

**Mass Fatalities Incident Response Planning Course  
Faculty Biographies  
Ashburn, Virginia  
November 15-19, 2004**

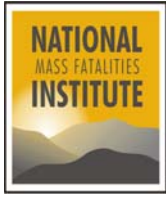
**Lisa LaDue** is Director of the National Mass Fatalities Institute. She is a co-founder of the National Mass Fatalities Institute and co-author of the “Mass Fatalities Incident Response Plan,” which is the foundation of the curriculum for the Institute. Lisa has also co-authored two articles in a special edition of *Journal of Military Medicine* that focused on the disaster mental health response to the attack on the Pentagon in September 2001 and is a co-author of a chapter pertaining to family assistance centers in a soon to be published textbook.

Lisa holds a master's degree in social work and is an Iowa-licensed independent social worker with advanced training and education in family therapy, disaster mental health, traumatic stress and Somatic Experiencing. She has been providing clinical social work and mental health services to individuals, families, groups, and communities that have been impacted by disasters and traumatic events for 30 years. Lisa has lectured internationally on topics related to trauma, terrorism, and disaster planning.

She is the American Red Cross Disaster Mental Health state lead for Iowa, a national instructor for Red Cross Disaster Mental Health Services, and a clinical member of the Cedar Rapids Critical Incident Stress Management Team. She has responded to major disasters in Puerto Rico, Guam, North Carolina and Iowa. After the September 11, 2001 attacks, Lisa spent four weeks as a disaster mental health coordinator for Red Cross services at the Pentagon and the Pentagon Family Assistance Center. In November 2001, she functioned as a disaster mental health coordinator with an American Red Cross Service Center on New York City's Staten Island.

**Dennis McGowan** is Assistant Director of the National Mass Fatalities Institute. Dennis recently retired as Chief of Operations for the Fulton County Medical Examiner's Office in Atlanta, Georgia. He was Chief Investigator for the Medical Examiner's Office prior to this position. He is an experienced medical-legal investigator and emergency response program manager. Dennis was a firefighter in New England during the 1970s and worked in the New Jersey Medical Examiner's Office for 11 years.

Dennis has over 25 years of fatality/mass fatality management experience and disaster mitigation planning, training, and response including coordination of the mass fatality planning for the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta. He has worked at numerous mass fatality incidents including Egypt Air in 1999 and the World Trade Center attacks and American Air 587 in 2001. He also participated in TopOff and TopOff 2 preparedness exercises. Dennis has specialized training and experience in terrorism response and weapons of mass destruction incident planning and mitigation. With his experience and knowledge, Dennis has traveled throughout the United States and internationally as a presenter and instructor.



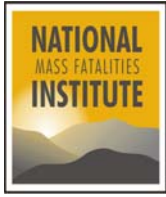
**Christine "Dusty" Bowenkamp** is a retired Disaster Mental Health Senior Associate for the American Red Cross. Her responsibilities included development, activation, and support of the ARC Disaster Mental Health and Aviation Incident Response Team (AIR Team). She was also responsible for assisting with development and implementation of the psychological response portion of a weapons of mass destruction program. Her daily responsibilities included providing technical and administrative support to over 1,200 chapters in the recruitment, training, and management of over 25,000 Disaster Mental Health volunteers, thus enabling them to respond to the needs of those affected by disasters locally, nationally, and internationally.

Christine was a Level 5 disaster mental health or health officer on over 60 national disaster relief operations including but not limited to: Singapore Airlines, Alaska Airlines, Egypt Air, KAL, TWA Flight 800, Aero Mexico, and PSA air disasters; Oklahoma City Explosion; California Floods of 1995; Midwest Floods of 1993; Hurricanes Georges, Fran, Iniki, Andrew, Hugo; Northridge, Humboldt County, Landers Big Bear, Loma Prieta, and Whittier Earthquakes; Malibu, Laguna, and Oakland Hills Firestorms.

Ms. Bowenkamp is an internationally recognized speaker, author, and trainer on disaster mental health coordination and response.

**Meg Falk** is Director for the Office of Family Policy for the Department of Defense. Ms. Falk has oversight responsibility for policy and programs affecting military families. Her duties include: policy development of instructions and directives which impact families and family support programs; policy oversight for the Department's Family Centers; casualty and mortuary affairs policy; military funeral honors policy; initiating, monitoring and coordination of legislation impacting the Office of Family Policy. Additional policy and program areas: Family Research, Spouse Employment, Relocation Assistance, Personal Financial Management, Volunteerism, Family Care Plans, Reserve Family Support, Eldercare, and Non-Combatant Repatriation.

Ms. Falk received a BA from Marygrove College, Detroit, Michigan and a master's in Public Administration from Wayne State University. Among the awards she has received are the Department of The Navy Superior Civilian Service Award, Department of Defense Exceptional Civilian Service Award, Secretary of Defense Meritorious Civilian Service Award, Good Housekeeping Women in Government Award and Distinguished Alumni Award from Wayne State University.



**Renee Garfinkel, Ph.D.** is a licensed clinical psychologist in private practice in Washington, DC, and a faculty member of the Institute for Crisis, Disaster, and Risk Management at The George Washington University. She has a Ph.D. from Lund University in Sweden.

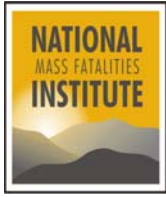
Her work in disaster mental health began during the Gulf War where she examined the sources of psychological support for the resilience of the civilian population under Scud missile attack. After the war, she continued to work with natural and man-made disasters, particularly aviation disasters, including the 9/11 attack on the Pentagon.

Dr. Garfinkel is a published author of both professional and popular writings, the most recent of which include Opinion columns for United Press International (UPI), and a special report for the United States Institute of Peace (U.S.I.P.), entitled, *What Works? Evaluating Interfaith Dialogue Programs in Areas of Conflict*.

**James S. Gordon, MD**, is the Founder and Director of the Center for Mind-Body Medicine in Washington, DC and is a Clinical Professor in the Departments of Psychiatry and Family Medicine at the Georgetown University School of Medicine. Dr. Gordon recently served as Chairman of the White House Commission on Complementary and Alternative Medicine Policy. He also served as the first Chair of the Program Advisory Council of the National Institutes of Health's Office of Alternative Medicine and is a former member of the Cancer Advisory Panel on Complementary and Alternative Medicine of the NIH.

Dr. Gordon has devoted 30 years to the exploration and practice of mind-body medicine. A Harvard Medical School graduate, he was for ten years a research psychiatrist at the National Institute of Mental Health. There he developed the first national program for runaway and homeless youth, edited the first comprehensive studies of alternative and holistic medicine, directed the Special Study on Alternative Services for President Carter's Commission on Mental Health, and created a nationwide preceptorship program for medical students.

In the years since then, Dr. Gordon has created ground-breaking programs of comprehensive mind-body healing for physicians, medical students and other health professionals; for people with cancer, depression and other chronic illnesses; and for traumatized children and families, and those who serve them, in Bosnia, Kosovo and Israel. Dr. Gordon integrates relaxation therapies, hypnosis, meditation, acupuncture, nutrition, herbalism, musculoskeletal manipulation, dance, yoga and physical exercise in his own practice of medicine and psychiatry. Dr. Gordon's two most recent books are *Comprehensive Cancer Care: Integrating Alternative, Complementary and Conventional Therapies* and *Manifesto for a New Medicine: Your Guide to Healing Partnerships and the Wise Use of Alternative Therapies* (both Perseus Books).



**Jack Herrmann** earned his master's degree in counseling, family and work life studies from the University of Rochester and is a national certified counselor. In February 2004, Mr. Herrmann was appointed the Coordinator of the Center for Disaster Medicine and Emergency Preparedness at the University of Rochester Medical Center. He is also Assistant Professor of psychiatry at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry and Assistant Professor of clinical nursing at the University of Rochester School of Nursing.

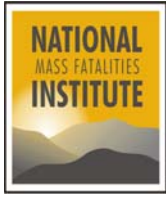
Jack has been an active disaster volunteer with the American Red Cross for the past 10 years. He currently serves as the volunteer NYS Disaster Mental Health Lead for that organization. Mr. Herrmann has responded to numerous local, state, and national disasters including, the Northridge California Earthquake (1994), the explosion of TWA Flight 800 (1996), Hurricane Georges (1998), and Hurricane Floyd (1999). Most recently he served as the American Red Cross mental health coordinator for the New York City Family Assistance Center during the first 11 days following the attacks on the World Trade Center (2001).

Prior to his appointment with the Center for Disaster Medicine and Emergency Preparedness, Jack served as the Coordinator of the University of Rochester Center for the Study and Prevention of Suicide for 14 years and was a practicing mental health clinician specializing in the treatment of suicide survivors and others who experienced traumatic events.

**Don Ransford** is a Captain with the Cedar Rapids Fire Department. Capt. Ransford is intensely involved with the CRFD Hazardous Materials and Special Operations Team. He responds to hazardous materials incidents, confined space, trench, water, low and high angle, and structural collapse rescues. Capt. Ransford has been named Fire Fighter of the Year multiple times by local organizations for his outstanding public service to the community. He has extensive training in fire sciences, hazardous materials, confined space rescue, special operations, trench rescue, water rescue, structural collapse rescue, Incident Command, WMD/Terrorism Response, and OSHA.

Capt. Ransford is a fire instructor at the Central Iowa Training Association (CITA)/Kirkwood Community College Fire School. He is Lead Instructor at the Hazardous Materials Training and Research Institute (HMTRI) in Industrial Spill Response, Wastesite Worker and Supervisor, and Worker Safety for Disaster Events WMD Train-the-Trainer. Don has coordinated the HMTRI adjunct teaching team for Hazwoper worker training and for the Hazwoper Train-the-Trainer and Instructor Refresher training since 1995. He is also an instructor at Kirkwood Community College's OSHA Training Center in OSHA general industry and construction.

**Scott Ransford** joined the National Mass Facilities Institute as a member of the Course Logistical Support Staff in 2004. He works with the Course Logistical Support Technician/Equipment Technician in equipment preparation and maintenance. Scott provides the transportation of equipment and course materials to and from training sites. He also helps with preparation of set up and tear down of the course drills. Scott graduated from Kennedy High School in 2002 and is currently attending Kirkwood Community College



**Paul Sledzik** manages victim recovery and identification for the NTSB Office of Transportation Disaster Assistance. Prior to joining the Board in 2004, he oversaw the Region 3 Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team and responded to cemetery floods in Missouri, Georgia, and North Carolina, the Oklahoma City bombing, Egyptair 990, and United 93. In fifteen years at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, he assisted in forensic efforts for Operation Desert Storm, USAir 427, and Iraqi Freedom. Mr. Sledzik has served as a consultant for the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, the National Center for Forensic Science, and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

He earned a BA from the University of Rhode Island, an MS from the University of Connecticut, and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences. His research in forensic science has been published in several books and professional journals.

**Lee J. Sweat, Jr.** is an inspector for the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI). He has been with GBI for 25 years. Lee's other experience includes 15 months as a Uniformed Police Office in Dublin, Georgia and two years as a Military Police Investigator. Lee served as Supervisor of the Mortuary/Recovery efforts for the Albany Flood of 1994 and served in 2002 as Tri-State Crematory Recovery Site Supervisor.

Lee's educational background includes University of Georgia, Georgia Southern University, Columbus State University and GACP Law Enforcement Command College. He has received over 3000 hours of Law Enforcement related training and is certified as a Basic Emergency Medical Technician.

Lee is a voting member of Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council and is Chair of the Probable Cause Committee. Lee lectures nationally on Mass Fatality Recovery Issues.

**Ken Thompson**, as Director of External Affairs for the Oklahoma City National Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism, is responsible for education, outreach, and assisting the Institute in its mission to prevent terrorism or mitigate its effects. Prior to his role with the Institute, Ken served as general manager for the Oklahoma City Auto Collection in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, where he administered sales, finance, service, parts, and accounting. Since April 19, 1995, Ken has been an active participant in the planning, establishment and construction of the Oklahoma City National Memorial, the Museum, and the Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism.

As a family member, Ken has first-hand experience of the effects of terrorism in our world today. His activities have included serving as a board member of the Oklahoma City National Memorial, serving on several committees at the Oklahoma City National Memorial, and serving as a founding member of the Institute's advisory committee. Following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, Ken volunteered time in New York and was instrumental in guiding New York City leaders through a process for family members and survivors to begin dealing with the long-term effects of the tragedy. Ken was selected by New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg and the A&E Television Network and Biography to receive the 2002 Biography Community Hero Award for the City of New York due to his outstanding service in the months following September 11, 2001.