

Member Newsletter

Summer 2006

Greetings fellow members of the UVA Medical Reserve Corps. We hope that this letter finds you well and that you are able to keep cool with the Virginia summer heat and humidity. This year has been a very active year for the UVAMRC. From our monthly meetings and weekend training sessions, to participation in community and hospital drills, member participation and UVAMRC involvement in the community has been steadily increasing. We were even fortunate enough to have members of our leadership participate in three separate presentations to the MRC National Leadership Conference.

As you have probably noticed, we did not schedule general membership meetings during the months of June and July. We felt that this was best because of summer vacations, the transitioning of residents and health profession students, and the general craziness of schedules over the summer months. However, we on the Student Coordinating Council wanted to let you know that we are still hard at work planning and scheduling recruitment, training, and community service events. As an aside, we want to especially thank our two medical student summer interns, Caroline Cox and J.V. Nable, as well as our Program Coordinator, Lauren Bateman, for their hard work this summer.

Below, you will find a brief summary of some of the items we are working on, as well as upcoming events in late summer/early fall. We also want to highlight the opportunities for any member, not just students, to take on a role in the leadership of the UVAMRC. As always, if you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, feel free to e-mail us at uvamrc@virginia.edu. We are excited about the future and look forward to seeing you all at future meetings, trainings, and drills.

Joseph Baltz, Matt Alexander, and Dr. Edward Kantor
Directors of the UVAMRC

• **Important Dates-**

Basic Disaster Skills Training: Sept 9
General Meeting: Aug/Sept, topic TBA

• **Complete your online training modules-**

More info at www.uvamrc.org under Training and Materials.

• **Database update-** We are currently upgrading our database of volunteer information... In the meantime, please email any updates to your member/contact info to Lauren at lrb3v@virginia.edu.

• **Know our Call-up Structure:** We will use phones, email, internet, and TV/Radio to contact members regarding a potential UVAMRC response. Information will be recorded messages on the UVAMRC answering machine service (434-243-6250) and at www.uvamrc.org. If electronic communication is unavailable, the default emergency meeting location for the UVAMRC is the parking lot in front of the UVA HealthSystem West Complex.

For this system to work, please be sure you:

- 1) Keep your contact information updated!
- 2) Have a personal preparedness plan/kit including battery-powered radio if electricity should be lost.
- 3) Know the UVAMRC office phone number, web site, and default meeting location.

• **State of the UVAMRC**

Pandemic Flu – We have been very involved in the local Pandemic Flu planning committee and subcommittees. State Tabletop planned for August, 3-day Statewide Exercise in October.

Personal Preparedness – covered at our last meeting, and part of the national MRC Core Competencies. Make sure your family has a disaster plan in place. Information on personal preparedness can be found at www.uvamrc.org under Public Information.

- **New Legislation:** There is a discussion draft in the Senate of a Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act that proposes to move the Medical Reserve Corps out from the Office of the Surgeon General. The bill proposes that the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response be responsible for the MRC. To read the discussion draft of this proposed bill, please go to www.uvamrc.org and look under Information Materials on the Training and Materials page. If you have questions about a section of the bill, please let us know and we will do our best to clarify. If you have an opinion about the proposed bill, please contact your representative in the Senate or the House of Representatives, and let them know what you think.

• **Get involved!**

If you have some time to volunteer, or have ideas for our MRC please send Coordinator Lauren Bateman an email at lrb3v@virginia.edu, help is greatly appreciated.

Translators needed in case of disaster: If you are proficient in a second language, sign language, or have taken a Medical foreign language course, please email Lauren at lrb3v@virginia.edu to be added to our list of potential interpreters.

Outreach Project: Preparing For and Dealing with Disaster - How to make a plan, build a kit, and cope. We are currently working with multiple partners to start outreach to schools in September (National Preparedness Month.) Email Caroline Cox at ceh9q@virginia.edu to get involved.

Clinical Mentors & Resident Leaders: Clinicians with expertise in disaster response specialties are needed to assist with our clinical oversight and student supervision should a disaster occur.

- **Be a leader!** Open positions on the SCC include:

Assistant Director(s) of Recruitment

This director will be involved in planning recruitment strategies and coordinating recruitment drives and events for undergraduates, medical school, nursing school, graduate medicine depts., and health professionals.

Assistant Director(s) of Training

This director will be involved in researching possible training programs or internet modules for the training of UVAMRC members in disaster response. This position also involves the coordination and planning of training events at UVAMRC general membership meetings as well as weekend training sessions.

Assistant Director – Personnel

Oversees all matters pertaining to membership and membership maintenance, which includes but is not limited to, managing membership databases and certification records, item and equipment inventories, assisting with the end-of-year student banquet, and assisting with other administrative duties.

Let us know if you can assist!