

# CENTER FOR NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS SEMINAR

## *Planning to Ensure Safety at Biological Research Facilities*

### **Kelly Stefano Cole, PhD**

*Associate Director, Regional Biocontainment Laboratory*

*Associate Professor, Department of Immunology*

### **Daniel J. Fisher**

*Assistant Vice Chancellor, Research Operations*

*University of Pittsburgh*

**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012  
**Time:** 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Reception to follow)  
**Location:** 5<sup>th</sup> floor Alumni Hall – Room 532

#### **SUMMARY**

Cole and Fisher will offer a variation of a highly successful briefing they have presented to national audiences. Cole will approach biosafety from a scientific perspective, and Fisher will approach this topic from an engineering control and design standpoint. Among the items they will cover are the differences between various biosafety levels, especially Bio-Safety Levels (BSL) 3 and 4, and the associated challenges of containment at each level.

#### **BIOSKETCHES**

**Kelly Stefano Cole** is Associate Professor of Immunology and the Associate Director of the Regional Biocontainment Laboratory. She has over 20 years of experience working in BSL-3 facilities and has directed several such multi-use facilities in and out of Pittsburgh. Experienced in the use, storage and inventory of select agents, she has consulted for the Allegheny County Department of Health and other organizations. Cole's knowledge of how to handle medical emergencies in the pre-hospital setting has allowed her to serve as a volunteer infectious disease expert for ambulance squads. Cole received her Ph.D. in Immunology in 1994 from the University of Pennsylvania. Her specialty is humoral immunity to HIV/SIV and emerging infections. Dr. Cole is Chair of the NIH/NIAD, NBL/RBL Directors Committee, and published on topics such as comparing animal and human disease transmission, as well as on facility-specific BSL-3 topics including facility management and operations, training, commissioning and recertification, and emergency response. She has led development of policies and procedures for University biological research, and is nationally recognized for her expertise in the management and operation of biocontainment facilities.

**Daniel J. Fisher** is an Assistant Vice Chancellor of Research Operations for the Department of Facilities Management, and is responsible for the oversight of all research buildings at the University. He has more than 25 years of experience in the design and construction of many research projects on Pitt's Oakland campus, including those housed in the new, state-of-art Biomedical Science Tower 3 and 4 ABSL3/BSL3 laboratories. Fisher's background in engineering and research operations brings unique strengths to projects such as the Regional Biocontainment Laboratory and other BSL-3 facilities, as these facilities require a fine balance between safety and security and practicality for daily work. Fisher is Chair of the NIH/NIAD, NBL/RBL Operations Committee, and member of the ANSI Z9.14 Committee for Testing and Performance Verification Methodologies of BSL-3 Laboratories. Recognized for his expertise in the design, construction, commissioning and operation of containment facilities, he often presents at national and international conferences.