



## 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

■ **Daschle To Lead Health Care Overhaul**—President-elect Barack Obama named former Senator Tom Daschle as his choice to become DHHS Secretary and director of a new White House Office of Health Reform ([Dec 12 Protecting Health for Life; Change.gov](#); [Dec 11 New York Times](#)). ■ **Deaths from Measles Drop**—Measles deaths worldwide fell by 74% between 2000 and 2007, from an estimated 750,000 to 197 000, according to [a press release from the Measles Initiative](#), of which CDC is a member.

■ **Progress, Challenges on World's AIDS Day**—CDC helped mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of World AIDS Day, noting progress in preventing AIDS but noting that more than 1.1 million Americans live with HIV, and that an estimated 56,000 new infections occur in the United States every year ([Dec 1 CDC press release](#)). ■ **Declines in Cancer Incidence, Death Rates**—for the first time since 1998, both incidence and death rates for all cancers combined are decreasing for both men and women, largely from declines in some common types of cancer ([Nov 25 CDC press release](#); [Reuters](#)). ■ **CDC Childhood Injury Report**—Findings show that motor vehicles and falls are causes of most child and teen injuries and deaths in the United States ([Dec 10 CDC press release](#); [full report](#)). ■ **Melamine and Food Safety**—CDC recommends not consuming any dairy products produced in China because of concerns about potential contamination from [melamine](#) and checking the [FDA Web site](#) for information on imported products that could potentially contain melamine.

### Director's Highlights

■ **Healthiest Nation**—Dr. Gerberding lectured about the need for fixing the U.S. health system in the context of the current U.S. economic and health crises as part of the University of California, San Francisco, Chancellor's Health Policy Lecture Series ([Dec 11 UCSF Today](#)). ■ Her keynote speech at the Spectrum of Technology symposium, sponsored by the Future Industries Initiative of the Greater Rome (Georgia) Chamber of Commerce, also focused on Healthiest Nation ([Nov 20 Rome News Tribune](#)). ■ **Public Health Thank You Day**—Dr. Gerberding offered CDC's thanks to the public health heroes, including a number of CDC staff ([Nov 24 Research!America](#)). ■ **Memorial—Ron Davis, MD**—Pancreatic cancer claimed the former director of CDC's Office on Smoking and Health, later the chief medical officer of the Michigan Department of Public Health, and the director of health promotion and disease prevention for the Henry Ford Health System in Detroit at the time of his death ([Nov 9 New York Times](#)). ■ **Memorial—Thomas G. Hooyman, PhD**—It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the death of Dr. Hooyman from a car accident. He was associate professor of Health Care Ethics in the Rueckert-Hartman College for Health Professions at Regis University and the chair of our Advisory Committee to the Director Ethics Subcommittee ([Nov 21 Regis University news](#)).

### Selected CDC Strategic Intentions

■ **Healthiest Nation**—Dr. Gerberding explained the Alliance for a Healthiest Nation to a group of Midwest health care journalists who visited CDC ([Dec 6 Springfield News-Leader](#)). ■ The alliance has a new logo that reflects its emphasis on improving people's health ([About CDC Web site](#)). ■ **On the Horizon** ▶ An *MMWR* article discussing the rationale for creating the Alliance for the Healthiest Nation and the health problems that the United States faces is in clearance.

■ **Biosurveillance**—CDC and Google.org are exploring how data from the Google search engine might help track flu outbreaks by serving as an early warning system ([Nov 11 New York Times](#)).



**Pandemic Flu and Bioterrorism**—The FDA recently approved a new genetic test—developed by CDC and Applied Biosystems Inc—that allows labs to identify flu strains within four hours instead of four days ([Sept 30 HHS news release](#); [Reuters](#)). ■ The [Homeland Security Department](#) recommends Kansas site for new \$450 million laboratory to study threats such as anthrax and foot-and-mouth disease ([Dec 3 AP press release](#)). ■ Flu shots touted as cheap insurance policy against missed college classes, lost tuition ([Dec 4 NPR Morning Edition](#)). ■ Hong Kong officials halt poultry imports and start slaughtering birds after detecting bird flu in dead chickens ([Dec 9 Fox News](#)).

## Follow-Ups from October 30 Meeting

**Advisory Committee to the Director Meeting**—A meeting summary will be available soon. ■ In response to public comments regarding [Morgellons disease](#), CDC is sending a letter to all state medical associations that offers an overview of CDC’s activities and resources related to this condition. ■ The next Advisory Committee to the Director meeting is on April 30, 2009.

## Our Members

**Eduardo Sanchez** spoke about “The Health of America in an Obama Administration” as part of the UTEP Millennium Lecture Series ([Dec 3 UTEP press release](#)). ■ **Sandy Climan** has been in the news for 3ality Digital LLC’s work in broadcasting a recent NFL game live in 3-D to theaters in Los Angeles, New York and Boston ([Nov 24 Wall Street Journal](#)). ■ **Ken Mandl** was quoted in an article reporting on a meeting convened by Harvard Medical School and Amazon Web Services about using Cloud computing to improve collaboration and innovation in medical research and health care ([Dec 3 Information Week](#)). ■ **Thomas Nelson** discussed the hardships on senior citizens caused by the economic downturn ([Nov 25 Fox News](#)). ■ **John R. Seffrin** commented on the global increase in cancer incidence ([Dec 9 CNN](#)).

## Appreciation and Farewell

**Dr. Priscilla Holman**, who was the Partnership Liaison for the Office of Strategy and Innovation and who coordinated many aspects of our Advisory Committee to the Director meetings, has retired after nearly 40 years of federal service. Her graciousness, leadership, and insights will be greatly missed.

### FYI: Resources

- [CDC Partners](http://www.cdc.gov/Partners/) (URL: <http://www.cdc.gov/Partners/>)
- [CDC Podcasts](http://www2a.cdc.gov/podcasts/) (URL: <http://www2a.cdc.gov/podcasts/>) (Use “Browse” tab to see topics)
- [CDC Publications](http://www.cdc.gov/Publications/) (URL: <http://www.cdc.gov/Publications/>)
- [Advisory Committee to the Director](http://www.cdc.gov/about/advisory/advCharter.htm) (URL: <http://www.cdc.gov/about/advisory/advCharter.htm>)
- [Change.Gov \(Office of the President-elect\)](http://change.gov/) (URL = <http://change.gov/>)

