

12-2018

# Rethinking Emergency Response to Mass Casualty Incidents: Disaster Medicine Education and the Role of Medical Students

Claire Zurlo

*Thomas Jefferson University, [claire.zurlo@jefferson.edu](mailto:claire.zurlo@jefferson.edu)*

Edward Jasper, MD, MPH

*Thomas Jefferson University, [edward.jasper@jefferson.edu](mailto:edward.jasper@jefferson.edu)*

## [Let us know how access to this document benefits you](#)

Follow this and additional works at: [https://jdc.jefferson.edu/si\\_phr\\_2021\\_phase1](https://jdc.jefferson.edu/si_phr_2021_phase1) Part of the [Emergency Medicine Commons](#), [Medical Education Commons](#), and the [Public Health Commons](#)

---

## Recommended Citation

Zurlo, Claire and Jasper, Edward, "Rethinking Emergency Response to Mass Casualty Incidents: Disaster Medicine Education and the Role of Medical Students" (2018). SKMC JeffMD Scholarly Inquiry, Phase 1, Project 1.

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Jefferson Digital Commons. The Jefferson Digital Commons is a service of Thomas Jefferson University's [Center for Teaching and Learning \(CTL\)](#). The Commons is a showcase for Jefferson books and journals, peer-reviewed scholarly publications, unique historical collections from the University archives, and teaching tools. The Jefferson Digital Commons allows researchers and interested readers anywhere in the world to learn about and keep up to date with Jefferson scholarship. This article has been accepted for inclusion in Phase 1 by an authorized administrator of the Jefferson Digital Commons. For more information, please contact: [JeffersonDigitalCommons@jefferson.edu](mailto:JeffersonDigitalCommons@jefferson.edu).

Claire Zurlo  
SKMC Class of 2021  
SI PHR Abstract  
December 8, 2018

## **Rethinking Rethinking Emergency Response to Mass Casualty Incidents: Disaster Medicine Education and the Role of Medical Students**

**Introduction:** The threat of a mass casualty incident (MCI) is one that must be taken seriously and for which hospitals must be prepared. In the wake of a disaster, emergency departments are often taxed beyond their ability to handle the demands of incoming traumas. In response to this, Dr. Edward Jasper, an emergency physician at Thomas Jefferson Hospital, designed the Hospital Emergency Response Team (HERT) to alleviate the pressure on the ED during a MCI. The HERT is a team of nursing and medical students who are FEMA trained to respond in the event of a MCI.

**Objective:** The primary objective of this study was to gather feedback from students about the HERT and the training they received as part of the course.

**Methods:** A survey was distributed to 29 students who have been members of the HERT for at least a year. Answers were reported on a modified Likert Scale where 0 corresponds to 'Strongly Disagree', 100 corresponds to 'Strongly Agree' and 50 is 'Neutral'.

**Results:** The response rate was 58.6%. The responses to the statements indicate that the majority of students value being members of the HERT but want to receive more education on disaster medicine.

**Conclusion:** The majority of HERT students believe it is a valuable part of their medical education. Furthermore, the majority of the respondents felt that they would not have received

this education elsewhere in medical school, indicating that there is a desire for more formal disaster medicine education within the traditional curriculum.