



February 11, 2002

The Honorable Steve Buyer  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations  
Committee on Veterans' Affairs  
United States House of Representatives  
337A Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Buyer:

In reference to your letter dated January 10, 2002, I can provide you with the following information in response to his questions regarding my testimony to the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations on November 14, 2001.

1. *When was "First Contact, First Response" first drafted and when was it implemented?*

The "First Contact, First Response" plan was drafted soon after the events of September 11 and the subsequent bioterrorism incidents. It was formally announced on November 1, 2001, at a press conference with Senators Bill Frist and Edward Kennedy, and representatives of the American Medical Association, the American Nurses Association, and the American Public Health Association.

2. *In your testimony, you mentioned that several schools offer specific "elective courses" related to emergency preparedness. Please provide the Subcommittee with a list of these schools. Since September 11, do you believe all medical schools should offer these courses?*

As of November 1, 2001, ten medical schools had specific coursework related to bioterrorism and/or emergency preparedness. These schools are listed below:

- University of Mississippi School of Medicine
- University of Nevada School of Medicine
- University of Texas-Galveston Medical School
- University of Texas-Houston Medical School

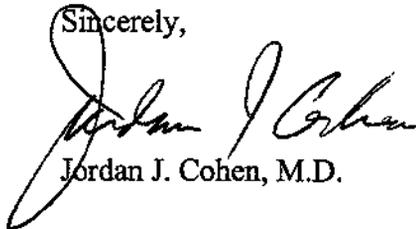
- University of South Alabama College of Medicine
- University of Oklahoma College of Medicine
- University of Wisconsin School of Medicine
- Howard University School of Medicine
- Eastern Virginia Medical School
- Uniformed Services University School of Medicine

Since September 11, the majority of medical schools have added or emphasized bioterrorism and/or emergency preparedness instruction into their existing curriculum. On November 28, the AAMC convened the representatives of medical specialty, medical education, nursing, public health and scientific organizations to develop a collective educational response to biological, radiation, and chemical terrorism.

In an effort to assist the enhancement of educational materials on bioterrorism and/or emergency preparedness in medical schools, the AAMC will convene a panel of experts to provide guidance to medical schools on the relevant content and teaching methods.

I hope that I have provided you with the necessary information. If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact Michael Whitcomb, M.D., on my staff at 202-828-0505 or <[mwhitcomb@aamc.org](mailto:mwhitcomb@aamc.org)>.

Sincerely,



Jordan J. Cohen, M.D.