

## The development of the national center for medical readiness tactical lab to support programs in flight and disaster nursing

**Mark E. Gebhart and Daniel Kirkpatrick**  
Wright State University, USA

In the immediate aftermath of the devastating events of September 11, 2001, first responders at all levels as well as health care providers were faced with the need for advanced education specific to the newly emerging areas of weapons of mass destruction. In order to provide the newly needed training and educational opportunities a project was launched to develop the national center for medical readiness. This was conceived and designed to be an integrative approach providing students with real-time exposure to complex and unique medical scenarios in a highly simulated and realistic environment. The center was developed on a 52 acre site located in close proximity to a major university and U.S. Air Force base. One of the initial needs for training and education was identified in close collaboration with United States Air Force. The Air Force had determined the necessity of advanced education for flight nurses in the area of disaster nursing. In addition to the events of September 2001, other notable disasters contributed to the Air Force need to advance flight and disaster nursing education. This included Hurricane Katrina. We describe the process of design and development of this training and education center and we place specific emphasis on the design, development and implementation of a flight and disaster nursing education program.

[mark.gebhart@wright.edu](mailto:mark.gebhart@wright.edu)