



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.

New Issues and Alerts

Obesity—On June 18, CDC convened the 2008 National Summit on Legal Preparedness for Obesity Prevention and Control. CDC’s Dr. Bill Dietz presented exciting news about the possible [plateauing of childhood obesity as reported in JAMA](#), attributing this finding to greater societal awareness and understanding. He likened this situation to the leveling of smoking rates after the first Surgeon General’s report in 1964 produced greater awareness of the health consequences of smoking.

“Being at the point smoking was four decades ago forecasts the enormous amount of work ahead to bring the high rates of obesity down. Being at a plateau is the first step in controlling this epidemic.” ■ **Salmonella Outbreak**—An article, [How modern science and old-fashioned detective work cracked the salmonella case](#), in *USA Today* shows the interconnectedness of public health—how an Indian Health Service nurse, the New Mexico state laboratory, CDC, and the FDA—led to a coordinated, rapid search for the tainted food and outreach to consumers and businesses. [CDC’s Web site](#) has more information about [salmonella](#) and the current outbreak. ■ **CDC Becomes First Federal WaterSense Partner**—CDC Director Julie Gerberding signed the agreement at the [American Water Works Association](#) conference. [WaterSense](#) is analogous to the [Energy Star](#) program and promotes the use of water-efficient products and provides opportunities to promote water conservation. ■ **Immunization Safety Office**—CDC is moving the Immunization Safety Office from [Office of the Chief Science Officer](#) to the Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion, the focal point for CDC’s patient safety efforts and activities. ■ **Workforce Issues**—The [Government Accounting Office](#) May 28th report [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Human Capital Planning Has Improved, but Strategic View of Contractor Workforce Is Needed](#) documents six challenges CDC faces in sustaining a skilled workforce to fulfill its mission.

Director’s Highlights

CDC Director Julie L Gerberding on June 18 participated in [Rotary International’s drive to eradicate polio](#), launching [Rotary’s US\\$100 Million Challenge](#) to match a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. ■ **“End the Epidemic,”** the [Commonwealth Club](#)’s Smoking Cessation Summit on June 16 featured a panel headlined by Dr. Gerberding and NBC’s Medical Expert Dr. Nancy Snyderman. ■ **Chief Operating Officer Bill Gimson** has returned after his five-month assignment in Iraq on a State Department provincial reconstruction team, where he was assigned to the health section in Salah Al-Din province (Tikrit, Iraq), which has approximately 1.1 million inhabitants and is about the size of New Hampshire. ■ **CDC Connects**, our employee communications portal, has been recognized for Intranet excellence at the [Ragan Recognition Awards](#) for the third straight year, winning the Grand Prize and Award of Excellence for Best Intranet Publication and runner-up for Best Blog. We are pursuing ways for the Advisory Committee to the Director to access *CDC Connects*. ■ **Racism and Health Workgroup**—CDC/ATSDR formally recognizes its new internal workgroup to propose measures of racism for use in research and intervention; identify how racism operates to adversely impact health; promote interventions to eliminate racism and adverse health impacts; and contribute to national and global debates on the impact of racism to health and well-being.

Director’s Intents

Healthiest Nation—We are looking forward to being with some of you at the [2008 Leaders to Leaders Conference: Shaping Policy for a Healthier Nation](#), July 8–9, in Washington, DC, and to insights from Nisha Botchwey, who is moderating the panel “Engaging Americans for a Healthier Nation” with Sandy Climan as one of the discussants, and the closing remarks from Nick Baird.

Biosurveillance—[Larry Brilliant](#), Executive Director of [Google.org](#), which includes the Google Foundation and other philanthropic and social initiatives, has agreed to be nominated as Chair of the



National Biosurveillance Subcommittee of the Advisory Committee to the Director—his official nomination and approval are now under way.

Pandemic Flu and Bioterrorism—On May 27, a CDC co-authored article on avian influenza strains in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* ([read the press release](#)), suggests that three recent H7N2 strains and two H7N3 strains from North America are partially adapted to recognize sugar receptors preferred by human influenza viruses—enhancing their potential for human infection and their ability to spread from human to human.

Vaccine Safety—On May 12 and 13, more than 230 experts participated in the CDC and AMA co-sponsored annual [National Influenza Vaccine Summit](#) to identify issues from the 2007–2008 influenza vaccination seasons and to develop recommendations and activities for the 2008–2009 influenza seasons, focusing on increasing vaccination coverage levels among health care workers, children and adolescents 6 months to 18 years, and those at high risk of complications from influenza.

Follow-Ups from May 1 Meeting

U.S. Measles Outbreaks—In May, CDC held a media briefing on the measles outbreaks. Stories have appeared in ABC News, Associated Press, Reuters, *Washington Post*, *New York Times*, *National Public Radio*, *Canadian Press*, and *WebMD*. Information about the measles outbreaks has also been reported via CDC's *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* (the *MMWR*) in the story [Measles --- United States, January 1--April 25, 2008](#). ■ **Hepatitis C Infections**—A May 16, 2008, *MMWR* article [Acute Hepatitis C Infections at an Endoscopy Clinic — Nevada, 2007](#) focused on three cases of Hepatitis C the Southern Nevada Health District reported to CDC in January 2007. Initial inquiries found that all three persons with acute Hepatitis underwent procedures at the same endoscopy clinic within 35–90 days before becoming ill. A CDC investigation found those infections were associated with exposures at the clinic and that the reuse of syringes on individual persons combined with use of single-use medication vials on multiple persons likely led to HCV transmission. ■ **Public Comment: Morgellons Disease**—During the first public comments session, an individual asked for CDC's assistance in addressing Morgellons disease, specifically a “Dear Doctor” letter about the disease. CDC's Web page [Unexplained Dermopathy \(AKA “Morgellons”\)](#) provides general information on this condition and background on CDC epidemiologic investigation into Morgellons. ■ **CDC System Dynamics Collaborative Wins ASysT Prize**—The CDC Systems Dynamics Collaborative Team won the [Inaugural Applied Systems Thinking Prize](#). Their work on *The Health Protection Game* was part of May 1 meeting materials. ■ **Ethics Subcommittee**—Vivian Berryhill represented the Advisory Committee during the June 26–27 meeting and agreed to serve as a permanent representative.

Our Members

Eduardo Sanchez is the new [Vice President and Chief Medical Officer for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas](#). ■ **John Seffrin** was quoted in the article [Champions of Hope](#) in the *Boston Globe*. ■ Atlanta will be home of the National Health Museum, whose board chair is **Louis W. Sullivan** ([Atlanta Business Chronicle](#)). ■ The [CDC Foundation](#) and [HONORreform](#) co-convened a meeting of stakeholders on June 26 to examine a public health campaign to advance safety in outpatient settings. **Debra Lappin** has a central role in forging this alliance. ■ Staff from CDC and CDC Foundation met with Wal-Mart staff, including Max Koonce, Senior Director of Risk Management for Wal-Mart Stores, Inc, on maximizing Wal-Mart's sustainability program (**Linda Dillman's** purview). ■ CDC staff visited Humana, Inc.'s Innovation Center, courtesy of **Jack Lord**, to exchange ideas, understand Humana's approach to innovation, and explore partnership opportunities that align to CDC's mission.

FYI: Resources

- [State of CDC Report](#) (2007) (URL: <http://www.cdc.gov/about/stateofcdc/index.htm>)
- [CDC's Health Protection Goals](#) (URL: <http://www.cdc.gov/goals>)
- [List of Congressional Testimonies 2008](#) (URL: <http://www.cdc.gov/washington/testimony.html>)
- [Advisory Committee to the Director](#) (URL: <http://www.cdc.gov/about/advisory/advCharter.htm>)

