



To the Advisory Committee to the Director

CDC has adopted for its periodic follow ups with you the theme of trust and its three dimensions, *truth*, *transparency*, and *transaction*, as discussed with you on May 1, 2008.

New Issues and Alerts

Hurricanes—CDC activated its Director’s Emergency Operation Center to respond to hurricanes [Gustav and Ike](#). ■ **Tobacco-related cancers**—About 2.4 million cases of tobacco-related cancers were diagnosed in the United States from 1999 to 2004, and lung and bronchial cancers accounted for almost half ([Sept 5, 2008 MMWR](#)). ■ **SAMHSA Goes Smoke-Free**—The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration joined CDC, the National Cancer Institute, and the

National Institute on Drug Abuse in adopting a [smoke-free conference policy](#) to hold conferences only in cities or states that have adopted comprehensive smoke-free laws. ■ **Institute of Medicine**

Report—CDC was justified in not yet releasing a report on pollution and health effects in Great Lakes hot spots, according to the [Review of ATSDR’s Great Lakes Report Drafts \(Letter Report\)](#) issued by the [Institute of Medicine](#), advisory arm for the [National Academies of Sciences](#). (See also [Sept 5, 2008 Associated Press](#) and [Sept 9, 2008 Cleveland Plain Dealer](#).) The [Center for Public Integrity had released an unauthorized copy](#) in February 2008. ■ **National MRSA Education Initiative**—Because

Americans visit the doctor approximately 12 million times each year to get checked for suspected methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) skin infections, CDC has launched the [National MRSA Education Initiative](#) to help Americans better recognize and prevent these infections. ■

Emerging superbug—[Clostridium difficile](#) may emerge as the next superbug, and this virulent strain of a common intestinal bacteria rivals methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) as one of the top emerging disease threats to humans. ([Sept 16, 2008 United Press International](#)) ■ **Alabama to**

Charge State Employees for Obesity, Health Problems—The [Alabama State Employees’ Insurance Board](#) approved a plan requiring state employees who are obese or have health problems to make progress to address those issues or pay a monthly charge for health insurance. ([Aug 24, 2008 AP/Philadelphia Inquirer](#)) ■ **World’s 100 Most Powerful Women**—[Forbes](#) special report names

Julie L. Gerberding, MD, MPH, one of the [world’s 100 most powerful women](#). ([CDC press release](#)) ■

“Public Health Is a Hot Field” —“Courses in epidemiology, public health and global health—three subjects that were not offered by most colleges a generation ago—are hot classes on campuses these days.” ([Sept 19, 2008 Washington Post](#))

Director’s Highlights

Influenza Vaccinations—30 million more children should get flu shots, and overall vaccination coverage levels against influenza and pneumococcal disease remain seriously low, leaving many people unprotected and at risk for severe complications: Julie L. Gerberding and others delivered these key messages during the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases influenza news conference at the National Press Club ([Sept 24 ABC News story](#)). ■ **New NACCHO Executive Director**—[Robert M. Pestronk](#), MPH, has recently accepted the appointment to be the Executive Director of the National

Association of County and City Health Officials, replacing retiring director, Pat Libbey. ([Association of Schools of Public Health Web site](#) and [Sept 5 Flint Journal](#)) ■ **U.S. HIV epidemic reaches crisis**—

In testimony before the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Dr. Gerberding said “We need to do so much more than we’re doing right now . . . and we need to get AIDS back on the radar screen. . . . This is something that is still posing a threat to college students and to young men and women across our nation’s fabric.” ([Sept 17th Los Angeles Times](#).)

Selected CDC Strategic Intentions

Healthiest Nation—Watch the Healthiest Nation video on [YouTube](#). ■ Four federal agencies hosted the first national summit on healthy homes, an effort that focuses on having both healthier and more energy-efficient homes. ([Sept 14th USA Today](#)) ■ Some 1,200 state and local health officials attended the [2008 ASTHO–NACCHO Conference](#) September 9–12, Sacramento, CA, a meeting that focused on



becoming the Healthiest Nation ■ The [CDC Foundation](#) convened its board and corporate partners to discuss its participation in the Healthiest Nation Alliance on Sept 17; Advisory Committee to the Director members **Nick Baird**, **Mary Kelly**, and **Debra Lappin** participated. ■ **On the Horizon** ▶ [IBM's 2008 Innovation Jam](#)—from Oct 5–8, 2008, a virtual online event that uses Web2.0 tools to facilitate massively scaled collaboration and idea sharing—will feature Healthiest Nation as a subtopic. Advisory Committee to the Director members are registered to participate. ▶ The Playbook from the [2008 Leaders to Leaders Conference: Shaping Policy for a Healthier Nation](#) is expected to be available within the next few weeks. ▶ Linking Transportation Policy and Public Health, Nov 12–14, 2008, Crystal City, VA, to focus on the “transportation system” and a discussion of public health issues inherent in transportation policy.

Pandemic Flu and Bioterrorism—CDC awarded \$24 million to fund 55 projects in 29 state and local public health departments that could serve as innovative approaches for influenza pandemic preparedness ([Sept 24 CDC press release](#)). ■ Weekly reporting on U.S. flu activity begins in October with [updates on seasonal flu here](#). CDC's Office of Health and Safety will begin employee immunizations on Oct 1. ■ The United States cannot produce an effective vaccine nor can it adequately produce enough vaccine within the time required to meet public health needs in the event of a pandemic, concludes a Sept 15th [Congressional Budget Office report](#).

Next Advisory Committee to the Director Meeting

Advisory Committee to the Director Meeting—Scheduled for Thursday, Oct 30th, at CDC, and will focus CDC's Budget Challenges and Globalization, with updates on Healthiest Nation, and the activities of the Ethics and National Biosurveillance Subcommittees. Chairs or their designees of all 24 of CDC Federal Advisory Committees including our Boards of Scientific Counselors will be meeting in Atlanta on October 29th, from 1 to 5 PM, and have been invited to join the October 30th Advisory Committee to the Director meeting.

Our Members

Eduardo Sanchez is among the featured experts who will be speaking at the [Houston Wellness Association's 2008 Wellness Symposium](#), Nov 13–14, including an inaugural Obesity Summit and second-annual Worksite Wellness Conference ([Sept 4, 2008 press release](#)). ■ **Suzanne Delbanco** was recently named president of Arrowsight Medical, the newly formed health care division Arrowsight, Inc, which focuses on helping hospitals improve the quality and safety of their care by using video to measure adherence to protocols and provide feedback on performance ([Sept 22, 2008 press release](#)). ■ **Linda Dillman** is the featured speaker at the 10th annual Northwest Arkansas Business Women's Conference, Sept. 30 ([Aug 29, 2008 Northwest Arkansas Times](#)). ■ **Mary Kelly** has recently left her position with Target. ■ **Ken Mandl** was the keynote speaker for this year's U.S. Pharmacopeia Convention's 2008 Annual Scientific Meeting in Kansas City, Sept 24–26 ([September 3, 2008 press release](#)). ■ **Louis Sullivan** was a featured speaker at the [8th Annual Georgia Life Sciences Summit](#), Sept 24, along with CDC's Chief Science Officer [Tanja Popovic](#) ([Sept 8, 2008 press release](#)). ■ **Four-day breakdown** for [Humana Inc.](#) and [Bikes Belong Freewheelin](#) project: *DNC in Denver*: 5,552 rides = 26,493 miles, 821,304 calories burned, and 9.3 metric tons of carbon off set. *RNC in the Twin Cities*: 1,971 rides = 15,141 miles, 469,282 calories burned, and 5.3 metric tons of carbon off set ([Sept 5, 2008 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#)).

Advisory Committee to the Director Bookshelf

Autism's False Prophets: Bad Science, Risky Medicine, and the Search for a Cure by Paul A. Offit (2008).
—Suggested in memoriam of author David Foster Wallace: *Infinite Jest* (1996 hardback, 2006 paperback).

FYI: Resources

[CDC A-Z Index](http://www.cdc.gov/az/a.html) (URL: <http://www.cdc.gov/az/a.html>)
[CDC Podcasts](http://www2a.cdc.gov/podcasts/) (URL: <http://www2a.cdc.gov/podcasts/>) (Use “Browse” tab to see topics)
[Health Protection Goals](http://www.cdc.gov/osi/goals/goals.html) (URL: <http://www.cdc.gov/osi/goals/goals.html>)
[Advisory Committee to the Director](http://www.cdc.gov/about/advisory/advCharter.htm) (URL: <http://www.cdc.gov/about/advisory/advCharter.htm>)

