

**Genetic/Metabolic Health Care Delivery
During and After
Hurricanes Katrina and Rita**

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Aftermath of Katrina:

- In Louisiana alone,
- >1000 dead
- >100,000 homes lost due to flooding
- Fewer than 70,000 residents now live in New Orleans(prior to the storm, >500,000)
- No public schools open
- 4 private schools open
- 40% of city lacks power, water, gas
- Cell phones, land lines and computers down

For Metabolic/genetic Patients

- How do Drs find each other?
- How do our patients find us?
- How do we obtain lab testing?
- How do we supply formula and Orphan meds?

Immediate solutions:

- **Text messaging works when cell phones don't**
- **Phones in other area codes can call in when 504 is down**
- **Many offers of lab help received: Kehler, Blitzer, Tuchman, Elsas**
- **Parents willingly shared scarce meds with strangers with same Dx as their child**
- **FEMA granted emergency approval to pay for meds**

Long term proposals

- **Communications: 1-800-911-GENE**
- **Orphan Products: Stockpile critical meds for distribution within the disaster area: Urea cycle meds, carnitine, Cystagon, B12, tetrahydrobiopterin**
- **Guaranteed courier service- use Federal or National Guard troops initially**

Long term solutions (Cont'd)

- **Emergency patient instructions- distribute via 1-800-911-GENE**
- **Create a hierarchy of labs and clinicians in all regions willing and trained to respond to such events**