

Development of a Disaster Preparedness Interprofessional Education (IPE) Program for Health Profession Students

Edward Jasper, MD, MPH¹, Mary T Bouchaud PhD, MSN, CNS, RN, CRRN², Dale Berg MD¹, Katherine Berg MD¹, John McAna, PhD³ ¹Rector Clinical Skills and Simulation Center, ²Jefferson College of Nursing, ³Jefferson College of Population Health, Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, PA

Introduction

- Despite numerous attacks and threats both in the US and around the world, there is no standardized disaster preparedness curriculum for health profession students
- This project is the development and implementation of an IPE disaster preparedness curriculum with both a mandatory component and additional training as an elective at Thomas Jefferson University (TJU) in Philadelphia
- Upon completion of the elective component, students are Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hospital Emergency Response Team (HERT) certified and become part of the hospital's disaster response and decontamination team

Methods

- The disaster preparedness curricula from the various health profession programs at Jefferson and national program recommendations or requirements for disaster preparedness training were reviewed
- Surveys were sent to program directors at Jefferson to gauge their interest in disaster preparedness training
- A curriculum was developed with both didactic and experiential learning components, including participation in a large scale disaster exercise

Results

Program directors were very supportive of the need to have disaster preparedness training for their students

In addition, the students also believed that this type of training was important

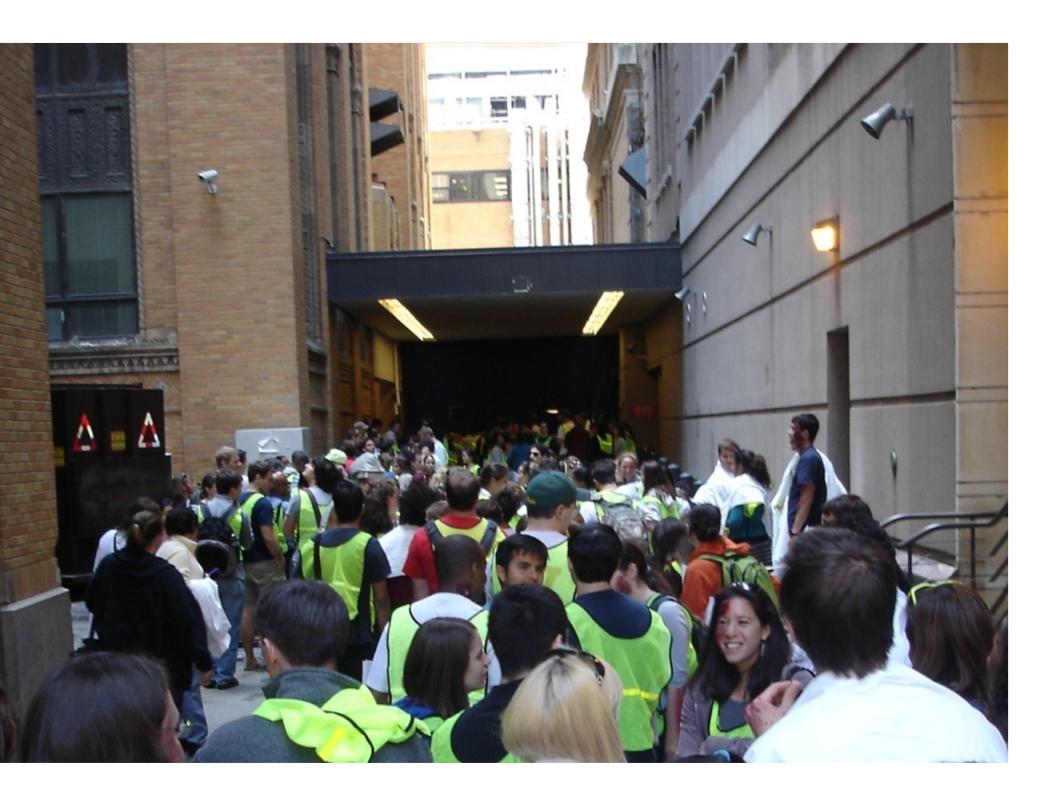
Pretests identified significant knowledge gaps in disaster preparedness and response, and more than half of the 386 surveyed students wanted to volunteer to be part of a disaster response team, requiring additional didactic and simulation training

A HERT team composed entirely of students living on campus was developed and on call for the 2017 July 4th festivities in Philadelphia

Willingness to Volunteer for HERT Team

	Ν	Yes	No	Percent Yes
Medical Students	256	133	123	52
Nursing Students	122	102	20	84
Totals	378	235	143	62





Conclusions/Future Directions

IPE disaster preparedness training is widely supported by both health profession program faculty directors and students

Significant gaps currently exist for health profession student training in this area

Recent natural disasters and terrorist attacks as well as the current threats of attacks further support the need for a national standard IPE program on disaster preparedness

Contact

Edward Jasper, MD, MPH Thomas Jefferson University Email: edward.jasper@jefferson.edu Phone: 215-955-6844