

Greetings from USAMRIID (<http://www.usamriid.army.mil/index.htm>)

Dear Colleague

Thank you for your interest in the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases (USAMRIID). As you view the information presented here, I think you will be impressed with our research accomplishments and with the caliber of our scientific staff.

Since its inception in 1969, USAMRIID has spearheaded research to develop medical solutions—vaccines, drugs, diagnostics, and information—to protect our service members from biological threats. Our unique capabilities include biosafety level-3 and -4 laboratories, world-class expertise in the generation of biological aerosols for testing candidate vaccines and therapeutics, and fully accredited animal research facilities.

Some people know USAMRIID by our continuing involvement in supporting investigations of emerging diseases throughout the world. Our colleagues at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the World Health Organization, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and other agencies know us as a reference laboratory that sets the standard for identification of biological agents. Our customers in the Army and the Department of Defense know us as a “tech base” organization that has produced some 20 candidate medical products over the past decade. Still others recognize the impressive scientific credentials of our workforce, which represents some of the top infectious disease and biological defense experts in the Nation—indeed, in the world.

As the United States enters a new era of civilian biodefense research, it is also clear that USAMRIID plays a critical role in the status of our country’s preparedness for biological terrorism and biological warfare. While our primary mission is to protect the warfighter, our research benefits civilians as well—a fact that was amply demonstrated by the events of fall 2001.

USAMRIID is looking forward to continued collaborations with industry partners and with other agencies, including the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and the Department of Homeland Security, to develop medical countermeasures that will protect all of our citizens, both military and civilian. I’m excited about our future and confident that together, we can accomplish great things.

Welcome to USAMRIID—the birthplace of medical biodefense.

Sincerely yours,

**Erik A. Henchal
Colonel, Medical Service Corps
Commanding (2004)**