

Mark Keim, MD, MBA

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Speaker Bio:

Dr. Keim is the Chief Executive Officer for DisasterDoc LLC, an international firm specializing in consultation, education and research related to public health emergencies.

He is also an adjunct Associate Professor at Emory University, Rollins School of Public Health; and Faculty at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center Harvard Medical School, Disaster Medicine Fellowship.

Mark is residency-trained in Emergency Medicine (Albany, NY) and fellowship-trained in Disaster Medicine (Emory University). He most recently earned an MBA degree at Emory University Goizueta Business School in 2014.

Mark is retired from a career at the U.S. Centers for Disease Prevention and Control (CDC), where he served as Associate Director for Science for the CDC Office for Environmental Health Emergencies. He served on the White House Subcommittee for Disaster Reduction from 2006 to 2015.

He was twice commended with the U.S. Secretary of Health "Secretary's Award for Distinguished Service" as CDC's incident manager for both the Anthrax letter emergency and Hurricane Katrina. He also received the CDC Special Service Award for leading field response after the Indonesia tsunami. He also led regional pandemic planning efforts during the H1N1 bird flu outbreaks in Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand and Laos.

Dr. Keim published his first sentinel study documenting the health effects of climate change and sea level rise in 2007. He served as a review editor for the 2012 UN

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report on Exposures. He was also a contributing author for the 2016 U.S. Global Change Research Program, Climate and Health Assessment. In 2016, he spoke at former U.S. Vice President Al Gore's Climate and Health Summit in Atlanta.

In 2015, he received the prestigious United Nations Sasakawa Certificate of Merit recognizing global impact on Disaster Risk Reduction. His firm is currently working directly with frontline communities in Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands to prevent future hurricane deaths.

Dr. Keim is the author of 52 journal publications and 23 book chapters. He has served as a peer review consultant for 21 scientific journals and on the editorial board of 2 scientific journals. His press interviews have appeared on CNN, PBS, USA Today, Chicago Tribune, LA Times, Washington Post, The Lancet and Scientific American.

Presentation:

HOW TO LOSE A BIO-WAR

The Nunn-Lugar-Domenici Defense Against Weapons of Mass Destruction Act of 1996 provided key congressional findings regarding threats, risks, and shortfalls in response capabilities related to chemical, biological, and radiological weapons. The act warned of the potential for the national security of the United States to be threatened by these agents. Within ten years, pandemic preparedness had also become a cornerstone of U.S. disaster policy with Congress's passing of the first Pandemic and All Hazards Preparedness Act in 2006.

And yet, as the events of 2020 unfolded, it left many seasoned professionals scratching their heads. During the past year, there have significant challenges reported regarding nearly all aspects of the COVID19 response. Many of these appear related to the most basic elements of emergency response to pandemics, regardless of the virus origin.

Remarkable contradictions and controversies have occurred during the event regarding fundamental response issues like: risk assessment; risk communication; shelter-in-place; personal protective equipment; worker safety; infection control; social distancing; test availability; drug safety; vaccine development;

environmental health, food security, the role of state and federal governments; and even the national incident management system, itself.

After attending, participants will be able to:

1. Recall a brief history of America's capacity-building for managing epidemic and pandemic disasters.
2. Compare and contrast the response capabilities required during intentional versus unintentional pandemics.
3. Describe how many of the actions taken for surviving a pandemic are the same as for surviving a biological war or terrorist attack.
4. Recognize pandemic response as a critical asset for national security.