

May C. Chu, PhD



Dr. May C. Chu serves as the Assistant Director of Public Health in the Office for Science and Technology Policy (OSTP)/Executive Office of the President. Dr. Chu brings her expertise in public health, microbiology and laboratory management practices to OSTP from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). At OSTP, she is leading the Ebola Response Science and Technology working group, monitoring the epidemic, diagnostic services, clinical trials, healthcare worker safety and communications. Dr. Chu is also the national review of the Select Agent Regulations in light of the safety and security lapses of USG laboratories in recent months.

From 2004-2010, Dr. Chu was assigned by CDC to the World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva, Switzerland where she was a team member for Global Alert and Response Department (2004-2006) then, from 2007-2010, as team leader for Laboratory Alliances and Biosafety in the International Health Regulations Coordination Department, Health and Security Cluster. Dr. Chu has participated in multiple outbreak responses, field work and has led the building of sustainable laboratory systems in the aftermath of the 2001 US anthrax attack, SARS in China, Lassa fever, Ebola and Marburg virus outbreaks in Africa and pandemic influenza response.

Dr. Chu is passionate about the framing the future of public health services. Public health scientists face unprecedented challenges to direct data collection, perform applied research and maintain quality services as public health funding declines amidst rapid advances in technology and healthcare reform needs. Healthcare reform offers the opportunity and challenge to create an interconnected national health system that could transform surveillance, prediction and mitigation of individual's and community's health risks.

Dr. Chu received her B.S. from Michigan State University majoring in Microbiology and Public Health and her doctorate degree in Tropical Medicine and Medical Microbiology from the John A. Burns School of Medicine, University of Hawaii at Manoa.