

BENJAMIN J. SILK

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EDUCATION

- Present **Doctoral Candidate**
Department of Epidemiology, Rollins School of Public Health
Emory University, Atlanta, GA
- 2001 **Master of Public Health**
Department of Epidemiology, School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine
Tulane University, New Orleans, LA
- 1994 **Bachelor of Science**
Physiology and Psychology
University of California at Davis, Davis, CA

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 12/02 - Present **Research Projects Manager**
Center for Public Health Preparedness and Research
Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University
Atlanta, GA
- Obtained funding, developed and managed projects on the effects of terrorism on healthcare service use and enhanced surveillance for West Nile virus infection among hospitalized, febrile patients. Co-investigator for a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) study assessing validity of emergency departments' chief complaints and discharge diagnoses for syndromic surveillance. Designed and co-authored survey on willingness to accept smallpox vaccine. Published a review of strategies for enhancing completeness of disease reporting. Co-developed and established a course on bioterrorism and public health preparedness. Develop and manage relational databases; liaison with health departments and students, faculty, and staff.
- Summer 2005 **Association of Schools of Public Health Intern**
Division of Public Health Partnerships, National Center for Health Marketing
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Atlanta, GA
- Designed and initiated two research projects to investigate how public health laboratory policies affect notifiable disease surveillance data: serogrouping invasive meningococcal disease and diagnosis of West Nile fever. Established research partnerships within and beyond CDC; reviewed literature; conducted interviews of officials in state public health agencies; identified relevant, existing data; designed surveys for new data collection.

Curriculum Vitae, Benjamin Silk

2003 – 2005 **Research Team Leader**

Department of Pediatrics, Emory School of Medicine
Atlanta, GA

Supervised and coordinated investigators for an NIH-funded assessment of *Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine Efficacy in Children with Sickle Disease*. Duties included training of project staff, implementation of project protocol, database design and management, data collection and analysis, and coauthorship of findings.

2000 – 2002 **Management Intern**

Infectious Disease Epidemiology, Louisiana Office of Public Health
New Orleans, LA

Enhanced influenza sentinel surveillance, including database design for collection, management, and reporting of data and development of surveillance protocol. Working with the State Epidemiologist, served as database developer and manager for several surveillance systems (e.g., viral hepatitis registry, notifiable diseases). Thesis compared access to care between newly reported hepatitis C cases and BRFSS data.

1998 – 2000 **Disease Surveillance Officer**

California Emerging Infections Program
Oakland, CA

Responsible for active surveillance data for 7 enteric bacterial pathogens (FoodNet Project) and 6 invasive bacterial diseases (Active Bacterial Core Surveillance Project) at 8 hospitals in the San Francisco Bay Area. Implemented case-control studies of *Campylobacter*, *E. coli* O157:H7, *L. monocytogenes*, and *S. pyogenes*, including Spanish interviews. Coordinated with health agencies for public health follow-up (e.g., meningococemia) and investigation (e.g., rotavirus vaccine and intussusception, *Salmonella* and orange juice).

1997 – 1998 **Project Coordinator**

Tuberculosis Control, San Francisco Department of Public Health
San Francisco, CA

Collected and analyzed data for studies on tuberculosis (TB) screening among foreign-born persons entering the U.S. Prepared programmatic reports for the CDC and state health department. Interpreted Spanish at the TB Clinic and provided community outreach for TB cases participating in directly observed therapy. Developed training for community clinicians performing medical screening for foreign-born.

1995 – 1997 **Peace Corps Volunteer / Project Concern Intl. Health Promotor**

Chalatenango, El Salvador

UNICEF trainer on latrine use, water treatment, and hygiene. Facilitated communities' transitions to legal, autonomous organizations. Coordinated water and sanitation projects including pump repairs, water systems and composting latrines. Participated in large-scale reforestation.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2002 – 2006 **Course Co-Developer and Teaching Associate**
Public Health Preparedness and Bioterrorism
Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University
- 2004 – 2005 **Teaching Associate**
Applied Data Analysis
Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University
- 2002 **Teaching Assistant**
Introduction to Public Health Surveillance
Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University

AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2003 – 2006 Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Scholarship, Emory University
- 2001 Public Health Dean's Grant, Tulane University
- 2000 – 2002 U.S. Public Health Service Traineeship Grant
- 1999 Public Health Service Unit Commendation Award
Evaluation of Civil Surgeons Working Group

INVITED LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS

Public Health Surveillance of Infectious Diseases and Surveillance for Bioterrorism and Early Outbreak Detection. Epidemiology 564: Bioterrorism and Public Health Preparedness, Rollins School of Public Health, Atlanta, GA; September 15, 2004; September 14, 2005; January 31, 2006; September 13, 2006; and January 30, 2007.

Preliminary Results from a Survey of Practicing Physicians on Disease Reporting and Public Health in Georgia. Seminar for the Notifiable Disease Unit, Georgia Division of Public Health, Atlanta, GA; August 8, 2005 and Public Health Liaisons Quarterly Meeting, Jekyll Island, GA; August 9, 2005.

Bioterrorism and Public Health Preparedness. Epidemiology 562: Emerging Infectious Diseases, Rollins School of Public Health, Atlanta, GA; February 10, 2005.

Conditional Logistic Regression and Matched Data. Epidemiology 536: Applied Data Analysis, Rollins School of Public Health, Atlanta, GA; April 8, 2004 and April 18, 2005.

Recent Transmission of Tuberculosis in Madrid: Application of Capture-Recapture Analysis to Conventional and Molecular Epidemiology. Epidemiology Department Journal Club, Rollins School of Public Health, Atlanta, GA; November 13, 2003.

A Local Government - Academic Partnership for Public Health Preparedness Training in the Atlanta Metropolitan Area. Georgia Public Health Association's 73rd Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA; September 4, 2002.

Public Health and Bioterrorism: New Challenges for Science. National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine, Atlanta, GA; July 10, 2002.

PUBLICATIONS IN PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS AND BOOK CHAPTERS

Adamkiewicz TA, **Silk BJ**, Howgate J, Baughman W, Strayhorn G, Sullivan K, Farley MM. Effectiveness of the Seven-Valent Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine in Children with Sickle Cell Disease in the First Decade of Life. *Pediatrics* (In press).

Silk B, Hoke TH, Berkelman R. Public Health Surveillance. In: Novick LF, Mays GP, and Morrow C, eds. Public Health Administration: Principles for Population-Based Management, 2nd edition. Jones and Bartlett Publishers, Inc., Sudbury, MA, 2007.

Green DG, Buehler JW, **Silk BJ**, Thompson NJ, Schild LA, Klein M, Berkelman RL. Trends in healthcare utilization in the New York City region following the terrorist attacks of 2001. *Biosecur Bioterror* 2006; 4(3): 263-275.

Whitney EAS, Heilpern KL, Woods CW, Bahn CC, Franko EA, del Rio C, **Silk BJ**, Ratcliff JJ, Bryant KA, Park MM, Watkins SJ, Caram LB, Blumberg HM, Berkelman RL. West Nile virus among hospitalized, febrile patients: A case for expanding diagnostic testing. *Vector-Borne and Zoonotic Diseases* 2006; 6(1): 42-9.

Silk BJ, del Rio C, Ivansco LK, Wetterhall SF, Augustine JJ, Blumberg HM, Berkelman RL. Pre-event willingness to receive smallpox vaccine among physicians and public safety personnel. *South Med J* 2005; 98(9): 876-82.

Silk BJ, Berkelman RL. A review of strategies for enhancing the completeness of notifiable disease reporting. *J Public Health Manag Pract* 2005; 11(3): 191-200.

Fleischauer AT, **Silk BJ**, Schumacher M, Komatsu K, Santana S, Hutwagner L, Wolfe M, Berkelman R, Vaz V, Treadwell T. The validity of chief complaint and discharge diagnosis in emergency department-based syndromic surveillance. *Acad Emerg Med* 2004; 11(12): 1262-7.

Saraiya M, Cookson ST, Tribble P, **Silk B**, Cass R, Poonja S, Walting M, Howland N, Paz EA, Cochran J, Moser KS, Oxtoby MJ, Binkin NJ. Tuberculosis screening among foreign-born persons applying for permanent US residence. *Am J Public Health* 2002; 92(5): 826-9.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Silk B, Buehler J, Berkelman R, Drenzek C. Georgia physicians and disease reporting. *Georgia Epidemiology Report* 2006 Feb; 22(2): 1-2. Available at <http://health.state.ga.us/epi/manuals/ger.asp>.

Silk BJ. HuGENet e-Journal Club Review of *Genomic Polymorphic Profiles in an Irish Population with Meningococcaemia: Is it Possible to Predict Severity and Outcome of Disease?* National Office of Public Health Genomics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Available at <http://www.cdc.gov/genomics/hugenet/ejournal/irish.htm>.

CONFERENCE ABSTRACTS AND POSTERS

Ratcliff JJ, Heilpern K, del Rio C, Bhat JS, **Silk B**, Whitney EAS, Berkelman RL, Franko EA, Park MM, Watkins S, Bryant K, Caram LB, Woods CW. The Spectrum of West Nile Virus Illness in a Cohort of HIV-infected Patients. Infectious Disease Society of America (42nd Annual Meeting), Boston, MA; September 30 – October 10, 2004.

Whitney EAS, Bahn CC, Heilpern KL, del Rio C, **Silk B**, Ratcliff JJ, Blumberg HM, Berkelman RL. Surveillance for West Nile Infection among Patients Hospitalized with Fever. IDSA (42nd Annual Meeting), Boston, MA; September 30 – October 3, 2004.

Adamkiewicz TV, **Silk B**, Howgate J, Platt A, Eckman J, Farley MM. Effect of a Seven Valent Pneumococcal Conjugate (PCV7) Vaccine in Children with Sickle Cell Disease (SCD). 27th Annual Meeting of the National Sickle Cell Disease Program, Los Angeles, CA; April 18th-21st, 2004 and the 4th International Symposium on Pneumococci and Pneumococcal Diseases, Helsinki, Finland; May 9 – 13, 2004.

Bahn CC, Heilpern KL, Franko EA, del Rio C, **Silk BJ**, Ratcliff JJ, Whitney EA, Bryant K, Park MM, Garrison L, Watkins S, Toledo JR, Bhat JS, Caram LB, Blumberg HM, Woods CW, Berkelman RL. Surveillance for West Nile Virus Infection among Patients Hospitalized with Fever. Emerging Infectious Diseases: Threats to the Southeastern U.S., Savannah, GA; March 3 – 5, 2004.

Fleischauer AT, **Silk BJ**, Schumacher M, Komatsu K, Santana S, Vaz V, Wolfe M, Hutwagner L, Cono L, Berkelman R, Treadwell T. Evaluation and Validity of a Drop-In Syndromic Surveillance System Using Chief Complaints and Discharge Diagnoses. National Syndromic Surveillance Conference, New York City, NY; October 23-24, 2004.

ADDITIONAL SKILLS AND TRAINING

Completion of the Public Health Disparities Geocoding Project's Training Course, Harvard School of Public Health (June 15-16, 2006). Course information available at <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/thegeocodingproject/>.

Ad hoc reviewer, *Journal of Public Health Management and Practice*

Completion of the *Teaching Assistant Training and Teaching Opportunity (TATTO)* for graduate students of Emory University (August 20 – 22, 2003)

Proficiency in *Epi Info*, geographic information systems, SAS, SPSS, and Microsoft Office (Access, Excel, PowerPoint, and Word)

Proficiency in Spanish (reading, writing, and speaking)

Completion of *Introduction to Geographic Information Systems* at City College of San Francisco (1999)

Completion of *Introduction to the SAS System*, *Data Analysis Using the SAS System*, and *Introductory Statistics* courses at the UC Berkeley Extension (1998)

August 2007