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1. NC Medical Journal Publishes Entire Issue on EMS

The *North Carolina Medical Journal* has published a full issue providing a spotlight on EMS. The journal is partially funded by The Duke Endowment, which is the funding agency for the EMS Toolkit project. The link to the journal is <http://www.ncmedicaljournal.com/jul-aug-07/toc0807.shtml>. To download the full issue, visit <http://www.ncmedicaljournal.com/jul-aug-07/Fullcopy.pdf>.

2. North American Plan for Avian and Pandemic Flu Announced

On Aug. 21, Canada, Mexico and the United States announced the *North American Plan for Avian and Pandemic Influenza*, developed as part of the Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America (SPP). The plan promotes communication and collaboration between health authorities in the three countries as part of an effort to prepare for and manage avian and pandemic influenza. The plan also provides an overview of federal management structures in each country and addresses border control measures. To view the plan, visit <http://www.state.gov/q/avianflu/91242.htm>.

3. NCCUSL Approves Two New Sections for the Uniform Emergency Volunteer Health Practitioners Act

The National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws (NCCUSL) recently approved two new sections for the Uniform Emergency Volunteer Health Practitioners Act. These sections focus on civil liability protections and workers compensation benefits. To view these sections or the model law, visit <http://www.nasemso.org> and select the provided links.

4. Work on the EMS Workforce for the 21st Century Project Continues – Blog Available to EMS Community

The EMS Workforce for the 21st Century Project is moving into a new phase of the project. The EMS Workforce Assessment report is due to be publicly released this fall. The second phase of the project, the development of the EMS Workforce Agenda for the Future, has begun and stakeholders will be involved in a meeting next spring. Finally, the project blog continues to explore questions. Two new questions were posted in August regarding worker burnout and how staffing is managed in relation to call volume. Comments on these issues are welcome. Other topics already posted include: Benefits, Career Advancement Opportunities, Challenges and Barriers, Cultural Competency, EMS Policy, Public Perception, Shift Length and Patient Care, Training/Education/Roles, Volunteer/Rural Issues, Worker Health and Safety, Worker Satisfaction and Retention, and Workforce Diversity. The blog is hosted and moderated by project team members at the University of California, San Francisco. The EMS Workforce Project and Blog home page is at <http://www.emsworkforce.com>.

5. Kyle Thornton Named NM EMS Bureau Chief

NASEMSO has learned that New Mexico has named Kyle Thornton as the new EMS Bureau chief. Kyle was a paramedic field supervisor at Albuquerque Ambulance for many years before moving on to become an instructor and ILS/ALS coordinator for the UNM EMS Academy. Most recently, Kyle was the EMS chief for the Sandoval County, NM Fire Department. NASEMSO welcomes Kyle.

6. NASEMSO Seeks Member to Be Liaison to CAMTS

NASEMSO thanks Shawn Rogers for his services as the NASEMSO liaison to the Commission on the Accreditation of Medical Transport Systems (CAMTS). Due to time constraints, he will be stepping down from this position. The liaison sits on CAMTS' board and participates in their process of accrediting providers who submit to their rigorous review. The person assuming the role should be a state director with a solid understanding of the laws and regulations used in states to oversee the ambulance industry. Any interested director should contact Executive Director Beth Armstrong at armstrong@nasemso.org.

7. August 31 *Today Show* Features Story on 911 Centers' Inability to Track Cell Phone Calls

On the Aug. 31 edition of the *Today Show*, a featured segment was on the inability of 911 Centers to track calls received from cellular phones. The story stressed that calls to 9-1-1 from cell phones are increasing tremendously. It pointed out that even some major metropolitan areas cannot track callers to their exact location, but only to the cell tower transmitting the call. Video and interviews included the Los Angeles County 9-1-1

call center. To view the story, visit <http://video.msn.com/v/us/msnbc.htm?q=f0e7b22a-4b68-4e41-b007-4664b3d2b961&f=05&fg=rss>.

8. HHS to Give States \$75 Million in Supplemental Funding for Pandemic Flu Preparedness

On Aug. 30, 2007, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced that additional grant funds totaling \$75 million will be available to U.S. states, territories and metropolitan areas to help strengthen their ability to respond to a pandemic influenza outbreak. The grants are intended to establish or enhance stockpiles of critical medical equipment and supplies, continue development of plans for maintenance, distribution and sharing of those resources, plan and develop pandemic alternate care sites, and conduct medical surge exercises. According to HHS, this funding is supplemental to the previously announced \$430 million in federal grants provided to states to help healthcare facilities prepare for public health emergencies. For more information, visit <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2007pres/08/pr20070830a.html>.

9. Reminder: Deadline for EMS Public Health Fellowship is Sept. 14

Applications currently are being accepted for the Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH) and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) EMS Public Health Fellowship Program, a prestigious opportunity for an interested public health graduate with good research and analytic skills who is dedicated to improving the quality of emergency medical care in the United States. The selected fellow will have an opportunity to take a firsthand look at the workings of NHTSA and other federal agencies dedicated to saving lives through the comprehensive improvement of EMS systems nationwide. The paid fellowship is open to recent graduates of ASPH-affiliated schools of public health. For more information, visit http://www.asph.org/AuxDocs/07_NHTSA_Fellowship_RFA.pdf. The deadline for application is Sept. 14, 2007.

10. PSIC Grant Program Investment Justification Workshops Announced

The Commerce Department's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) will hold four one-day workshops to assist public safety organizations plan and develop PSIC investments for potential awards. State administrative agencies will select up to 10 projects as part of the state's investment justification, which is due by Dec. 3, 2007. The workshops will be held: Sept. 24 in Dallas, Texas; Sept. 26 in Denver, Colo.; Sept. 28 in Newark, N.J.; and Oct. 1 in Los Angeles, Calif. To register for these workshops, view the preliminary agenda, and receive further details, visit <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/psic/news.html>.

11. Respiratory Illness Outbreaks Mistaken for Pertussis

Three outbreaks initially attributed to Pertussis were likely caused by other respiratory pathologies, according to a new report in the *MMWR Weekly*. The report, "Outbreaks of Respiratory Illness Mistakenly Attributed to Pertussis-New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Tennessee, 2004-2006," was published in the Aug. 24 issue. During these outbreaks, thousands of people who were thought to have been exposed to Pertussis were offered prophylactic antibiotics. Lab results from each outbreak indicated signs of Pertussis, but not overwhelmingly. Use of PCR testing to confirm Pertussis has increased dramatically since 1997, but there are no standardized PCR protocols, raising concerns about the test's reliability. The findings in this report underscore the need for thorough epidemiologic and laboratory investigation of suspected Pertussis outbreaks

when considering extensive control measures. The report is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5633a1.htm>.

12. NENA Commends FCC on Public Safety Broadband Rules

The National Emergency Number Association (NENA) commended the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) July 31, 2007, decision to revise its 700 MHz rules to promote public safety. "This is an extremely significant step forward," said NENA President Jason Barbour, ENP, 9-1-1 director for Johnston County, N.C. "The FCC's action will speed the deployment of a nationwide public safety broadband network. It will advance information sharing capabilities and strengthen the link between the public, the 9-1-1 system and first responders." As part of the 700 MHz decision, the FCC appointed NENA to a Board created to administer the Public Safety Broadband Licenses. For more information, visit <http://www.nena.org>.

13. DHS Releases After-Action Report from Federal Pandemic Influenza Border Management Community of Interest Workshop

An After-Action Report has been provided from the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) "Federal Pandemic Influenza Border Management Community of Interest Workshop," which was held on July 26, 2007. The purpose of the meeting was for stakeholders and non-federal partners, referred to as "communities of interest," to inform the process as DHS and other key federal agencies move aggressively to develop an integrated Concept of Operations (CONOPS) for layered screening to delay the onward transmission of pandemic influenza at the borders, to protect health and safety, and to maintain the flow of legitimate international trade and travel. More information is available from Jari Karttunen, customs and border protection liaison, at jari.karttunen@dhs.gov.

14. REMINDER: NEMSIS TAC Seeks a Project Manager

The NEMSIS Technical Assistance Center (TAC) is seeking a qualified applicant to fill the position of project manager. This position is located within the University of Utah, School of Medicine, in Salt Lake City, Utah. This position will manage the day-to-day operations of the NEMSIS TAC, will work with states seeking NEMSIS compliance, and will travel to state and national meetings. For more information, contact N. Clay Mann, Ph.D., MS, at clay.mann@hsc.utah.edu.

15. SAFELY OUT™ Project Reports on Success after First Year Offering Solution to Evacuate the Vulnerable During Disasters

In just its first year, Citizen Voice has secured more than a third of a million dollars in funding for a national pilot project to distribute kits to the vulnerable in the greater Sacramento, Calif., region. It is believed to be the first strategic approach in the United States targeting the most vulnerable during disaster that involves the entire community in the evacuation effort. SAFELY OUT™ has already met its initial goal of distributing 10,000 SAFELY OUT™ kits and the next 15,000 are in production. For more information on the program, contact Heather Atherton at heather@athertonpr.com.

16. CAAS Executive Director Retires

Meredith Hellestrae, executive director of the Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services (CAAS), has announced her intention to retire Aug. 31. According to a press release from CAAS, "Meredith has done an outstanding job in supporting CAAS and its gold standard over the last 11 years." Meredith began working with CAAS

in 1996. During her 11-year tenure with CAAS, she helped build the organization from 40 accredited agencies to 107 today. In retirement, Meredith hopes to find ways to educate a broader audience about the important role EMS plays in today's medical care. A nationwide search for the new CAAS Executive Director has been conducted, and news regarding this search will be forthcoming. If you would like to post a public farewell message to Meredith, visit <http://www.caas.org/benefits/thanks-meredith> or a private email may be sent to meredithh@tcag.com.

17. YNH-CEPDR Releases Fall 2007 Course Guide

The Yale New Haven Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response (YNH-CEPDR) develops, delivers and evaluates educational programs designed to prepare the healthcare delivery workforce for effective response to all types of disasters and emergencies. YNH-CEPDR creates and adapts courses for healthcare organizations based on the latest research and developments in emergency response, incorporating national standards and regulations relevant to healthcare emergency preparedness, adhering to industry standards for instructional design, and considering the special needs of busy adult learners. To view the *new Fall 2007 Fall Course Guide*, visit http://www.ynhhs.org/emergency/YNH-CEPDR_Courses_Fall07.pdf.

18. Upcoming Events (*denotes event is newly added)

National Association of EMS Educators 12th Annual Educational Symposium & Trade Show, September 11-16, 2007, Hollywood, CA. Information is available at <http://www.naemse.org/symposium>.

AAMS' Air Medical Transport Conference, September 17-19, 2007, Tampa, FL. Information is available at <http://www.aams.org/Content/NavigationMenu/EducationMeetings/AMTC2007/default.htm>.

2007 National Summit on Primary Care Emergency Preparedness, September 19, 2007, Sheraton New York Hotel and Towers, New York, NY. Information is available at <http://www.pcdcny.org/documents/PCEPNationalSummitBrochure.pdf>.

3rd International Roundtable on Community Paramedicine and Rural Healthcare Delivery, September 19-21, 2007, Australia. Information is available at <http://ircp.ncemsi.org/>.

2007 Governors Highway Safety Association Annual Meeting, September 23-26, 2007, Portland Hilton Hotel, Portland, OR. Information is available at <http://www.ghsa.org>.

**National First Responder Appreciation Day, September 23, 2007. For more information, visit <http://www.FirstResponseCoalition.org>.

**PSIC Grant Program Investment Justification Workshop, September 24, 2007, Dallas, TX. For more information, visit <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/psic/news.html>.

5th International Bird Flu Summit, September 25-26, 2007, Las Vegas, NV. Information is available at <http://www.new-fields.com>.

**PSIC Grant Program Investment Justification Workshop, September 26, 2007, Denver, CO. For more information, visit <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/psic/news.html>.

EMS/EMSC Data Analysis Workshop, September 26-28, 2007, New Orleans, LA. Information is available at <http://www.nedarc.org/nedarc/workshopsTutorials/upcomingWorkshops.jsp>.

Emergency Nurses Association 2007 Conference, September 26-29, 2007, Salt Lake City, UT. Information is available at <http://www.ena.org/conferences/default.asp>.

"Public Health is Global Health: An Innovative Approach to Fighting Disease in Uganda," A National Satellite Broadcast and Webcast, September 27, 2007, 2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. ET. Information is available at <http://www.publichealthgrandrounds.unc.edu/>.

"Improving Health Care, Improving Lives" AHRQ 2007 Annual Conference, September 27-29, 2007, Bethesda, MD. Information will be available at <http://www.ahrq.gov>.

**PSIC Grant Program Investment Justification Workshop, September 28, 2007, Newark, NJ. For more information, visit <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/psic/news.html>.

NEMSIS 2007 Software Developers Meeting, Sept. 29, 2007, Clearwater Beach, FL. For information, contact paige.nielsen@hsc.utah.edu.

**PSIC Grant Program Investment Justification Workshop, October 1, 2007, Los Angeles, CA. For more information, visit <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/psic/news.html>.

**EMS Expo and NAEMT Annual Meeting, October 9-13, 2007, Orlando, FL. Information is available at <http://www.naemt.org/PHTLS/resourceLibrary/ConferenceExpo.htm>.

Third Annual Emergency Preparedness Conference: Preparing for the Unknown: "Are You Ready?", October 10-11, 2007, Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, Alexandria, VA. Information is available at <http://www.icrinc.com/24835/>.

NAEMSO Annual Meeting, October 28-November 2, 2007, Hyatt Regency Minneapolis, Minneapolis, MN. Information is available at <http://www.nasemso.org/Meetings/Annual/>.

**135th APHA Annual Meeting, November 3-7, 2007, Washington, DC. Information is available at <http://www.apha.org/meetings/>.

International Association of Emergency Managers 55th Annual Conference & EMEX 2007, November 17-19, 2007, The Silver Legacy, Reno, NV. Information is available at <http://www.iaem.com>.

Prehospital Pediatric Education Symposium, November 27-28, 2007, Orlando, FL. Information is available at <http://www.emlrc.org/prepeds2007.htm>.

NAEMSP Annual Meeting, January 10-12, 2008, Pointe Hilton at Squaw Peak Resort, Phoenix, AZ. Information is available at <http://www.naemsp.org>.

12th International Conference on Emergency Medicine, April 3-6, 2008, San Francisco, CA. Information is available at <http://meetings.acep.org/2008icem/EducationalPrograms/abstractprogram.htm>.

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