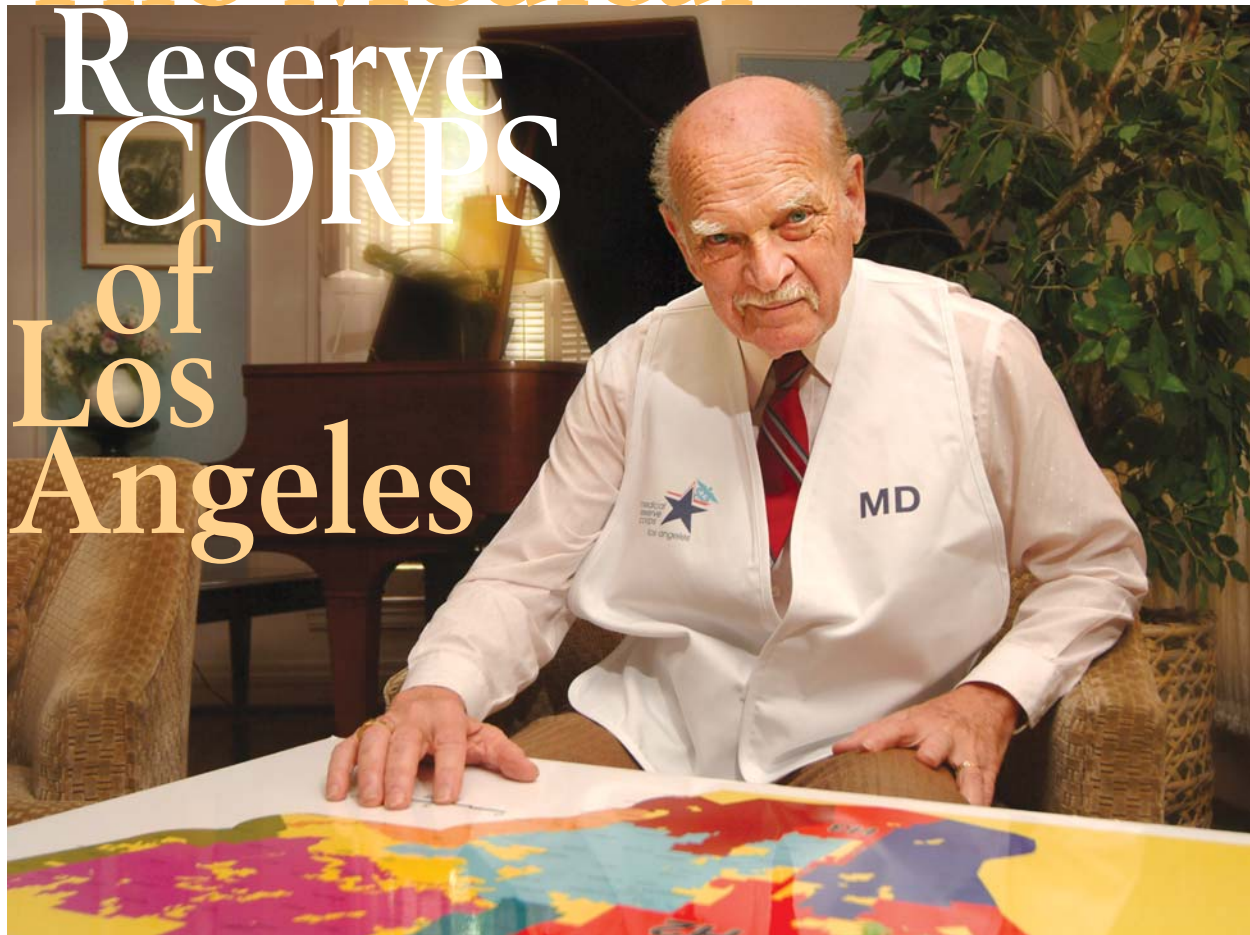


ALUMNUS, LONG-
TIME FACULTY
MEMBER AND
RETIRED PHYSICIAN
RAYMOND D.
GOODMAN IS
MOBILIZING OTHER
RETIRED HEALTH
CARE PROVIDERS
TO HELP THE
COUNTY PREPARE
FOR THE WORST.

The Medical Reserve CORPUS of Los Angeles



Readying Reinforcements to Assist in an Emergency

“I left private practice because I wanted to extend my services to communities rather than individuals, which is what public health is all about. I’m now able to do that. It’s been very rewarding.”

—Dr. Raymond D. Goodman

When he retired after 30 years as a physician in private practice, Raymond D. Goodman (M.D., M.P.H. '72) wanted to apply his skills differently – serving communities rather than patients. A member of the school's Alumni Hall of Fame (see page 15) who has also been on the faculty of the UCLA schools of public health and medicine since 1950 – he is currently an adjunct associate professor in the School of Public Health – Goodman was searching for a way to make a greater impact than he ever could from treating individual patients.

In November 2002, as he listened to a lecture on the public health response to the bioterrorist threat given by Dr. Ralph Frerichs, professor of epidemiology at the school, Goodman decided how he wanted to fulfill that goal. “The talk was not about what happens when several letters containing anthrax are distributed through the mail, but what might occur if there was an attack in Los Angeles with close to 200,000 casualties,” Goodman recalls.

Goodman was so impressed by the magnitude of such a disaster and the strain it would put on the area's emergency response systems that he began to think about recruiting retired physicians and nurses who would be prepared to

serve as auxiliary responders. He raised the idea with Dr. Linda Rosenstock, dean of the UCLA School of Public Health, who put Goodman in touch with Dr. Robert Kim-Farley, a professor at the school who at the time was also consulting with the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services on its bioterrorism preparedness program.

“We were in the process of looking into how we would have a group that could help support some of our activities under a surge-capacity need following a bioterrorist attack or other emergency,” notes Kim-Farley, who now serves as director of communicable disease control and prevention for the county, with responsibilities that include bioterrorism preparedness. “We saw this as a very welcomed resource, especially in a time of great staffing need that would occur in an emergency setting.”

So, with the county’s support, Goodman started the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) of Los Angeles. Goodman obtained the names and addresses of retired physicians, nurses and physician assistants from the registry boards in medicine and nursing, and sent approximately 7,000 letters soliciting participation. More than 500 volunteers have enlisted. The organization was recognized by the U.S. Office of the Surgeon General as part of the national Medical Reserve Corps, founded in 2002 to establish local teams of volunteers to strengthen the public health infrastructure and emergency preparedness.

The MRC of Los Angeles has developed protocols in three categories:

Mobilize – recruit, enlist, educate and train;

Alert – communicate via the chain of command, call to duty, and identify the nature of the disaster; and

Deploy – assign the designated team(s) to the specified location(s) of the disaster.

The training program prepares volunteers for cooperation with community emergency response teams and disaster medical assistance teams, including police and fire departments; to participate in any community-based vaccination program and interview and identify those deemed appropriate to receive immunization according to the guidelines specified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and to participate in the distribution of medications from pharmaceutical stockpiles in accord with guidelines provided by the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services.

Goodman has also created an Interfaith Bereavement Council consisting of clergy from all major faiths and denominations who will be trained to provide spiritual assistance to those who are experiencing grief as a consequence of a disaster. Goodman has personally met with and received the endorsements of clergy from all major faiths, and has already

recruited more than 100 to serve. Most recently, the MRC of Los Angeles has added a new component to its mission, providing public education programs on disaster preparedness.

For Goodman, the Medical Reserve Corps of Los Angeles has been a labor of love. “I’ve worked 24/7 on this for going on three years, with no pay,” he says, without a trace of regret.

He has been assisted by more than two dozen consultants, including School of Public Health faculty members Jonathan Fielding, Frerichs, and Steven Rottman, director of the UCLA Center for Public Health and Disasters, which hosts a Web site for the MRC of Los Angeles (www.cphd.ucla.edu/mrc/).

Kim-Farley, who serves as the organization’s associate medical director, says Goodman has provided an invaluable service. “Dr. Goodman is a strong partner in the county health department effort to protect the citizens of Los Angeles in the event of



Then-Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge met with Goodman during a June 2004 visit to Los Angeles.

a bioterrorist attack or other public health emergency,” Kim-Farley says. “We have greatly appreciated his visionary leadership and the energy he has brought in working with our bioterrorism preparedness staff.” Goodman has also received national recognition: When then-Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge visited Los Angeles in June 2004, he met with Goodman to discuss some of the unique threats facing Los Angeles, preparation efforts, and the role of the MRC in assisting.

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