

Critical Issues in Writing About Bioterrorism Panelist Biographies

Victoria Riskin is President of the Writers Guild of America, west. Her writing career began with adapting the novel *My Antonia* for which she won the World Media Award Silver Medal for Screenwriting. She was the executive producer of the television films *The Last Best Year*, which won awards from two psychological associations, *A Town Torn Apart*, which won a Christopher Award and the cable film *The Member of the Wedding*. She also co-produced the miniseries *World War II: When Lions Roared* for which she and her producing partner received the Outstanding Producers of the Year Award from the Producers Guild of America. The miniseries won one Emmy and received six nominations.

Jeffrey Koplan, M.D., M.P.H., is the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, an assistant surgeon general and the Administrator of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. His career began at the CDC as an Epidemic Intelligence Officer. He worked in the Smallpox Eradication Program, chaired the U.S. Public Health Service Executive Committee on AIDS and served as the executive secretary of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. He also served as the first director of the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion at CDC. While serving in the Public Health Service Commissioned Corps he received the Distinguished Service Award, the highest award given. In 1984, he led the U.S. team investigating the Bhopal chemical disaster in India.

Neal Baer, M.D., is executive producer and a writer of the series *Law and Order: Special Victims Unit*. Until October 2000, he was executive producer of the series *ER* for which he was nominated for four production Emmys. He was nominated for two writing Emmys for two *ER* episodes, one of which also garnered him a Writers Guild nomination. Before that, one of his *China Beach* episodes was nominated by the WGA. He directed and wrote an award-winning *ABC Afterschool Special* about sexually transmitted diseases and currently writes for teens on health issues. He serves on the board of such organizations as the Venice Family Clinic and the National Organization of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. He is a member of the Board of Associates at the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research.

Stephen Ostroff, M.D., is the associate director for Epidemiologic Sciences in the National Center for Infectious Diseases at the CDC. He is responsible for the quality of NCID's epidemiologic science and coordinates its outbreak investigations. He also assists in coordinating emerging infectious disease programs, including bioterrorism, food safety and antimicrobial resistance activities. He was the lead onsite investigator for the recent anthrax cases in New York City. In 2000, he was the coordinator of West Nile virus activities for the Department of Health and Human Services. In 1999, he temporarily served as CDC's deputy director for Science and Public Health. He is president of the Armed Forces Epidemiology Board of the Department of Defense and a special advisor to the President, International Society of Travel Medicine. He is also a fellow of the Infectious Disease Society of America, and a member of the American Society of Microbiology, American Epidemiological Society and the New York Academy of Sciences.

Michael Frost Beckner is the creator, writer and executive producer of the television series *The Agency*. He also wrote the screenplay for the 2001 film *Spy Game*, starring Robert Redford and Brad Pitt. His upcoming projects include *Official Assassins*, a Cold War thriller to be directed by Paul Verhoeven, an adaptation of John Le Carre's novel *The Night Manager*, and his original screenplay *The Third Fate* - the last two projects continuing a long-time association with Sydney Pollack. He is currently writing and co-producing *The Book of Honor* for TNT.