

Christopher Houchens, Ph.D.
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Dr. Houchens has been with BARDA since 2012 and is currently serving as the Acting Director of BARDA's CBRN Countermeasures Division. His primary focus is building and managing a diverse product portfolio focused on the advanced research, development and procurement of novel vaccines, prophylactics, therapeutics, diagnostics and devices as medical countermeasures against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats. In this role, Dr. Houchens conducts outreach with industry to identify new partnership opportunities and participates on numerous interagency working groups across the US government with the goal of strengthening the ability and capacity of the United States to rapidly respond to naturally occurring and intentionally engineered threats to public health.

Chris received his PhD in Cell and Molecular Biology from the University of Vermont and continued his training as a Research Fellow at Johns Hopkins Medical Institute and as a Staff Scientist at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. Prior to joining BARDA, Chris served as a Senior Scientist at the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency where he managed translational research and development programs to rapidly design, manufacture and evaluate novel medical countermeasures.