

## **TARA O'TOOLE, M.D., M.P.H.**

Dr. O'Toole is the CEO and Director of the Center for Biosecurity at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, and a member of the faculty at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.

The Center for Biosecurity works to prevent the development and use of biological weapons, to catalyze advances in science and governance that diminish the power of bioweapons as agents of mass lethality and to lessen the human suffering that would result if prevention fails.

In addition to conducting policy analyses of biodefense issues, the Center is committed to the design, implementation and testing of prototype response programs and projects that would mitigate the impacts of bioattacks.

Dr. O'Toole has served on numerous government advisory committees and expert bodies dealing with biodefense, including panels of the Defense Science Board; the National Academy of Engineering Committee on Combating Terrorism; the National Academy of Sciences Working Group on Biological Weapons; and the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Steering Group on public health response to WMD events, and the Johns Hopkins Hospital Critical Events Preparedness and Response Board.

Her publications in the biodefense field include articles on medical management of Class A bioweapons agents; policy issues related to contagious disease containment; biodefense research and development strategies; and hospital preparedness issues. She is co-editor in chief of the journal *Biosecurity and Bioterrorism – Biodefense Strategy, Practice and Science*, and was one of the principal authors and producers of *Dark Winter*, an influential exercise conducted in June 2001 to alert national leaders to the dangers of bioterrorist attacks.

Dr. O'Toole was one of the original members of the Johns Hopkins Center for Civilian Biodefense Strategies and served as Director of the Hopkins Center from 2001-2003.

From 1993 to 1997, Dr. O'Toole served as Assistant Secretary of Energy for Environment Safety and Health. As Assistant Secretary, Dr. O'Toole was the principal advisor to the Secretary of Energy on matters pertaining to protecting the environment and worker and public health from the US nuclear weapons complex and DOE laboratories.

During her tenure, Dr. O'Toole oversaw four major "Vulnerability Studies" that identified major safety and environmental hazards at the nation's nuclear weapons complex and focused resources on the most serious threats; established the Department's first nuclear safety rules and professional enforcement office; and led a multi-agency, multimillion dollar task force that oversaw the government's investigations into human radiation experiments conducted during the Cold War.

From 1989-1993, Dr. O'Toole was a Senior Analyst at the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment (OTA) where she directed and participated in studies of health impacts on workers and the public due to environmental pollution resulting from nuclear weapons production, among other projects. She has served as a consultant to industry and government in matters related to occupational and environmental health, worker participation in workplace safety protection, and organizational change. Dr. O'Toole is a Board-certified internist and occupational medicine physician with clinical experience in academic settings and community health centers.

She received her Bachelors degree from Vassar College, her MD from the George Washington University and a Master of Public Health degree from Johns Hopkins University. She completed a residency in internal medicine at Yale, and a fellowship in occupational and environmental medicine at Johns Hopkins University.