



2025 NSRI FELLOWS CONFERENCE

**AGILE DEFENSE: BUILDING
RESILIENCE AGAINST
EMERGING THREATS**

APRIL 16 & 17, 2025

**Nebraska Innovation Campus Conference Center
Lincoln, Nebraska**



**NATIONAL STRATEGIC
RESEARCH INSTITUTE**
at the University of Nebraska

9:00AM **CHECK IN & BREAKFAST**

9:30AM **WELCOME & PROGRAM UPDATE**
BANQUET HALL Dr. Joshua Santarpia, NSRI Science & Technology Advisor

10:00AM **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

ROOM A **Working Group Session: Strategic Deterrence & Nuclear Programs**

SPEAKER
Travis Wood, CAPT, USSTRATCOM J81

MODERATORS
Dr. Michelle Black, NSRI Fellow
Adam Carlstrom, NSRI Research Director

ROOM B **From Early Warning to Action: Advancing Biodefense through Innovation & Collaboration**

SPEAKERS
Dr. Eric Carnes, NSRI Fellow
Jeffrey Nathan, Assistant Program Manager, Joint Program Executive Office for CBRN Defense

MODERATOR
Zach Minter, NSRI Senior Scientist

11:30AM **LUNCH**
BANQUET HALL

12:30PM **PLENARY SESSION**
AUDITORIUM **Decision-Making & Transparent Predictive Analytics for Ethical Artificial Intelligence**



ADDRESS
Dr. Tiffany Prest, Program Manager, DARPA Biological Technologies Office

PANEL
Martin Apprigh, Chief Data Scientist, USSTRATCOM
Allen Geist, NSRI Director
Dr. Mehmet Can Vuran, NSRI Fellow

MODERATORS
Dr. Benjamin Riggan, NSRI Fellow
Paul Brantmier, NSRI Director

2:00PM

AUDITORIUM

DEMONSTRATION SESSION

NSRI Field Operations & Training: Live Rapid WMD Threat Detection & Response

FACILITATORS

Paul Brantmier, NSRI Director

Wes Carter, NSRI Research Director

LTC Christina Krcilek, Commander, 72nd National Guard Civil

Support Team

Daniel Polanski, NSRI Director

Attendee participation is encouraged. Demo will end at 5:00 p.m.

2:15PM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

ROOM A

Leveraging Omics in Drug Development

SPEAKERS

Dr. Sophie Alvarez, Nebraska Center for Biotechnology, UNL

Dr. Rebekah Gundry, Professor and Chair, Department of Cellular &

Integrative Physiology, UNMC

Jason Rodriguez, Directorate Lead, Applied Research Associates

MODERATORS

Dr. Rebecca Oberley-Deegan, NSRI Fellow

Dr. Terry Thiem, NSRI Director

ROOM B

Working Group Session: Wearable Sensors

MODERATORS

Dr. Eric Markvicka, NSRI Fellow

Dr. Tom Mueller, NSRI Research Director

3:45PM

BREAK

4:00PM

BANQUET HALL

KEYNOTE

5:00PM

BANQUET HALL

POSTER & DEMONSTRATION SESSION

Networking and cocktails

6:30PM

END

8:00AM **CHECK IN & BREAKFAST**

8:15AM **DISCUSSION**
ROOM A **National Security Education**

Dr. Joshua Santarpia, NSRI Science & Technology Advisor

8:45AM **PHOTOS**
BANQUET HALL NSRI Fellows & NSRI Staff

9:00AM **WELCOME**
BANQUET HALL Maj. Gen., USAF (Ret.) Rick Evans, NSRI Executive Director

9:10AM **KEYNOTE**
BANQUET HALL



KEYNOTE
Brig. Gen. (Ret.) William King, Principal, Booz Allen

MODERATOR
Marty Sikes, NSRI Associate Executive Director

9:50AM **Insights, Perspectives & Priorities from NSRI**
BANQUET HALL **Associate Executive Directors**

PANEL

Marty Sikes, Chemical & Biological Defense
John Tencer, Operations
Dr. Neal Woollen, CWMD Allied Programs
Dr. Christopher Yeaw, Strategic Deterrence & Nuclear Programs

MODERATOR

Dr. Joshua Santarpia, NSRI Science & Technology Advisor

10:20AM **BREAK**

10:30AM **PLENARY SESSION**
AUDITORIUM **Innovative Technologies to Improve Therapeutic & Prophylactic CBRN Medical Countermeasures**

SPEAKERS

Dr. Benson Edagwa, NSRI Fellow
Sheldon Moberg, Senior VP of Drug Delivery, Bexson Biomedical
Dr. Bradley Norwood, Senior Scientist, DTRA Chemical Medical Countermeasure Development
Brent Walsh, VP of Corporate Development, Bexson Biomedical

MODERATORS

Dr. Rebecca Oberley-Deegan, NSRI Fellow
Dr. Terry Thiem, NSRI Director

12:00PM **LUNCH**
BANQUET HALL

12:30PM

BANQUET HALL

REMARKS

Dr. H. Dele Davies, Interim Chancellor, UNMC

12:45PM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

ROOM A

Working Group Session: Joint Electromagnetic Spectrum Operations



FEATURED SPEAKER

Dr. James Stewart, Department Chief Scientist, Spectrum Warfare Systems, Naval Surface Warfare Center Crane Division

MODERATORS

Dr. Mehmet Can Vuran, NSRI Fellow
Allen Geist, NSRI Director

ROOM B

Working Group Session: Chemical Defense

MODERATORS

Dr. Rebecca Lai, NSRI Fellow
Daniel Van Buren, NSRI Senior Scientist

2:15PM

BREAK

2:30PM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

ROOM A

CWMD Innovation Strategy

MODERATOR

Dillon Cunningham, NSRI Research Strategy Advisor
Session ends at 4:00pm

ROOM B

Innovations for Building Resilience in Critical Food, Agriculture & Environment Security Infrastructure

PRESENTATIONS, PANEL DISCUSSION & WORKSHOP

Dr. Jamie Barnabei, Emergency Response Coordinator, USDA
Dr. Jesse Bell, NSRI Fellow
Dr. Tod Companion, Senior Science Advisor to the Deputy Undersecretary, DHS Science & Technology Directorate
William Dorman, Bio-Threat Coordinator, USSAMRIID Special Pathogens Laboratory
Dr. Gurudutt Pendyala, NSRI Fellow

MODERATOR

Meghan Jackson, NSRI Director

5:00PM

END