

**Dr. Nicole Lurie's e-mail, forwarded to all MRC leaders on 1/5/2015**

I'd like to welcome, officially, the entire Medical Reserve Corps network to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response.

In ASPR, we take great pride in building resilience and strengthening health security in our communities. We want health to withstand all types of hazards, from natural disasters to emerging infectious diseases, and we recognize that our nation's readiness depends in large part on having strong, day-to-day systems. With your focus on public health every day and your support for communities in times of need, the MRC network fits perfectly into the ASPR family.

Already, MRC contributes to resilience and health security in many ways. MRC units have been working to educate community members on Ebola and help state and local health departments respond to public concern. Year after year, you support influenza vaccination clinics. You sponsor community-wide training events on preparedness, and so much more. The relationship forged with the Office of the Surgeon General adds value to ASPR's mission and your support system grows in this transition to ASPR.

MRC's community connections, fostered over the past 12 years, are appreciated and admired within ASPR. MRC brings an outstanding history of service, dedication and volunteerism. I know I speak for the rest of ASPR in saying that we are proud and excited to have MRC join our ASPR family. Welcome home!

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