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Presentation Title:	<b>Beyond Decontamination: A trauma-Informed Approach to CBRN and Terrorism Preparedness</b>
Presentation Abstract	<p>Pediatric decontamination is a critical yet frequently overlooked component of emergency preparedness across the hazard spectrum, including chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear (CBRN) terrorism incidents and other high-impact emergencies involving children. While existing decontamination protocols emphasize speed, contamination control, and responder safety, they often fail to address the distinct developmental, emotional, and psychological needs of pediatric patients. This gap is especially consequential in terrorism-related events, where fear, uncertainty, separation from caregivers, and perceived threats are amplified. When these needs are un-met, children may experience distress that interferes with decontamination and increases the risk of long-term psychological harm and loss of trust in healthcare and emergency response systems.</p> <p>This presentation describes a trauma-informed framework for pediatric decontamination that considers terrorism-related threats while remaining applicable to all-hazards response. The approach integrates principles from child psychology, pediatric medicine, emergency management, and CBRN response to prioritize emotional safety and resilience alongside physical protection. Central to the framework are two immersive, child-friendly thematic models, space exploration and under-the-sea adventure, embedded within the environment and staff communication strategies to reframe decontamination as a supportive experience.</p> <p>Feasibility and acceptability were evaluated through focus groups with children and caregivers, resulting in scalable, evidence-informed guidance for hospitals and responders.</p>
3 learning objectives that will be presented:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.) Describe the unique physical and psychological vulnerabilities of pediatric patients during decontamination following CBRN terrorism and other high-impact emergency events and explain how these vulnerabilities differ from adult populations.</li> <li>2.) Identify key principles of the trauma-informed pediatric decontamination framework, including strategies that promote emotional safety, caregiver engagement, and developmental appropriateness during terrorism-related and all-hazards responses.</li> <li>3.) Evaluate the application of child-friendly thematic approaches, such as immersive narrative design and trauma-informed communication, as scalable interventions to improve pediatric and caregiver experiences while maintaining operational effectiveness in decontamination operations.</li> </ol>
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Speaker Title:	Director of Safety and Emergency Management
Speaker Organization Name:	Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital
Speaker 2 Name:	Dr. Jennifer Katzenstein

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Speaker Bios	<p><b>Travis Christopher Witt</b></p> <p>Travis Witt has dedicated decades to safety, emergency response, and operational resilience. He serves as Director of Safety and Emergency Management at Johns Hopkins All Children’s Hospital and is a retired Lieutenant with Saint Petersburg Fire Rescue. During his fire service career, he held roles including Safety and Training Officer, Rescue Lieutenant, and Emergency Management Officer. A trained paramedic with HazMat experience, Travis managed complex responses to large-scale incidents. He also served as Planning Section Chief for major planned and unplanned events and continues to advance innovative, evidence-based safety practices in healthcare</p> <p><b>Dr. Jennifer Katzenstein</b></p> <p>Jennifer M. Katzenstein, PhD, ABPP-CN is a board-certified pediatric neuropsychologist, Co-Director of Center for Behavioral Health, Director of Psychology, Neuropsychology, and Social Work at Johns Hopkins All Children’s Hospital and an Associate Professor of Clinical Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. She was inducted into the Miller Coulson Academy of Clinical Excellence in 2023 and she is the 2020 winner of the Service and Professionalism Award at Johns Hopkins All Children’s Hospital and a national and international speaker on topics ranging from mental health of children to physician wellbeing, speaking most recently in Dubai and Latin America.</p>