

CURRICULUM VITAE
RASA SILENAS, MD, MPH, FACS
Revised 22 Nov 2009

Current Positions

Physician, Wound Care Center, Methodist Health System, San Antonio TX
Physician, Wound Care Center, Southwest General Hospital, San Antonio TX
Consultant, Medical Disaster Preparedness

Education

Univ. of Texas at Houston School of Public Health, MPH, 2006
Wilford Hall Medical Center, Lackland AFB, TX, Plastic Surgery Residency, 1985-1987
Loyola University Medical Center, Maywood IL, General Surgery Residency, 1978-1983
Medical College of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, MD, 1974-1978
Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH, 1970-1974, BA, Biology (Cum Laude)

Medical Licenses

Texas #H9152
South Dakota #1455

Board Certification

American Board of Surgery, May 1984, Certificate # 29690 (inactive)
American Board of Plastic Surgery, 1989 Certificate # 3761

Positions and Honors

2004 – 2006: Medical Director, Texas A&M University System Health Science Center, Office of Homeland Security

2003-2004: Clinical Director, Texas Center for Medical Strategy, Training, and Readiness (TC-MEDSTAR), Brooks City-Base, San Antonio, Texas.

August 1, 2003 Retired from the United States Air Force, Rank of Colonel

2001-2003 Founder, Development Center for Operational Medicine, Brooks City-Base, Texas. Think tank supporting Air Force Surgeon General for future directions for domestic and international medical preparedness. Duties included being the Air Force representative to the following civilian organizations:

Regional Emergency Medical Planning Steering Committee (REMPSC), Founding Member

Regional Medical Operations Center (RMOC)

Regional Emergency Preparedness Action Committee of Alamo Area Council of Governments

Strategic Planning Subcommittee, Chairman (REPAC-SPC)

South Central Emergency Managers' Association

Bexar County Medical Society:

Board of Mediations – 2002 - 2005

Co-Chair, Civilian – Military Liaison Committee, 2001 – 2002

Emergency Preparedness Committee, 1997 - Present
International Health Committee, 1997 – 2002
1997-2000 Chief, Contingency Plans, Wilford Hall Medical Center, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.
1990-1997 Chief Consultant for Plastic Surgery to US Air Force Surgeon General
1990-1997 Chairman and Residency Program Director, Department of Plastic Surgery, Wilford Hall Medical Center, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas
1987-1989 Chief, Plastic Surgery, David Grant Medical Center, Travis Air Force Base, California.
1983-1984 Chief, Emergency Services United States Air Force Hospital, Ellsworth Air Force Base, South Dakota.
1983-1985 General Surgeon, United States Air Force Hospital, Ellsworth Air Force Base, South Dakota, California.

Public Health/Medical Preparedness Experience

2006 April: Development of prototype decision support tool for medical surge capacity strategies

2006 March: Development and implementation of pandemic influenza preparedness exercises for rural hospitals

2006 March: Consultant to Texas Department of State Health Services on medical staffing for Special Needs shelters

2005 September: Hurricane Rita evacuee reception, including hospital patients and special needs clients

2005 September: Hurricane Katrina medical evacuee reception at San Antonio. 13,000 evacuees and 800 hospital patients processed in 36 hours through Regional Medical Operations Center; all admissions sent to accredited hospital beds instead of alternate facilities

2005 May: Development and implementation of pandemic influenza preparedness exercise for second year medical students at Texas A&M College of Medicine

2002 August: Consultant and evaluator for Pale Horse, a week-long US Army medical homeland security exercise with a smallpox scenario, with over 400 participants. This program brought local, state and federal civilian medical and public health personnel into a military exercise to an unprecedented level and highlighted the challenges of managing a biological attack that affects significant military assets in garrison.

2003 April: Organizer and Program Chairman, for the Bioterrorism and the Law Conference, held at St Mary's University School of Law, San Antonio Texas, April 28-29, 2003. This was a multidisciplinary conference for all stakeholders in medical emergency response to identify legal issues in effective response and make legislative recommendations.

2001 October: A founding member of the Regional Emergency Medical Planning Steering Committee (REMPSC), a San Antonio-based working group supporting the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District in developing a comprehensive, effective, achievable and sustainable medical response capability for bioterrorism and other medical disasters in South Texas. Response plan achievable with existing area resources delivered 10 days ahead of its 60-day goal.

2001 February: Organizer, Alamo Alert, a groundbreaking 6-day civilian-military bioterrorism preparation event including educational programs, demonstrations of technology and response team capabilities and tabletop exercise for key military and civilian decision makers, including San Antonio and Bexar County leadership, Commanders of area military installations, Texas National Guard and regional military response units, Texas Departments of Health and Emergency Management, and representatives of the US Public Health Service, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Joint Commission for Accreditation of Health Care Organizations.

1991-1996: Initiated US Air Force medical humanitarian outreach missions through graduate education programs at Wilford Hall Medical Center; led multiple Plastic Surgery teams on missions integrated with local Ministry of Health physicians in Honduras.

Homeland Security Exercise Experience

2003 July	Evaluator, City of Austin, Texas
Aug	Planner and Evaluator, Pale Horse, US Army, MEDCOM exercise
Oct	Evaluator, National Disaster Medical System Exercise
Oct	Controller, Kansas Department of Health Exercises with the National Emergency Readiness and Training Center

Consultant:

Lockheed Martin Information systems – Medical Disaster Preparedness
Denver Health – Rocky Mountain Regional Model for Bioterrorist Events
National Emergency Readiness and Response Training Center (NERRTC), Texas A&M University
Southwest Research Institute, San Antonio, Texas
The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio
St Mary's Center for Terrorism Law, St. Mary's University School of Law

Publications

Silenas, R, Edwards, JC: Promoting regional preparedness among rural hospitals. Submitted for publication to The Journal of Rural Health.

Silenas, R, Akins, R, Parrish, A, Edwards, JC: Developing Bioterrorism Preparedness Competence: An Experiential Learning Exercise for Multi-Professional Education. Submitted for publication to Teaching and Learning in Medicine

Silenas, R, Waller, SG, D'Amore, AR, Carlton, PK: U.S Armed Forces Medical operations Other Than War. International Journal of Risk Assessment and Management, in press.

Akins, RB, Williams, JR, Silenas, R, Edwards, J. (2005). The Role of Public Health Nurses in Bioterrorism Preparedness. Disaster Management and Response. Oct 2005, Vol. 3, No. 4: 98-105.

Silenas, R., Edwards, J.C., Akins, R.B., & Williams, J.R. (2005). *Syndromic Surveillance: Potential Meets Reality*. Proceedings of the National 2005 Bioterrorism Response Conference: Unified Science and Technology for Reducing Biological Threats and Countering Terrorism, Albuquerque, NM, 16-18 March, 2005: Conference Proceedings, pp. 17-19.

Edwards, JC, Stapley, J, Akins, R, Silenas, R, Williams, JR. Lessons Learned from a Regional Strategy for Resource Allocation. Biosecurity and Bioterrorism: Biodefense Strategy, Practice, and Science. Jun 2005, Vol. 3, No. 2: 113-118

Edwards, JC, Stapley, J, Akins, R, Silenas, R, Williams, JR. Lessons Learned from a Regional Strategy for Resource Allocation. 3(2):113-8, 2005

Edwards, JC, Silenas, R, Akins, R, Williams, JR. Surveillance of Communicable Disease: A Case Study of Texas Region 8 and the Mexican Border. To be submitted to Biosecurity and Bioterrorism.

Silenas, R.: Family Guide to Terrorism Preparedness. On-line guide for military families posted Sept 2001. (no longer available)

Sidell, F.R., Patrick, W.C., III, Dashiell, T.R. (2000). Jane's chem-bio handbook. Eds: R.C. Allen, G. Briese, K. Carr, T. Cieslac, A. Corbett, E. Eitzen, M. Kniest, S.R. Lillibridge, R.D. Paulison, J. Pavlin, L. Richards, R. Silenas, J.P. Sullivan. Alexandria, Virginia: Jane's Information Group. ISBN 0-7106-1923-5. (298 p.)

Silenas, R.: Management of chemical weapon burns. Report to US Air Force Surgeon General, 1985.

Silenas, R., O'Keefe, P., Dobrin, P., & Freeark, RJ. Mechanical effectiveness of closed peritoneal irrigation in peritonitis, American Journal of Surgery 145 (3), 1983.

Documents

Williams, JR, Edwards, JC, Silenas, R, Kang, JE, Akins, R: Study of Disease Surveillance

Policy Issues across the International Borders of the United States. Rural and Community Health Institute Health Science Center, the Texas A & M University System, June, 2006.

A Case Study of Surveillance in Texas Department of State Health Services, Region 8. Williams, JR, Edwards, JC, Silenas, R, Akins, R. Rural and Community Health Institute Health Science Center, the Texas A & M University System, October, 2004.

Presentations (Selected)

McLeod, A., Silenas, R, Epley, E: A unified identification badge for health care and emergency responders. Presented at ISOneWorld Conference, 11-13 April 2007, Las Vegas NV.

Silenas, R: *A Prototype Decision Support Tool for Medical Surge Capacity Strategies. Hospital Executive Conference on Pandemic Influenza Preparedness, 5-6 April, 2006, College Station, TX.*

Silenas, R, Riggins, WS, Masterson, BJ, Epley, E, Bame, S: *Planning for Regional Emergency Medical Preparedness.* Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning, 27-30 October, 2005, Kansas City, MO.

Silenas, R: *The Regional Medical Operations Center: Lessons from South Texas.* Yale New Haven International Congress on Disaster Medicine and Emergency Management, 12-13 September 2005, New Haven, CT.

Silenas, R., Edwards, J., Akins, R., Williams, J. *Improving Disparities in Healthcare through Disease Surveillance at the Field Level.* National Conference on Translating Research into Practice (TRIP), July 18-20, 2005, Washington, DC.

Silenas, R., Edwards, J.C., Akins, R.B., & Williams, J.R. (2005). *Improving bioterrorism response: Closing the Gap between Detection and Response.* Academy Health Annual Research Meeting, June 26-28, 2005, Boston, MA.

Silenas, R., Edwards, J.C., Akins, R.B., & Williams, J.R. (2005). *Improving bioterrorism response: Closing the Gap between Detection and Response.* Public Health Systems Research Meeting, Boston, MA, June 25, 2005.

Silenas, R., Edwards, J.C., Akins, R.B., & Williams, J.R. (2005). *Syndromic Surveillance: Potential Meets Reality.* Session Presentation. National BTR 2005 Conference, Albuquerque, NM, March 16-18, 2005.

Silenas, R. *Mental Health Aspects of Terrorism.* Ames Psychiatric Nursing Conference, San Antonio, Texas, March 12, 2005

Edwards, JC, Stapley, J, Akins, R, Silenas, R., Williams, JR. Building Partnerships for Bioterrorism Preparedness, Translating Research into Practice Conference, Washington, DC, July, 2004.

Edwards, J.C., Stapley, J., Akins, R., Silenas, R., Williams, J.R. (2004). *Case Study of Community Resource Integration*. Session Presentation. Bioterrorism and Other Public Health Emergencies: Tools and Models for Planning and Preparedness. National Workshop sponsored by AHRQ – User Liaison Program. Chicago, IL, May 17-19.

Putnam, J., Silenas, R., Wolfe, S. Thoughts on Surge Capacity. Bioterrorism Response 2004, Albuquerque, NM, March 18-19, 2004.

Silenas, R., Stapley, J. Leadership course in disaster response, Training Course for Professionals, Texas A&M University System Health Science Center, College Station, December 16-19, 2003.

Silenas, R., Carlton, PK. A rational approach to medical surge capacity. Hendrick Medical Center, Abilene, Texas, November 17, 2003

Silenas, R. Medical surge capacity, Protect Texas: Tough Questions, Challenging Issues Bioterrorism Preparedness Contractors Conference, Austin, Texas, October, 2003

Silenas, R. Bioterrorism preparedness – technological and military installation concerns, Military Operations Research Society Annual Meeting, Ft Leavenworth, KS, June 2002

Silenas, R. Approaches to homeland biodefense, The International Emergency Management Society Annual Conference, Waterloo, ONT, Canada, May 2002

Silenas, R. Bioterrorism preparedness, Biodefense Conference, Seattle, WA, Apr 2002

Silenas, R. Bioterrorism preparedness – civil - military integration, US Air Force Bioterrorism Conference, San Antonio, TX, Apr 2002

Silenas, R. Bioterrorism preparedness - lessons for technology, Bioterrorism Response 2002, Albuquerque, NM, Mar 2002

Bexar County bioterrorism preparedness panel, Town Hall meeting presentations in each of 4 County districts, Dec 2001-Jan 2002

Silenas, R. Personal preparedness for terrorism, Catholic Television broadcast, San Antonio, TX, Oct 2001

Silenas, R. Basics of bioterrorism, Bexar County Medical Society, San Antonio, TX, Oct 2001 and Nov 2001

Grant Funded

Striving Together, Improving Healthcare (Bioterrorism)

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

Principal Investigator: Josie Williams, MD, MMM

Co-Principal Investigator: Janine C. Edwards, PhD

Investigator: Rasa Silenas, MD, FACS

November, 2002- October, 2006

Total Direct Costs: \$400,000