

## REFLECTIONS ON FUTURE CRISES AND THE CHALLENGES FOR DISASTER MEDICINE

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### **Biography**

Professor Burkle is a Senior Fellow and Scientist with the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, Harvard School of Public Health; Senior International Public Policy Scholar at the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars in Washington DC; and Senior Associate Faculty, Department of International Health and the Center for Refugee & Disaster Response, Johns Hopkins University Medical Institutes. In 2007 he was elected to the prestigious Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences and received the William Crawford Gorgas “Yellow Fever” Medal for “distinguished work in preventive medicine, groundbreaking work in disaster management and humanitarian assistance and the training of an entire generation of United States and international personnel.” Dr. Burkle has worked in and consulted on numerous wars, conflicts, humanitarian public health emergencies, and large-scale international disasters in Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and Eastern Europe for major NGOs, the Red Cross Movement, World Health Organization, and the military. He founded and directed the Center of Excellence in Disaster Medicine & Humanitarian Assistance a WHO Collaborating Center for Civil-Military Operations from 1993 to 2000. He served as Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Bureau of Global Health at United States Agency for International Development, United States Department of State and as the Senior Medical Officer on the Disaster Assistance Response Team and as Interim Minister of Health in Iraq. He holds degrees from Saint Michael’s College, the University of Vermont College of Medicine, Yale University, Harvard University, the University of California at Berkeley, and Dartmouth College. He is qualified in Emergency Medicine, Pediatrics, Pediatric Emergency Medicine, Psychiatry, holds a Master’s Degree in Public Health, Diploma in Tropical Medicine from the Royal College of Surgeons in Dublin, Ireland and a Diploma in Health Emergencies in Large Populations from the University of Geneva, Switzerland. He published over 190 peer reviewed articles, abstracts, and book chapters and 4 books, 3 on disaster medicine. He is a retired Combat decorated Naval Reserve Captain, who served with the Marines in Viet Nam, Somalia, the Persian Gulf War, and Iraq. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the International Rescue Committee, a member of the Science Advisory Board of the American Red Cross and served as the elected Chair of the American Medical Association’s National Disaster Life Support Consortium for the last 4 years.

**Abstract**

After more than three decades of preoccupation with wars and internal political conflicts, the humanitarian community has the opportunity to re-evaluate what humanitarian crises will dominate both policy and practice in the future. These crises share the common thread of being major public health emergencies which requires new approaches, including unprecedented improvements and alterations in education, training, research, strategic planning, and policy and treaty agendas. All these issues place increasing burden on disaster medicine as a multidisciplinary discipline. Challenges to disaster medicine will be discussed in detail along with recommendations for the future