



EMORY
UNIVERSITY

Emory University
Serious Communicable Diseases Program (SCDP)
Project ECHO Program
Thinking Ahead of the World Cup: Select Cat A Bioterror Agents
(Anthrax, Botulism, Plague, Smallpox, Tularemia)
Thursday, March 26, 2026
11 AM – 12 PM (ET)

Facilitator:

- Gavin Harris, MD – Assistant Professor of Medicine and the Serious Communicable Diseases Program (SCDP) Director of Regional Education & Training and International Engagement, Emory University School of Medicine, Divisions of Pulmonary, Allergy, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine & Infectious Diseases

Didactic Presenter:

- Rajeev Fernando, MD - Co-chair Infectious Diseases Special Interest Group (SIG), World Association of Disaster Emergency Medicine (WADEM); Executive Director for Field Operations, Society of Disaster Medicine and Public Health; Chief Medical Officer, Chiraj and Medical Aid Initiative Norway Charities

Case Presenter:

- David Greenky, MD, FAAP - Pediatric Emergency Medicine Physician at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, Assistant Professor, Emory University School of Medicine, Division of Pediatrics and Emergency Medicine

Public Health Presenter:

- Cherie Drenzek, DVM, MS – State Epidemiologist and Chief Science Office, Georgia Department of Public Health, Department of Epidemiology

Target Audience:

- Anyone interfacing with patients or responsible for patient/community health, including physicians, nurses, EMTs, paramedics, pharmacists, hospital administrators, public health officials, etc., are welcome to attend.

Session Objectives:

- Gain an understanding of risks posed by select bioterror agents as related to potential World Cup exposure
- Utilize a case-based scenario to discuss clinical presentation and management of a person infected with a potential bioterror agent



- Understand the ongoing surveillance measures and public health preparedness approaches in Region IV

Connection Details: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_FlbxlibJSlehq4S2aP4G0g

Time	Topic	Presenter
11:00 -11:05	Welcome, Intros, Polls	Harris
11:05 -11:10	Situation Report – Overview of Current Disease Outbreaks	Harris
11:10 -11:20	Anthrax Case Presentation	Greenky
11:20 – 11:35	Bioterrorism attacks at Mass Gathering Events	Fernando
11:35 – 11:45	Cat A Agents: Public Health Perspective	Drenzek
11:45 -12:00	Discussion/Q&A <i>(Audience can submit questions and experts will discuss)</i>	Harris, Greenky, Fernando, Drenzek
12:00	Wrap-up, Polls	Harris

Bios:

Gavin Harris, MD

Gavin H. Harris, MD is an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Emory University School of Medicine, holding appointments in both the Division of Pulmonary, Allergy and Critical Care Medicine and the Division of Infectious Diseases. He has been on faculty at Emory since 2020 and his professional expertise lies in the areas of disaster preparedness, medical countermeasures, and the treatment of special pathogens. Dr. Harris is the Director of Regional Education & Training and International Engagement for the Emory University Serious Communicable Diseases Program Project ECHO and SitRep, the co-clinical lead for critical care medicine for Emory’s Serious Communicable Diseases Unit (SCDU), and a rostered physician for the SCDU. Additionally, Dr. Harris is an alumni fellow of the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health’s Center for Health Security Emerging Leaders in Biosecurity Initiative (ELBI) as well as faculty with the National Emerging Special Pathogens Training and Education Center (NETEC) as an adult care subject matter expert and a biothreats subject matter expert with the Southern Regional Disaster Response System (SRDRS).

David Greenky, MD, FAAP

David Greenky, MD, FAAP – Dr. Greenky is a pediatric emergency medicine physician at Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta and an Assistant Professor at Emory University School of



EMORY
UNIVERSITY

Medicine where he is an expert in pediatric preparedness. His research focus is global pediatric preparedness and how global issues impact the care of children locally. At Emory he is the principal investigator for the Gulf 7-Pediatric Disaster Network and a co-investigator for the Regional Emerging Special Pathogen Treatment Centers. He is a physician leader for the Special Care Unit at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, a federally funded unit to treat children with special pathogens. He also sits on the Executive Committee of the American Academy of Pediatrics Council on Children and Disasters. Prior to his medical career he was a research analyst at a company dealing with global resiliency.

Rajeev Fernando, MD

Dr. Rajeev Fernando is a disaster medicine and infectious diseases specialist who serves as the Chief Medical Officer for the charities [Chiraj](#) and [Medical Aid Initiative Norway](#). Dr. Fernando completed his Disaster Medicine Fellowship at BIDMC/Harvard Medical School. He currently co-chairs the Infectious Diseases Special Interest Group (SIG) for the World Association of Disaster Emergency Medicine (WADEM). Since 2022, he has been periodically operating in Ukraine by providing much needed humanitarian aid and mental health clinics.

Dr. Fernando also serves as Executive Director for Field Operations at the [Society of Disaster Medicine and Public Health](#). He managed critical COVID-19 cases across the world, including in the United States, India, Brazil, and Mexico. Dr. Fernando is a fashion designer and has showcased his work in New York, Paris and Cannes. All profits from his products help fund Chiraj humanitarian projects. Chiraj, founded by Dr. Fernando, focuses on assisting girls and women who have been trafficked in Iraq, Thailand, Colombia and will start a new operation in Los Angeles in 2026. Chiraj also focuses on projects empowering women in Brazil and India.

Dr. Fernando has successfully led, organized, and participated in numerous humanitarian/refugee missions, some of which include:

Darfur, Sudan on mission with Doctors Without Borders (2008);
The Rohingya refugee crisis in Bangladesh (2017);
Türkiye earthquake disaster response (2023);
Los Angeles wildfire disaster response (2025); and
Hurricane Melissa response in Jamaica (2025).

Dr. Fernando has consistently been voted amongst New York's best Infectious Diseases doctors. He has shared his medical opinions on networks including CNN, BBC and Fox News.

Cherie Drenzek, DVM, MS

Dr. Cherie Drenzek grew up in Detroit, Michigan and received her bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences and her Master's degree in Food Microbiology from Wayne State University in Detroit. She attended Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine and received her DVM in 1995; the same year, she entered the Epidemic Intelligence Service program at CDC and was



EMORY
UNIVERSITY

stationed in the Rabies Section. Following EIS, Cherie was employed as an Assistant Professor of Epidemiology at the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine. Cherie has been employed at the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) since 1999 and has served in a variety of roles, including infectious disease medical epidemiologist and State Public Health Veterinarian. Cherie served as Director of the Acute Disease Epidemiology Section and Deputy State Epidemiologist from 2005-2011 and was named State Epidemiologist on August 1, 2011. In addition, Cherie was named as DPH's first Chief Science Officer in 2019. Cherie has led DPH's epidemiologic response to the COVID-19 pandemic in Georgia since January 2020

Disclosure Statement

None of the planners and presenters for this educational activity have relevant financial relationship(s) to disclose with ineligible companies whose primary business is producing, marketing, selling, re-selling, or distributing healthcare products used by or on patients.

Gavin Harris, MD

Aneesh Mehta, MD, FIDSA, FAST

Sharon Vanairsdale, DNP, APRN, ACNS-BC, NP-C, CEN, FAEN, FAAN

Yasmin Thornton, MPH

Allison Klajbor, MBA

David Greenky, MD, FAAP

Rajeev Fernando, MD

Cherie Drenzek, DVM, MS