

DISASTER RESILIENCE INITIATIVE

Professor Frederick 'Skip' Burkle Jnr, Annual Keynote Lecture



Professor Burkle is a retired senior fellow and scientist, the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, Harvard School of Public Health, and former senior scholar and senior associate faculty and research scientist, the Centre for Refugee & Disaster Response, Johns Hopkins University Medical Institutes. He also served as a senior international public policy scholar, Woodrow Wilson Centre for International Scholars, Washington, DC (2008-2016). In addition, he served as adjunct professor, and as a clinical professor of surgery and adjunct professor in tropical medicine, at the University of Hawaii. He is also adjunct professor, Department of Military & Emergency Medicine, Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences, Bethesda, MD, and the Department of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, James Cook University, Australia. He is a former Adjunct Professor at Monash University Department of Community Emergency Health and Paramedic Practice and is currently an advisor and mentor at the Monash University Disaster Resilience Initiative. Professor Burkle received the 2011 Peter Safar Award given to a person considered to have made substantial contributions to the field of disaster and emergency health as determined by the Executive Committee of the World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine (WADEM). Professor Burkle has published more than 240 scientific articles and authored four books about international disaster management.

2020 Burkle Keynote Lecturer



Mr. Jonathan Abrahams is based in the Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience Unit in the Health Security Preparedness Department of the WHO Health Emergencies Programme, Geneva, Switzerland. Since 2008 he has been playing key roles in advancing WHO's global leadership in health emergency and disaster risk management (EDRM).

As a WHO focal point with the UN system, Mr Abrahams provided advocacy and advice on public health to Member States for the negotiation of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction that puts health at the centre of global, national and community actions on all- hazards disaster risk management. He has played an instrumental role in developing policy and technical guidance such as the WHO Health EDRM Framework that bridges humanitarian action, climate change adaptation, epidemic preparedness and response, health system strengthening and disaster risk reduction. With the aim of building country capacities, Mr Abrahams supports WHO Regional and Country Offices and partners, and continues to facilitate global partnerships, including the WHO's Thematic Platform on Health EDRM and its associated Research Network, to enable local and national action.

Before joining WHO, Mr. Abrahams was Director, Public Health in Emergencies, Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre, Thailand, from 2005-2008 where he worked with WHO partners to strengthen country systems and capacities in the Asia-Pacific region. He has worked with Emergency Management Australia, AusAID's Humanitarian and Emergency Response Unit and the Department of Veterans' Affairs. He is an author and editor of many articles, technical guides and learning packages in public health, EDRM and business continuity planning. Mr. Abrahams also holds qualifications in public health and emergency management and received the WADEM President's Award in 2017 as recognition of his contribution to the World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine's collaboration with WHO and to the field of disaster health.

2020 Chair: Prof Jude Charlton	Mr Jonathan Abrahams Based in the Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience Unit in Health Security Preparedness Department of the World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland Delivered 16 February 2021	WORKING TOGETHER FOR PEOPLE'S HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELLBEING: The evolution and future directions for health emergency and disaster risk management In partnership with WADEM Oceania Chapter
2019 Chair: Prof Jude Charlton	Ms Amanda Leck Executive Director, Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience Delivered 29 July 2020	NATIONAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION FRAMEWORK: Vision and goals for disaster risk reduction in Australia In partnership with WADEM Oceania Chapter
2018 Chair: Em Prof Frank Archer	Mr Joe Cuthbertson Chair, WADEM Oceania Chapter	THE STORY OF THE WADEM OCEANIA CHAPTER: Celebrating 10 years
2017 Chair: Em Prof Frank Archer	Professor Gerry FitzGerald Professor in Public Health and Director, Centre for Disaster and Emergency Management, Queensland University of Technology	EMERGENCY AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT IN AUSTRALIA: A framework and standards for higher education providers
2016 (MUARC) Chair: A/Prof Jude Charlton	Dr John Bates Director, Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience	RISK / REFORM / RESILIENCE: A way forward for all Australians to strengthen their capacity and build resilience in the event of unexpected emergency events.
2015 Chair: A/Prof Jude Charlton	Dr Caroline Spencer Academic co-ordinator, MUDRI	AUSTRALIA'S FIRST COMPENDIUM OF COMMUNITY-LED RESILIENCE INITIATIVES: Background and analysis: Implications for emergency management in Victoria Formal Launch of Compendium
2014 Chair: Prof Lesley Day	Mr Michael Bourne Manager, Research and Evaluation, Communities and Communication, Country Fire Authority	BUILDING A STRATEGIC EVIDENCE BASE: The CFA/MIRI collaboration
2013 Chair: Prof Rod McClure	Ms Claire Zara & Ms Debra Parkinson Women's Health Goulburn North East	RISKY RESEARCH: Creating opportunities for change
2012 (MIRI) Chair: Prof Rod McClure	Mr Tony Pearce Executive Director, Security and Emergency Management, Department of Transport	THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT IN AUSTRALIA: Influences, directions, challenges and opportunities
2011 Chair: Prof Frank Archer	Mr Justin Dunlop Manager, Emergency Management, Ambulance Victoria	PARAMEDICS AS DISASTER HEALTH COMMANDER: A new horizon
2010 Chair: Prof Frank Archer	Mr Dudley McArdle Former, Senior Technical Advisor, Health Emergencies Unit, World Health Organisation, Geneva	INTERNATIONAL RESPONSES
2009 Chair: Prof Frank Archer	Mr Paul Holman General Manager, Emergency Management, Ambulance Victoria	THE SUMMER OF 2008/09: Fires and heat
2008 Chair: Prof Frank Archer	Mr Craig Lapsley Director, Emergency Management, Department of Human Services	HEALTH RESPONSE – STATE LEVEL REVIEW OF STATE HEALTH EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN (SHERP)
2007 Chair: A/Prof Frank Archer	Prof Michael Toole Head, International Health Unit, Burnett Institute & Monash University	INTERNATIONAL HEALTH IN THE DISASTER SETTING
2006 (DCEHPP) Chair: A/Prof Frank Archer	Prof Frederick M Burkle Jr Senior Fellow and Scientist, Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, Harvard School of Public Health	GLOBALIZATION & GLOBAL PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES