

PATRICK O'CARROLL, MD, MPH, FACPM, FACMI is the Regional Health Administrator for Region X (AL, ID, OR, and WA) of the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS). As Regional Health Administrator, Dr. O'Carroll serves as the region's senior physician and scientist representing the U.S. Secretary of Health and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. He began this assignment in January 2003.

Dr. O'Carroll received his medical degree and his Masters in Public Health from Johns Hopkins University in 1983. After training in family practice and preventive medicine, he joined CDC as an Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer. Initially assigned to work in the area of violence epidemiology, Dr. O'Carroll later led the epidemiology research unit for the prevention of suicide and violence at CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. He was elected as a Fellow of the American College of Preventive Medicine in 1988.

In 1992, Dr. O'Carroll began working in the nascent field of public health informatics. He co-led the development of *CDC WONDER* (an innovative computer system providing global access to CDC's epidemiologic data) and was lead scientist on the CDC Prevention Guidelines Database project. Dr. O'Carroll developed the nation's first training course and first (and only) textbook in public health informatics. As Associate Director for Health Informatics at CDC's Public Health Practice Program Office, he defined, developed and directed CDC's national Health Alert Network program. Under Dr. O'Carroll's leadership, the Health Alert Network grew from an idea into a \$50 million annual investment in national public health information and communications infrastructure, and became established as a critical component of the nation's defense against bioterrorism. He was elected as a Fellow of the American College of Medical Informatics in 2004.

During his 20 years with CDC and USPHS, as an epidemiologist, informaticist, program director and leader, Dr. O'Carroll has worked in many subject areas on a great variety of health and policy challenges. These include immunization; chronic disease; maternal and child health; environmental health; infectious disease epidemic control; behavioral health; global health and disease surveillance; and bioterrorism preparedness. He has received numerous awards and other recognition for his work, including two Outstanding Service Medals. Dr. O'Carroll holds Affiliate Associate Professor appointments in the Departments of Epidemiology and Health Services at the University of Washington School of Public Health and Community Medicine, and is also Affiliate Associate Professor in the Division of Biomedical and Health Informatics, University of Washington School of Medicine.