

## **Coupling Credentialing with Just-in-Time Training for the Animal Epidemic Workforce**

**Presenter:** Kenneth E. Nusbaum, Auburn University, College of Veterinary Medicine

**Session:** Oral

**Date/Time:** Monday, April 23; 4-5PM

The accepted standard of disaster response in the U.S. has become the Incident Command System (ICS) which works well among organizations and individuals that have trained together and have similar goals. Proof of ICS training and recognition and identification by state disaster response teams have generally been described as “credentialing.” However, not every disaster is foreseeable and, therefore, the skills needed for response cannot be taught in advance. In order to refresh skills or teach veterinarians new skills, just-in-time training (JITT) can be deployed in lecture or distance learning format to mobilize a competent professional workforce to an area of need. JITT was employed in the UK foot and mouth disease (FMD) epidemic as a three-hour training program for foreign veterinarians before they engaged in FMD eradication activities. Similarly, the U.S. confronts increased threats to food animal production through natural, accidental, and intentional release of foreign animal disease agents. Regulatory veterinary person-power is limited, and food animal practitioners make up only about 10% of the 66,000+ veterinarians. Credentialing and JITT coupled could enable small animal practitioners to contribute meaningful participation in a national food animal emergency. In order for this strategy to be effective, the national professional association will have to articulate a “duty to participate” policy.

### **Biography:**

Kenneth E Nusbaum, DVM, PhD, has been concerned about veterinary medicine and public health policy since he completed his 1993 AVMA/AAAS Congressional Science and Policy Fellowship in the Health Office of the US Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources. He has also worked on food animal biosecurity for the Alabama Department of Public Health and foreign animal disease threats for the Battelle Research Foundation.

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