



US CONGRESS 2014

# Ebola - America's Preparedness

## Academic Medicine At Its Best

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# Ebola - America's Preparedness

## Academic Medicine At Its Best

- Why Nebraska? The history of the BCU
- Team structure, development & function
- Our early reflections on the experience
- How we create enduring preparedness

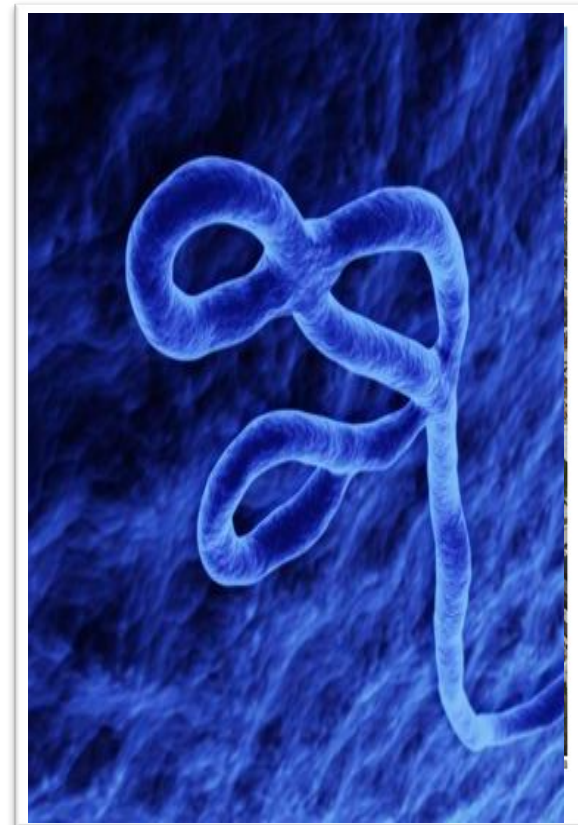


# Academic Health Centers

**Academic Health Centers  
are the best combination:**

- **Relevant Educational Programs**
- **Groundbreaking Discovery**
- **World-Class Health Care Delivery**
- **Broad Community Engagement**
- **Medical Readiness to Respond**

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# UNMC BCU: Why Nebraska?

- Centrally located in the US
- US Strategic Command
- Univ Affil Res Center - WMD
- Proximity to the Offutt AFB
- Proximity to Eppley airport
- Health Sciences State University Campus
- Hub of AHC Core Teaching Hospital System
- Home of Diagnostic State Clinical Laboratory



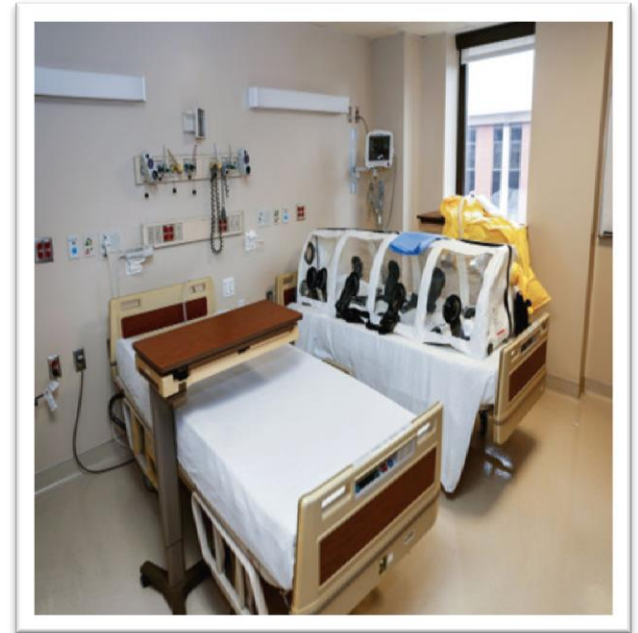
# History of the UNMC BCU

- **Completed in 2005 following the 9/11, WMD & SARS concerns.**
- **Ten fully supported beds, the largest facility in the US.**
- **Located within The Nebraska Medical Center, a hub hospital of Nebraska Medicine and with the Bio-Safety Level III Lab.**
- **A joint project of Nebraska Medicine, Nebraska Health and Human Services, and the University of Nebraska Medical Center.**



# History of the UNMC BCU

- **Commissioned as Federal Asset by the CDC & the Military in 2005.**
- **Provides first line of treatment & research for bioterrorism or naturally occurring extremely infectious diseases.**
- **Fully equipped & staffed to safely care for anyone exposed to a wide range of highly contagious and dangerous diseases.**



# UNMC BCU Team Composition

**46-member long standing core team of dedicated health care professional volunteers from the medical center and the university:**

- **22 Nurses**
- **8 Resp Therapists**
- **6 Care Techs**
- **10 Physicians**
  - **Infect Disease**
  - **Critical Care**
  - **Anesthesia**
  - **Pediatrics**
- **Many additional volunteers since Ebola outbreak in Africa, some trained & added to the team**
- **Many others are critical but not on the core team (>100)**



# UNMC BCU Team Development

- **Team meets monthly to review policy, procedures, staff training and global infectious threats**
- **Team drills quarterly since 2005 with community first-responders, DOH, etc.**
- **Core team fully engaged & emotionally supported**
- **Ongoing research changes policy and practice frequently**
- **Communicates with the public & multiple national officials regarding status & readiness**





# UNMC BCU Team Connectivity

## Federal:

CDC  
DOD / DOS  
DOHHS / ASPR  
Ebola Czar  
FDA / FAA / FBI  
USAMRIID  
US Congress  
US-AID  
STRATCOM  
WHO

...and more!

## State:

Governor  
DOHHS  
Legislature  
County DOH  
City DOH  
Sheriff / PD  
EMS

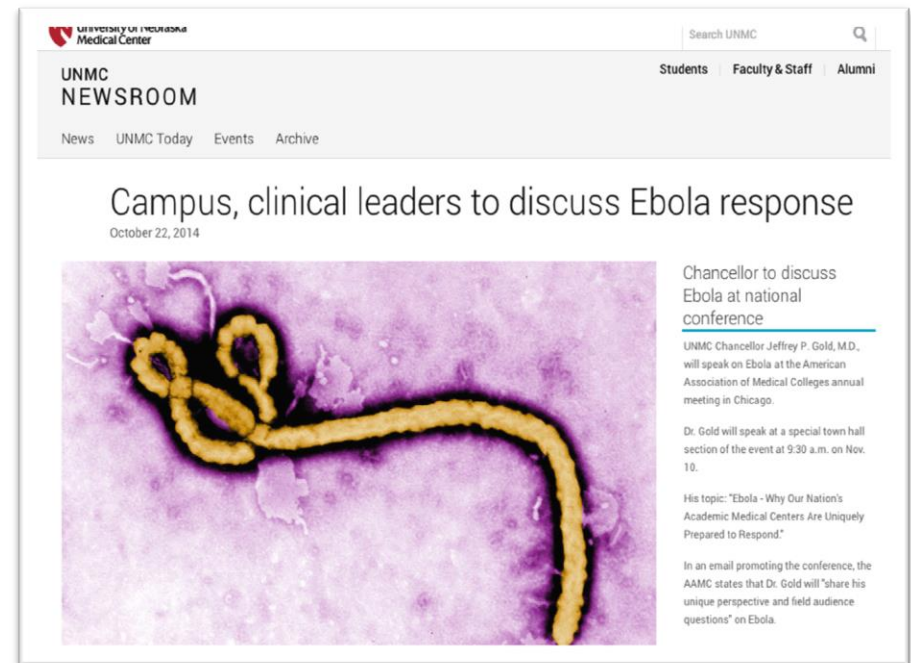
## AHC's:

Emory Univ  
NIH BCU  
NYC HHC  
Others (Many)



# U.S. Biocontainment Capacity

- **4 Existing BCU's with a total capacity of 16 beds (10 in Nebraska)**
- **More capacity & more facilities needed**
- **Most hospitals lacking expertise in highly infectious disease treatment**
- **National standardized training in highly infectious disease and facility assessment urgently needed**



# BCU System Activation

- Staff available 24 X 7 to evaluate or receive pts.
- Ongoing rigorous training insures ability to act with competence and instill true confidence
- Communicate process and progress of team
- Reassurance of the curious & fearful clearly & frequently through multimedia approach



# Public & Media Awareness

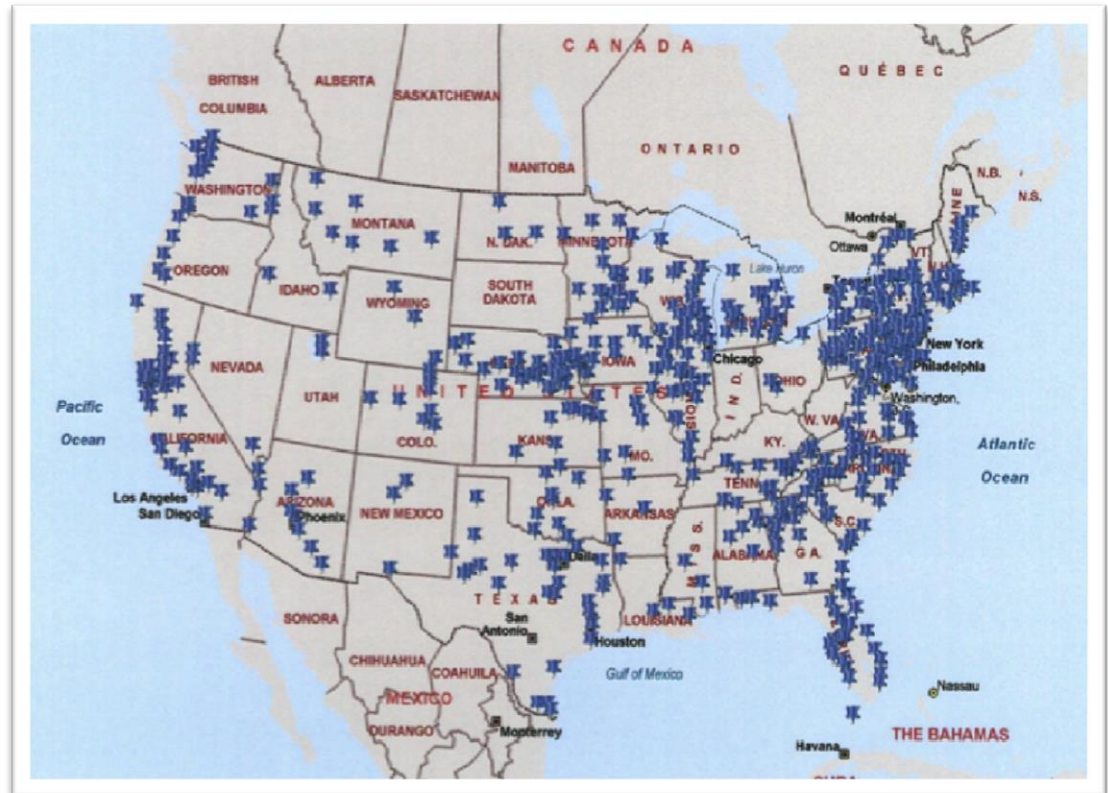
- Very wide & high volume global media reach

- Full IC roles

- Media team

- Briefings
- Statements
- Interviews
- Images
- Posts/Tweets

- Engages all community concerns

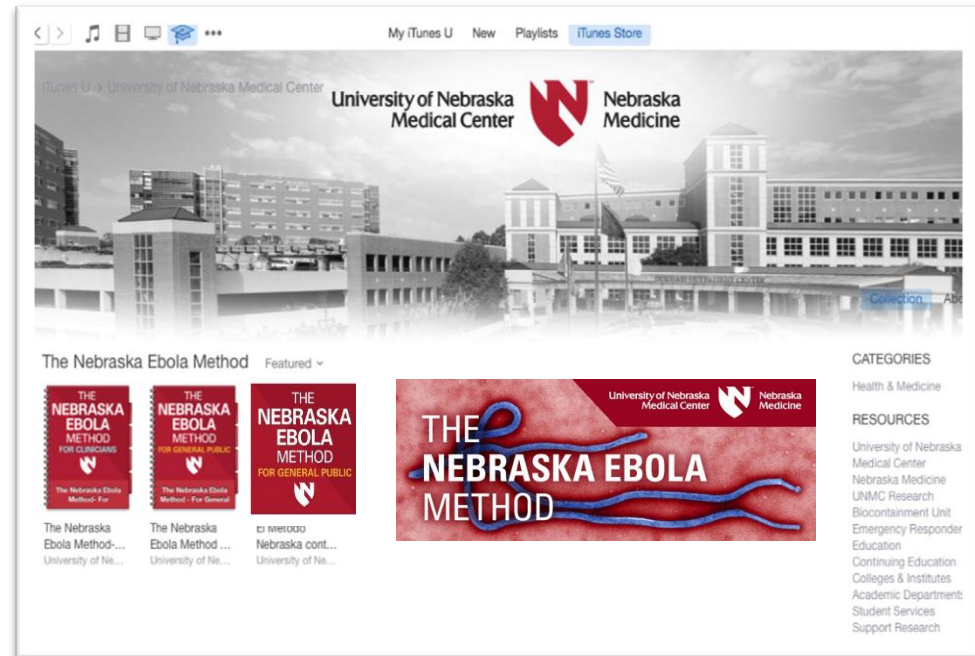


- Monitors national & local media continuously



# Local ... to ... Global Education

- Huge demand
- Multimedia approach
- ALL free content
- Just in time learning
- Subscription and engagement user tracking with CME
- Formal academic curriculum based
- Multi-audience focused for public, & health care professionals / facilities



<https://itunesu.itunes.apple.com/enroll/FDL-BXP-WTF>





# Lessons Learned - UNMC BCU

- A decade of planning and practice matters
- A prototypical example of teamwork and trust
- Partnerships with worldwide & US resources are key – can't be done alone – stay connected
- Clear, frequent & accurate communication is key
- Every tiny detail of care and logistics matters
- A truly organization-wide effort – all are in
- An expensive and as yet un-reimbursed effort





# Lessons Learned - UNMC BCU

- **Public and political opinions have an impact**
- **There are predicted & unpredicted personal & organizational risks - at many levels**
- **Expect the unexpected, stuff just happens**
- **A true test of the leadership of academic medicine in America – at a critical time for the US**
- **Together, we are up to this global challenge & those which will surely follow.**





# Sustainable National Readiness

- **Training for hospitals & teams on Highly Infectious Diseases is essential (UNMC & Emory - HHS/CDC Effort)**
- **Reimbursement for lost revenue and unrecovered costs of preparedness is essential**
- **Independent national BCU Accreditation Program to ensure training and skill levels are maintained**
- **Expansion of current BCU facilities & add others**
- **Create national registries of patients & contacts**
- **Establish an enhanced triage & communication system of core hospitals for transfers & consults**
- **Funds for expedited research and clinical trials**





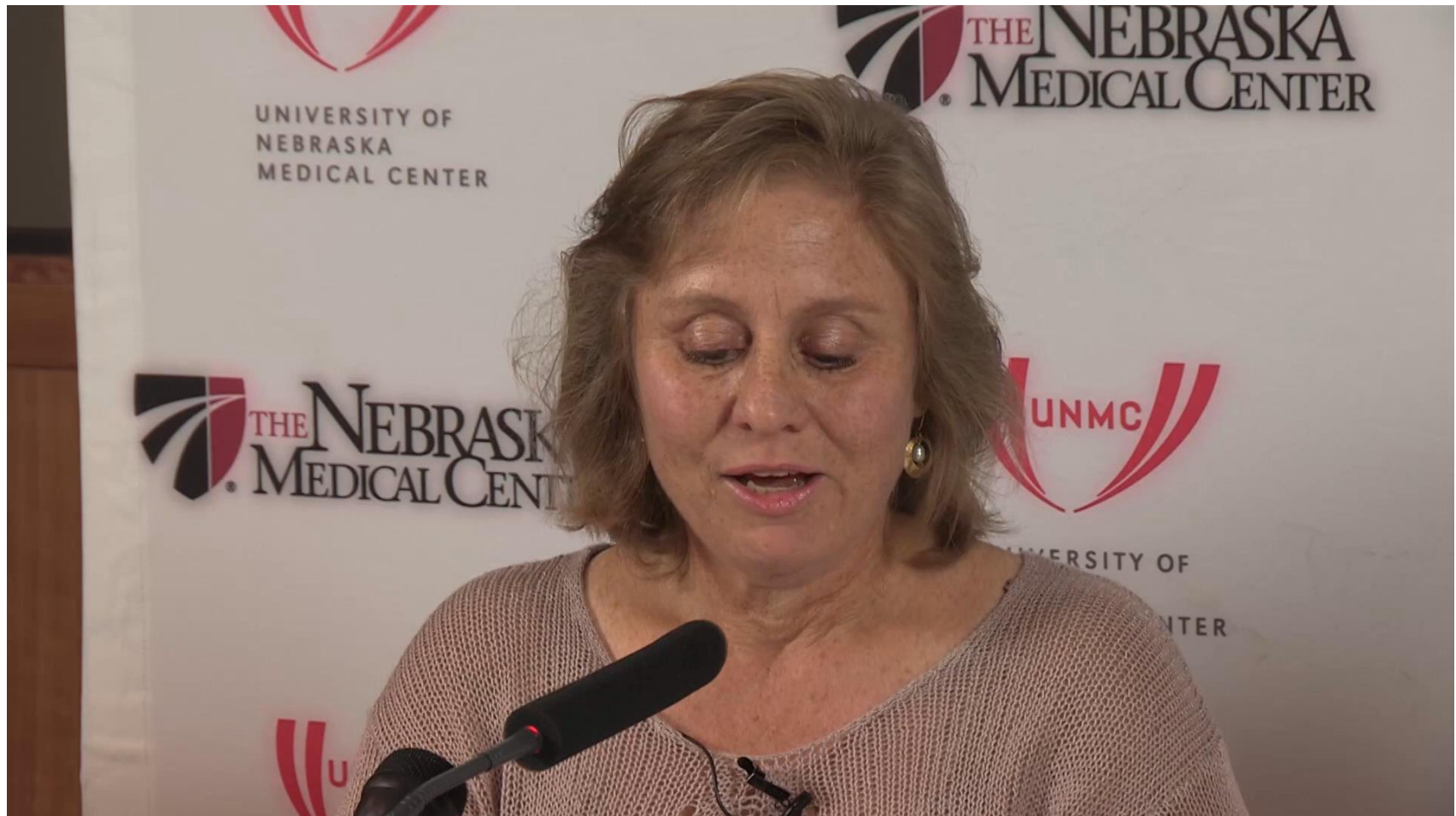
University of Nebraska  
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**....and what it's really ALL about!**



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