

Multi-Disciplinary Training for Agricultural Incidents**Presenter:** Dugald Hall, University of Alabama at Birmingham**Session:** Oral**Date/Time:** Tuesday, April 24; 11-12PM

One of the major challenges to a significant disaster response is the interaction of the agencies involved. While most disaster events appear to be of greater relevance to one agency over others, the true response will involve an array of agencies, each with specific interests and outcomes. This is particularly true in the event of an animal disease outbreak. Ostensibly, this type of event would appear to be an animal health issue requiring only the involvement of animal health agencies. Inevitably, this situation will involve a multitude of additional agencies, ranging from environmental management to public health to law enforcement. To enhance to effectiveness of the response to an agricultural incident, the South Central Center for Public Health Preparedness partnered with the Alabama Department of Public Health and the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries to develop an interdisciplinary training course covering these issues. This course was delivered in multiple locations throughout Alabama to classes that included representatives from the fields of public health, animal health, law enforcement and emergency management. The topics covered included the traditional and non-traditional roles that each agency may play in the event of an animal disease outbreak, an overview of possible diseases and their effects, communications, diagnostic methods and evidence collection and handling. The ultimate goal of this training was to produce a workforce that is proactive and has an awareness of the operational procedures of other agencies and therefore can more effectively respond to agricultural incidents as part of a multi-disciplinary force.

Biography:

Dr. Hall is currently a Research Associate with the South Central Center for Public Health Preparedness at the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Public Health. Within this center he serves as the program leader for all activities relating to agriculture, agroterrorism, zoonotic diseases and agricultural security. Dr. Hall holds a Ph.D., in microbiology from the University of Otago, New Zealand. His doctoral work involved the serological and molecular epidemiology of Rabbit hemorrhagic disease virus following the release of this agent as a biological control agent in the Central Otago region of New Zealand.
