

NSU-COM Receives HRSA Bioterrorism Grants

In September 2004, Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine's (NSU-COM) Center for Bioterrorism and All-hazards Preparedness (CBAP) took another step toward statewide preeminence when it received two U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grants. These grants target interdisciplinary bioterrorism and all-hazards preparedness curriculum development and continuing education.

A 3-year, continuing education grant will help NSU-COM train practicing health professionals in a variety of health care disciplines who are located throughout South Florida. NSU-COM also will be partnering with neighboring Broward Community College (BCC) through a subcontract to provide additional training to health professionals who require two years or less to earn their professional degrees. James Howell, M.D., M.P.H., Professor and Chair of the Department of Rural Medicine, has been designated to serve as project director of the grant.

A second 3-year grant will assist the CBAP to plan, develop, and provide curricula that prepare health professional students in a variety of disciplines to work as a coordinated team in the all-hazards events. Training will include discussions provided by experts in the field, case studies, and responses to events simulating actual events. Students will be evaluated through the use of a series of scenarios employing trained people who—in a standardized way—simulate casualties that could occur in the event of terrorist acts or natural disasters. Leonard Levy, D.P.M., M.P.H., Associate Dean for Education, Planning and Research, and Director of CBAP has been designated to serve as project director of the grant.