Chemical Agents of Opportunity for Terrorism: The Medical and Psychological Consequences of TICs (Toxic Industrial Chemicals) and TIMs (Toxic Industrial Materials)

April 13, 2004 · UAB Margaret Cameron Spain Auditorium · 8:00AM – 4:45PM

The American College of Medical Toxicology (ACMT) in collaboration with the University of Alabama at Birmingham’s Center for Emergency Care and Disaster Preparedness (CECDP) and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) are pleased to offer a one-day course on Chemical Agents of Opportunity for Terrorism: The Medical and Psychological Consequences of TICs (Toxic Industrial Chemicals) and TIMs (Toxic Industrial Materials). This course will provide awareness-level training on a variety of toxic syndromes likely to be encountered following exposures to TICs and TIMs and other chemical agents of opportunity. The course will focus on the medical and psychological issues pertaining to TICs, TIMs, as well as other important non-volatile chemical exposures.

In recent years, there has been growing concern that many of the most likely threats of chemical terrorism involve so-called “agents of opportunity.” Both common and unusual industrial agents may pose a considerable threat as potential terrorist weapons. While an understanding of the traditional military chemical weapons (i.e. nerve agents) remains essential, an appreciation of the myriad of other potential toxic chemicals readily available in our society is crucial if we are to optimally prepare, identify, and defend against chemical threats. This course will utilize a symptom-based clinical approach to describe the medical impact of various chemical poisons. We will provide a framework to enhance recognition of the common health effects of apparently disparate chemical toxins, describe the risk to various healthcare workers, and introduce clinical and public health management strategies. The traditional military warfare chemical agents will not be covered in these lectures because information on these agents is readily accessible through a number of other forums such as the Internet.

COURSE OBJECTIVES - By attending this one-day course, the participant will be able to:

- Understand the concept of chemical agents of opportunity, TICs, and TIMs, and appreciate the basis for increased public health preparedness
- Identify chemical agents of opportunity that could be used by terrorists
- Discuss the past use of these chemicals in mass exposure situations
- Describe the major health effects of TICs, TIMs, and other important non-volatile chemical agents that could be used by terrorists
- Identify the primary modalities available to treat victims of such chemical exposures
- Understand the psychological impact of mass chemical exposures

TARGET AUDIENCE

There are no tuition costs for this course. The information presented will be of interest to emergency response coordinators, public health officials, law enforcement personnel, environmental health scientists, toxicologists,
occupational/environmental and emergency physicians, veterinarians, laboratorians, engineers, industrial hygienists, and others involved with chemical terrorism preparedness and response.

**COURSE FACULTY**
The faculty members are all physician medical toxicologists who are members of the American College of Medical Toxicology. ACMT is the major professional organization of physicians specializing in medical toxicology in the United States. In 1999, ACMT entered into a 5-year cooperative agreement with ATSDR under the auspices of Program Announcement 99081: Program to Build Capacity to Conduct Environmental Health Promotion Activities. This agreement was designed, in part, to enhance educational outreach to health care professionals on issues pertaining to environmental toxicology. Recognizing the urgent need to improve the capacity of health professionals and public health officials to respond knowledgeably and effectively to chemical terrorism and related mass chemical exposure the ACMT-ATSDR partnership has considerably expanded during the past year. A national network now links medical toxicologists across the country with the 10 ATSDR regional offices. As part of this growing partnership, ACMT has organized this intensive one-day training course on the medical response to chemical terrorism and mass chemical exposure incidents.

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**COURSE OUTLINE**
- Toxic Warfare: Looking Beyond Conventional Chemical Weapons
- Toxic Gases in your Community
- Why are Cyanide and Fumigants So Worrisome?
- Water as a Vehicle for Chemical Terrorism
- Contamination of Food and Drugs
- Terrorism by Fear and Uncertainty: Delayed Toxic Syndromes
- The Psychological Impact of Mass Chemical Exposure

**REGISTRATION**
To register for this FREE course, please fax (205-975-8037) or e-mail (eheck@uabmc.edu) completed registration form to Emily Heck.