September 19, from 1:00-5:30 p.m. PT, and Tuesday, September 20, from 7:00-11:00 a.m. PT. These sessions are open to the public and individuals are not required to RSVP to attend. A draft agenda is available [here](#). Additionally, individuals may participate via phone or a live webcast of the meeting through [pcori.org](#); for details, please click [here](#).

News and Reports

Trust for America's Health Report: "Remembering 9/11 and Anthrax: Public Health's Vital Role in National Defense"

Roundtable partner organization Trust for America's Health (TFAH) and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) released a new report, *Remembering 9/11 and Anthrax: Public Health's Vital Role in National Defense*, featuring more than 30 firsthand, on-the-ground accounts of public health professionals who were directly involved in the response to the September 11, 2001 and anthrax tragedies. The report also includes a summary of the public health preparedness successes over the last decade, and features an analysis of ongoing gaps in preparedness, that, if not addressed, could leave Americans vulnerable in the future. Some key areas of progress over the past decade include significant improvements in: preparedness planning and coordination; public health laboratories; vaccine manufacturing; the Strategic National Stockpile; pharmaceutical and medical equipment distribution; surveillance; communications; legal and liability protections; increasing and upgrading staff and surge capacity. Some ongoing gaps a decade later include: major recent budget cuts; a gap in trained public health workers; a gap in surge capacity for mass care during emergencies; a lack of an integrated, national approach to biosurveillance; gaps in supporting the way communities cope and recover from disasters; and gaps in vaccine and pharmaceutical research, development and manufacturing. For questions, please contact Dara Lieberman at dlieberman@tfah.org.