

## PLENARY SESSION

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### Welcome & Introduction

Bruce Rodan, Associate Director for Science for the Office of Research and Development |  
*U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*

Dr. Bruce Rodan welcomed everyone to the fourth day of the U.S. EPA's International Decontamination Research and Development Conference. Dr. Rodan noted he has seen first-hand the importance of the research presented in the sessions, which enables society to respond to and recover from chemical, biological, and radiological events, as well as natural disasters.

Dr. Rodan witnessed early-on how ORD worked to develop approaches for decontaminating anthrax, and during his time in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, Dr. Rodan saw EPA apply the expertise to assist in waste decontamination and management in responding to Ebola.

Currently, EPA has been working with federal, state, and local partners to use this accumulated experience in tackling SARS-CoV-2. Dr. Rodan noted collaboration is essential to all these responses and commented how exciting the conference has been this week hearing about the cutting-edge contributions that others are making across all sectors. Dr. Rodan thanked everyone for sharing their knowledge and encouraged everyone to continue the great work. Beyond the immediacy of response and recovery, the research that participants have discussed is also helping society to prepare for the future.

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