

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY**

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**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Orange County physician appointed to state Commission on EMS**

SACRAMENTO -- Kristi L. Koenig, MD, of Orange County, has been appointed to the Commission on Emergency Medical Services by California Assembly Speaker John A. Pérez.

Koenig is a professor of emergency medicine at the University of California, Irvine, director of UC Irvine's Center for Disaster Medical Sciences, and director of Public Health Preparedness. She is also director of the university's International EMS & Disaster Medical Sciences Fellowship. As a representative of the California Medical Association, Koenig served on the commission in 1998.

An internationally recognized expert and widely published in the fields of homeland security, disaster and emergency medicine, emergency management, and emergency medical services, Koenig and UC Irvine colleague Dr. Carl H. Schultz published *Koenig & Schultz's Disaster Medicine: Comprehensive Principles & Practices* in 2010. The book is the definitive reference in preparing for disasters and is intended for anyone who manages or trains people involved in disaster response, including public health officials, paramedics, hospital staff and medical school students.

Prior to joining the University of California, Koenig held a five-year appointment from the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs as the national director of the federal Emergency Management Strategic Healthcare Group. As principal emergency medicine advisor to the Under Secretary for Health, she led emergency management for the nation's largest integrated healthcare system.

Koenig began her career in EMS during medical school at New York's Mount Sinai School of Medicine when she studied the city's EMS delivery system and collected real-time data during ride-alongs with the Harlem paramedics on Friday and Saturday nights.

"Dr. Koenig has deep experience in EMS management at the local, state and national level and often serves as a consultant for emergency medicine and disaster planning internationally," said Dr. Howard Backer, Director of the Emergency Medical Services Authority. "We welcome her to the EMS Commission and look forward to her input and counsel in this new role."

The Commission on Emergency Medical Services supports the California EMS Authority and local EMS agencies to ensure that patients in California have access to quality emergency medical services, and to ensure the long term stability of these services. The Commission meets quarterly at locations around the state to provide advice to the Director of the California Emergency Medical Services Authority and to approve regulations, standards and guidelines developed by the EMS Authority. For more information about the EMS Commission, please visit <http://www.emsa.ca.gov>.

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A photo of Dr. Koenig is available upon request to [june.iljana@emsa.ca.gov](mailto:june.iljana@emsa.ca.gov)