



## Letter From the Program Coordinator, Senior

The Critical Response & Emergency Systems Training (CREST) Program has received notification of funding from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for a second year!

Comprised of a partnership between The University of Arizona, the University of New Mexico, and New Mexico State University, the program's goals are to train practicing healthcare professionals to recognize a terrorist incident, alert the public health system of an event, participate in a multidisciplinary response to an event, and meet the acute care needs of patients.

Thanks to support from our partners, a diverse group of 16,339 professionals were trained by CREST in the first year, surpassing the original proposed goal by 30%. The trainings conducted included a CREST conference, National Disaster Life Support courses, Advanced Hazmat Life Support courses, Answering the Call (instructor & participant) courses, online drills, and speakers bureau events.

The second year of funding will be used to deliver all of the previous CREST courses in addition to several new online courses on Influenza and Hand Hygiene, Terrorism for Healthcare, Decontamination and Level C PPE, and Hospital Emergency Incident Command Systems (HEICS).

As we plan ahead for the next year, we hope to continue collaborations with all our partners to identify training needs within the state.

Sincerely,

*Vinetha Narasimhan*

Vinetha Narasimhan

## CREST Faculty and Staff

### Faculty:

Benson Munger, PhD  
Frank G. Walter, MD, FACEP, FACMT  
Harvey Meislin, MD, FACEP  
Peter Chase, MD, PhD  
Mazda Shirazi, MD, PhD  
Daniel Beskind, MD, MPH

### Staff:

Vinetha Narasimhan, MPA  
Yvette M. Corral, BS  
Mary Munson  
Ralph Renger, PhD  
Adriana Ciimetta MPH

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## Critical Response Emergency Systems Training Courses Offered

### Course Descriptions

The following courses on preparedness are offered through CREST:

**Answering the Call (ATC):** 1-4 hour introductory awareness-level domestic preparedness course focusing on emergency response and preparedness needs in Arizona.

**Speakers Bureau:** 1 hour of internationally recognized experts in Emergency Medicine available to lecture at your region or organization.

**Online courses:** Influenza & hand hygiene, Level C PPE & decontamination, and HEICS will be available in Fall 2006

**National Disaster Life Support® (NDLS):** 1-3 day basic and advanced training courses to recognize and manage threats of all hazards.

**Advanced Hazmat Life Support (AHLS):** 2-3 day (Provider/Instructor) and 4 to 5-hr. Chemical Burn/Toxic Terrorism courses to develop skills to rapidly assess and manage patients with chemical exposures.

#### Featured Course

Answering the Call (ATC) was adapted in Arizona from New Mexico. The course contains the core information for all health and emergency response professionals within Arizona. The modules can be scheduled at your site as part of an existing conference or as a separate course. The modules can be delivered in any order and can be presented as a full four hour course or individually as 1 hour modules. There are four course objectives to ATC:

To recognize indications of a terrorist incident.

To Rapidly & effectively alert the public health system of terrorist or natural incidents at the local, county, state, & national level.

To participate in a coordinated multidisciplinary response to public health emergencies.

To identify acute care needs of patients & treat them in a safe and appropriate manner.

ATC is accredited for CE credits.

## Answering the Call Instructor Spotlight

### Community Members making a difference

*“People only see what they are prepared to see.”*

*Ralph Waldo Emerson*

MARC R. MATTHEWS, MD

Marc R. Matthews, MD is board certified in general surgery by the American College of Surgery with a second board certification in surgical critical care. He has published over 20 papers in trauma, burns and surgical diseases as well as having given many local and national presentations.

Dr. Matthews is the director of trauma at the Maricopa County General Hospital and the associate director of the Arizona Burn Center where he has been practicing since 2003. He finished his general surgery residency in Phoenix followed by a vascular and endovascular fellowship at University of Kentucky Medical Center. He then went on to complete a trauma, critical care and burn fellowship at University of California, Davis Medical Center.



During that time he was also a trauma/critical care attending at Mercy San Juan Medical Center in Sacramento.

Since his arrival at the Arizona Burn Center he has concentrated on the development of telemedicine for the delivery of burn care throughout the entire state of Arizona and the Southwest as well as the development of disaster preparedness. In addition to extensive outreach, he has also concentrated on resident education at the Maricopa Integrated Health System surgical residency program. Apart from research interests, Dr. Matthews is also a proud board member of the Foundation for Burns and Trauma.

A native of California, Dr. Matthews graduated from University of California, Los Angeles with a bachelor of science, Baylor University with two Master's degrees, and received his medical degree from the University of California, Los Angeles School of Medicine.

## Spotlight on Our First Two Members of the Team

### Get to Know the Faculty and Staff Members of CREST



Benson S. Munger, the Principal Investigator and Associate Director of Research, has been overseeing CREST since the program was initiated in November 2005. He has a Ph.D. in Research Administration.



Vinetha Narasimhan, the Program Coordinator, Sr. has been managing CREST since the program was initiated in November 2005. She has a master's degree in public administration and experience working in an administrative capacity at several health care organizations.

### Upcoming Events

Visit Our Website For More Details: [www.crestaznm.org](http://www.crestaznm.org)

- 10/5/2006—Answering the Call (Partial)  
Show Low, AZ
- 10/20/2006—National Disaster Life Support Instructor Course; Tucson, AZ
- 11/1/2006—Provider/Instructor  
Tucson, AZ
- 12/19/2006—Answering the Call  
Somerton, AZ



“There is nothing so likely to produce peace as to be well prepared to meet the enemy”  
George Washington

### Feedback Section

#### We Value Your Opinion

Please let us know what you would like to hear about in the next newsletter; who would benefit from receiving the next newsletter or our trainings. We can also post your upcoming events in future newsletters. Email your comments to our Health Educator, Yvette M. Corral: [ycorral@aemrc.arizona.edu](mailto:ycorral@aemrc.arizona.edu)



College of Medicine

### CREST Sponsors

