

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR TRAUMA CARE

"Securing the Future of Trauma Care"

-- THE TRAUMA CENTER ASSOCIATION --

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New Members

All Children's Hospital
St. Petersburg, FL

Children's Hospital of Wisconsin
Milwaukee, WI

Fletcher Allen Health Care
Burlington, VI

Hennepin County Med. Ctr.
Minneapolis, MN

Lawnwood Reg. Med. Ctr.
Fort Pierce, FL

Mercy Medical Center-Redding
Redding CA

Munson Medical Center
Traverse City, MI

St. Francis Medical Center
Lynwood, CA

UPMC- Northwest.
Seneca, PA

Walter Reed Army Med. Ctr.
Washington DC

North Carolina of EMS
Raleigh, NC

NFTC Advocates for a National Trauma Center Stabilization Act

The NFTC Advocacy Committee, Holland & Knight lobbyist Lisa Tofil, and the Board of Directors have successfully introduced both a Senate and House bill to support trauma centers, regardless of their level of designation/verification. Both bills encompass three major components: Core Mission, Uncompensated Care, and Emergency Funding. The House version includes additional funds for Inter-operative Communication Systems.

Senate Bill 2319

The Senate Bill was introduced by Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) on November 7, 2007, and is co-sponsored by Senators Jeff Bingaman (D-NM), Kay Bailey Hutchinson (R-TX), Johnney Isakson (R-GA) and Saxby Chambliss (R-GA). Each component is divided into two shares: Of the total sum of \$100M, 75% is committed to Level I and II trauma centers and 25% to Level III and IV centers. The three components of the Senate Bill, which is authorized for \$100 Million are as follows:

Core Mission \$20M is for the essential, direct costs of trauma center operations such as additional staff dedicated to trauma care, trauma program administration, registry, designation/verification, physician compensation and equipment used exclusively for trauma care. Of this amount, 25% of the total is reserved for trauma centers with a teaching mission related exclusively to trauma surgeons, trauma critical care and/or trauma specialists in diminishing supply.

Uncompensated Care \$70M is dedicated to a three (3) tiered formula similar to that used for Disproportionate Share distribution. This formula is meant to help the most needy and heavily burdened of trauma centers.

Emergency Funds \$10M is reserved for trauma centers in grave danger of losing their designation due to funding shortfalls. If these monies are not expended they will be allocated to the uncompensated care component.

House Resolution 5942

The House version of the Trauma Center Stabilization Act is sponsored by Congressman Edolphus Towns (D-10th NY) and co-sponsored by the Honorable Michael Burgess (R-26th TX), Henry Waxman (D-30th CA), Marsha Blackburn (R-7th TN) and Silvestre Reyes (D-16th TX).

The language of the two versions of the Trauma Center Stabilization Act are nearly identical except for the additional \$25M by the House sponsors to add Information Technology to support communication between trauma centers and other responders in the event of catastrophes of mass scale or those that overwhelm the trauma centers resources.

We are very grateful to Mark Ackermann, Immediate Past Vice Chair and former Chair of Advocacy Committee, for his work toward the introduction of this bill through his work with Congressman Towns and the Advocacy Committee to gain introduction of the House Version of this bill. Immediate Past Chair, David Jaffe is also strongly commended for his work on the Senate side of this legislation and his tireless support for Federal trauma funding.

NFTC schedules Lobby Day

The NFTC Board of Directors has authorized a third Lobby Day on Capital Hill on June 11, 2008, to galvanize support for S 2319 and HR 5942, the Trauma Center Stabilization Act. The objective of the nearly 100 legislative visits by over 25 delegates of the NFTC is to advocate passage of the Senate and House bills and advance the knowledge about the need for nationwide access to trauma care throughout the US. The American College of Surgeons has pledged support, and once more legislators have "signed on" as sponsors, other organizations will be asked for letters of support.

The delegates will be organized by NFTC lobby firm, Holland & Knight, and Public Relations firm, Blakey & Agnew. All participants will have the new NFTC logo'd coffee cups and tote bags to leave with legislative staff so they remember our message: *Trauma Centers, There When it Counts*. Public Relations specialist, Jeff Agnew, Principal at Blakey and Agnew reminded NFTC staff and members that trauma is non-partisan; "whether you are Republican or Democratic, you still bleed when injured" said Mr. Agnew.

Bylaws Now Include Emeritus Status for Key NFTC Leaders

The NFTC Board of Directors presented a new member category for vote by the general membership at its 2008 Annual Meeting. The new category is for "Emeritus Status". As defined in the updated bylaws, Emeritus membership is described in the bylaws which now read:

SECTION 2.1.E Emeritus Membership

On occasion, the NFTC Board of Directors may elect to grant an Emeritus Membership, recognizing an individual's longevity and/or contribution to the organization. This honor is to be bestowed as a high honor and does not confer voting rights to the Emeritus Member. There is no term or limitation on the number of Emeritus Members allowed to be recognized.

Three such individuals have been accorded this honor in 2008. Past Chair and NFTC Founder Dr. Ron Anderson, CEO and President of Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas TX; Dr. Donald Trunkey, Past Chair and NFTC Founder, Professor of Surgery at OHSU in Portland, OR; and Jorie Klein, RN, Director of Trauma and Disaster Management at Parkland Memorial Hospital. The NFTC would not be the strong and growing organization that it has become without the tireless work and passion for improving trauma care that these professionals have demonstrated. Each has pledged to continue their work with the NFTC toward its goals for trauma center and system stability and viability, improving access to trauma care anywhere an individual is injured in the United States. We thank them for their continued support.

New Officers and Members for NFTC Board of Directors

NFTC voting members unanimously elected two new Board officers, Chair Ron Maier, MD, FACS and Dan Gross, RN, BSN, MS, DNSc. Each are uniquely qualified to continue the strong leadership of their predecessors and develop new initiatives to meet the mission of the NFTC, and meet the needs of its members in these turbulent times for healthcare.

Chair Dr. Ron Maier is the "Jane and Donald D. Trunkey Professor" and Vice Chair of Surgery at Harborview Medical Center in Seattle, WA. He graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Notre Dame and spent his Surgical Residencies and Trauma Fellowship at the most prestigious and well known trauma centers in our nation. He has been at the University of Washington School of Medicine/Harborview Medical Center in a variety of academic positions since 1981 while maintaining an active trauma surgical practice.

In addition, he is Past-President of the AAST and has chaired numerous Committees on injury, prevention, education and finance. His role as Chair of the NFTC Reimbursement Committee was instrumental in developing initiatives and studies to strengthen trauma centers and reach the goal of national access to trauma care.

Vice-Chair Dan Gross, RN, BSN, MS, DNSc is the Executive Vice President of Hospital Operations for Sharp HealthCare which includes 11 hospitals and healthcare resource centers in

San Diego. Dr. Gross received his BSN from Wichita State University, an MS in nursing administration from San Diego State University and in 1997, received his DNSc from the University of San Diego.

In addition to his duties as Executive Vice President, Dan is the current chair, of the California Hospital Association, past Chair and current member, Board of Directors, Hospital Association of San Diego and Imperial Counties; current member, Board of Directors, American Heart Association, San Diego Chapter; and adjunct faculty at San Diego State University and University of San Diego. Dr. Gross has been an active leader and liaison to several NFTC Committees who lends excellent and practical advice to our growing trauma center association whenever called upon.

Treasurer Robert Falcone, MD, FACS has graciously agreed to continue his invaluable service as our fiscal advisor and "comptroller". As Chair of Finance Committee he works closely with NFTC staff, its CPA and others to assure that member funds are spent and invested wisely.

Secretary Mary Beachley, RN, MS was unanimously re-elected to her office. In addition to acting as Secretary, Ms. Beachley facilitates the annual Board of Directors Retreat, so that NFTC staff and members have measurable and attainable goals for each year.

New Board Members

The following candidates were unanimously elected to fill vacated position of trauma center CEO (2) and Trauma Program Manager (1).

Jim Valenti, President and CEO, Thomason Hospital in El Paso. In addition to his strong support for trauma center status at Thomason, Mr. Valenti has obtained funding for a Border School of Medicine and a new Children's Hospital to be built in El Paso on the Thomason campus. Mr. Valenti is well known for his fiscal expertise, his strong collaborative skills, and his ability to mobilize the community and legislators to support essential healthcare issues. Mr. Valenti was essential to gaining the support of the Honorable Congressman Reyes as a sponsor to HR 5942.

Timothy M. Goldfarb, is CEO of Shands HealthCare in Gainesville, FL which is affiliated with the University of Florida Health Science Center. Prior to his current position, Mr. Goldfarb was Director of Hospital and Healthcare Services at Oregon Health Sciences University, Portland, Oregon. Mr. Goldfarb is a strong and knowledgeable supporter of trauma care systems as well as a skilled trauma center administrator.

Dianne Wheaton, RN, MS is Director of Trauma Service Line at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center in Winston-Salem, NC. Ms. Wheaton is a well-known advocate of trauma nurse education and skill building, having been a member of the BOD of the Society of Trauma Nursing and a long-term member of the NFTC's Education Committee.

National Foundation's Committee Corner

Advocacy Committee:

Chair Ron Anderson, MD, MACP, Immediate Past Chair

Lobbyist, Lisa Tofil, Holland & Knight; Public Relations, Jeff Agnew, Blakey & Agnew.

The Advocacy Committee has been extremely busy as noted on the face page. Their other activities include:

- Re-instatement of the HHS Hospital Preparedness funding for Healthcare Facilities Partnership Program grants which requires trauma center participation. This is particularly essential if the safety-net trauma center is inoperative due to damage.
- Reauthorizing the Border Health Security Act to include Trauma Care for the first time. This bill funds everything from maternal health to oral care, but previously did not even mention trauma. The NFTC is extremely grateful to Senator Bingaman for establishing trauma care as a high priority health issue in reauthorizing this legislation.
- Assisting NFTC staff and Committee members to select a legislative software program, which allows NFTC members to contact key politicians to ask their support for legislation or Administrative programs using their personal or business zip code.

Development Committee:

Chair Patrick Michaelis, RN, BSN

This active committee been involved in the development of Corporate Memberships and standards for their services, designed and evaluated applications for a quarterly Trauma Finance Fellowship fully funded by the NFTC to take place in Las Cruces with NFTC staff, and evaluated the Member Satisfaction Survey. In Summer 2008, their task is to assist NFTC staff with its website re-design to be more user-friendly and accessible to members.

Disaster Preparedness:

Chair Susan Briggs, MD, MPH, FACS

This Committee was formed from the existing Terror Preparedness Committee and NFTC members who participated in the NFTC grant project funded by the CDC. This group will continue to pursue the recommendations of that project and report, which is available on the NFTC website under Publications, which showed that the average grade for disaster readiness among the responders (33% of all LI and II trauma centers) was a C-. The group has divided their activities into sub-committees on Education, Grants for Disaster Care and Preparedness Funding, and Advocacy. Their primary goal is to make educational and other materials readily available on the NFTC website. In addition, the Committee has reviewed and is assisting with details for an NFTC application to the AHA's National Uniform Billing Committee for a new Disaster Response charge code for hospitals.

Education Committee:

Chair Michele Ziglar, RN, MS

The Education Committee has designed four Audioweb courses and added a fifth conference call to spread information more broadly within trauma centers. They assisted NFTC staff to plan a very successful Annual Conference in Dallas which included the Finance and Business Planning Course and Leadership Course. This Committee developed objectives and reviewed the schedule for NFTC Finance Fellows and will review each pre and post evaluation so that the program evolves to meet the needs of the Fellows as well as the NFTC membership. The Fellowship includes a Self-Directed project which will consist of a Fiscal "roadmap" for trauma centers, including source documents needed by Finance and Compliance departments within the trauma center.

Pediatrics Committee:

Chair Victor Garcia, MD, FACP

This newest Committee has focused on disseminating up-to-date information about Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and a new program called Cool Kids to all NFTC member trauma centers. Dr. Garcia and NFTC Associate, Vivian Lane, RN, MS, provided an audioweb to clarify the new Pediatric resources for optimal care for Pediatric Trauma Centers and Levels I and II Adult/Pediatric Trauma Centers. Future activities include disseminating more "standards of care, including pediatric triage and transport protocols.

Reimbursement Committee:

Chair Samir Fakhry, MD, FACS

Possibly the most active and essential Committee to the mission of the NFTC, this group has the following activities in progress:

- A Trauma Surgeon Workload Study.
- Guidance for the new Screening and Brief Intervention CPT and Hospital UB-04 code.
- Editing the application for a new Disaster Response and Care UB-04 code. The Committee will also encourage members who reside near NUBC meetings to testify as to the need to this funding in the face of diminishing support for hospital disaster preparation.

The Committee is strongly recommending that a simple "how to" billing manual be developed along with the Source Documents needed by the Finance and Compliance Departments of trauma centers. Fellows will be given a choice of components of trauma billing as part of their Self Directed project so that they can learn the essential components of trauma center finance and assist other members in establishing sound billing and collections practices in their own facilities.

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NFTC Education Calendar Audio Webs

Hospital Acquired Complications: Minimizing the Fiscal Impact Faculty:

David Nilasena, MD, MSPH, MS
Chief Medical Officer, Region VI, CMS

Connie Potter, RN, MBA
Executive Director, NFTC

July 15, 2008

One recent cost reduction tactic for both public and private payors is to deny fiscal responsibility for any complications or unpredicted health issues upon hospitalization. The keys to minimizing non-payment will be discussed as well as the potential for well know after effects of injury to be considered "hospital acquired", requiring the trauma center to be well prepared for this new third party payor strategy.

Public Safety and the Health Care System: Are We Prepared?

Anthony Kimery, Senior Reporter
On-Line Editor, HSToday

September 30, 2008

While hospitals continuously upgrade their preparedness based on the guidance from a multiplicity of agencies and governing bodies, the public safety sector has their own readiness requirements. This course will analyze where there are overlaps and gaps in the current and steadily increasing regulations to prepared for the inevitable next catastrophe, whether nature or human caused.

Screening and Brief Intervention: Certifications and Billing for Substance Abuse Counseling

Larry Gentilello, MD, FACS
Professor of Surgery, Uni. Of Texas

November 18, 2008

Since the landmark research at Harborview Medical Center in Seattle, WA was published, it has become increasingly known that rapid intervention after positive screening for alcohol or substance abuse can greatly reduce recidivism in traumatic injuries. Last year, CPT and HCPCS codes were created for the time spent performing these tasks. This course will describe who can screen and what tools they can use, and what is required in an intervention. The course is directed to both physicians and non-physicians as well as those who bill for their services.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Save the Date

The NFTC will be hosting its annual conference on
November 12 to 15, 2009 in
San Diego, CA

NFTC Annual Membership Meeting Notice

The NFTC annual membership meeting will be held at the luncheon on **Friday, November 13, 2009**, during the Conference. The Board will preside over the meeting and discuss member activities. All members are invited to attend.

11th Annual Trauma Conference Held on March 6-9, 2008 Was a great success!

Trauma Finance & Business Planning Course

March 6, 2008

"Networking, understanding both how to communicate with decision maker and complex financial issues."

"Great Job! Great snacks! Thank you!"

"To learn more about administrative / business aspect of trauma hospital."

"Enhance my knowledge of financial planning for trauma care."



Trauma Center Leadership Conference

March 7, 2008

"Reinforce current procedures and learning the newest benefits for Trauma Centers."

"Finance is my largest area of concern at this time along with competition."

"Talked to several participants and we all agreed- Great Conference—well organized."

Trauma Medical Director Course

March 7-9, 2008



"It is the only place where I feel empowered. Maybe I'm a slow learner, but each time I come, I take away extremely valuable things to implement."

"You have brought together a panel with great depth!"

"Great conference, all talks were excellent and NFTC staff was outstanding."

**For more information on education and events, please contact
Jennifer@traumafoundation.org or call (575) 525-9511.**