



# Mass Casualty Triage at USC

## The Mass Casualty Triage Team

### NEWS AND UPDATES FROM THE TRIAGE TEAM March 2016

The last few months have been a busy time for the Team. Some of the Team's professional activities are highlighted below.

Professor Culley visited the CDC in January to participate in a nationwide Virtual Table Top Exercise (VTTX). Dr. Culley worked with the staff of the Environmental Public Health Readiness Branch/Chemical Weapons Elimination at the National Center for Environmental Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The nationwide VTTX was hosted by the Federal Emergency Management Agency Emergency Management Institute (FEMA EMI) and connected to remote sites via a FEMA video teleconference bridge. The VTTX was a chlorine tanker truck incident in a rural area. The virtual attendees were across the country and Dr. Culley's input to the chlorine spill scenario lead to some very interesting discussions during and after the exercise. She attended the first day at the CDC as a subject matter expert (SME) for the CDC during the exercise.

On Thursday, February 4<sup>th</sup> Dr. Culley and Dr. DiNardi, co-presented a paper at the Atlanta Local Section of the American Industrial

Hygiene Association semiannual conference at the Georgia Research Technical Institute in Atlanta. The title of the presentation was *Emergency Response to Chemical Mass Casualty Incidents*. The conference was attended by 50 industrial hygiene professionals from the southeastern US. The presentation emphasized the important role that the industrial hygiene professions play in responding to mass casualty incidence, and the importance of their interaction with first responders in their area. Industrial hygienists recognize their roles in these situations but responders may not know about the vast talent in chemical incidents that resides in industrial hygiene profession.

Dr. DiNardi visited the US Army's Pueblo Chemical Agent Demilitarization Pilot Plant in Colorado called PCAPP for the CDC. He was fit tested for an US Army M-40 gas mask in the unlikely event of mustard agent release while at PCAPP. Enjoy the picture.

On February 20<sup>th</sup> Dr. Culley presented a workshop on *Behavioral Health Issues During Disasters and Mass Casualty Events*, at the 38th Annual Action Council Cross Cultural Conference. Myrtle Beach, SC. This was a very interactive presentation and many of the attendees stayed after the workshop to continue discussions with Dr. Culley.

This year the 30<sup>th</sup> annual Southern Nursing Research Conference was held in Colonial Williamsburg, VA. There were about 1600 attendees at this annual research conference and the College of Nursing was well represented by Dean Andrews, three faculty and 7 doctoral nursing students. Dr. Culley and her PhD student Sara Donevant co-presented a poster on *Methodological Challenges in Creating a Research Dataset from Abstracted Medical Records of Victims from a Chemical Mass Casualty Incident*. This presentation explained the long and detailed process involved in abstracting data from the medical records from victims of the Graniteville SC chlorine train disaster that occurred in 2005. Dr. Culley has received major NIH Ro1 funding to research the myriad signs and symptoms reported by the victims of this tragedy. Nine people died and hundreds were treated at the local medical center.

Michael Pallon one of Dr. Culley's undergraduate nursing students had his Magellan Research Scholar project published in the Carolina Fire Rescue EMS Journal. Michael survey firefighter and first responders about their familiarity with WISER® and CHEMMIST® databases of signs and symptom published by the National Library of Medicine (<https://wiser.nlm.nih.gov/>). Michael's paper can be viewed at <http://www.carolinafirejournal.com/articles/current-issue/issue-303-winter-2016.aspx>, Page 11.