

First Level III Trauma Center to Open its Doors

The Pennsylvania trauma system continues to grow and develop.

Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center has been approved by the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation as the first Level III trauma center effective November 1, 2007

“Our entire staff has worked tirelessly to achieve this milestone. We know that we are dedicated to providing exceptional care to our patients, and this designation proves it,” remarked Bernard G. Koval, President/CEO of Good Samaritan Hospital at a recent press conference.

With the assistance of the Hospital and Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania, legislation was developed in 2004 to meet rural trauma needs by creating a third level to the current trauma system.

Good Samaritan joins 27 other trauma centers in Pennsylvania in achieving trauma center accreditation. Many thanks are extended to

the Pennsylvania legislature for not only approving legislation that created Level III's, but also for their financial support of hospitals pursuing Level III accreditation and for funding accredited Level I/II trauma centers. In 1986 Pennsylvania was the eighth state in the country to develop a trauma system. As of 2005 twelve states



Pictured from left to right (back): Cheri Rinehart, Vice President of Integrated Health Services, Hospital and Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania; Darnell Furer, Vice President, Patient Care Services, Good Samaritan; Juliet Geiger, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation; Eric Goldman, DO, Emergency Department Medical Director, Good Samaritan; Erin Marinchak, Trauma Program Coordinator, Good Samaritan; Lisa Schenck, Trauma Program Registrar, Good Samaritan; (front) Mohamed Meeran, MD, Trauma Program Medical Director, Good Samaritan; Bernard Koval, President/CEO, Good Samaritan; Elizabeth Dando, Clinical Charge Nurse, Emergency Department, Good Samaritan.

in the country still had no trauma system. Pennsylvania is the 16th state in the country to incorporate Level III trauma centers into its system.

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Save these Dates!

- **December 2, 2007.** Pennsylvania ACEP's Trauma 2007 Conference, Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, Pa.
- **December 8, 2007.** The 14th Annual Day of Trauma. The Union League of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pa.
- **March 7-8, 2008.** The 8th Annual John M. Templeton Jr. Pediatric Trauma Symposium. The Union League of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pa.

Burn Committee Update

Larry Jones, MD, FACS, Committee Chair

Pennsylvania burn centers will soon have the ability to submit their data to the National Burn Registry (NBR). The PTSF, the American Burn Association (ABA) and Digital Innovation have been in discussions since the spring regarding the creation of a COLLECTOR – NTRACS hybrid software. For 2007, the burn centers will submit data to the NBR via a conversion program; the new hybrid software is envisioned for 2008. At the recent Committee meeting, members re-

viewed and discussed a burn transfer process report from Morrison Informatics. Committee members discussed the desire to require all trauma centers regardless of burn status to abstract the burn elements.

The final Committee meeting for 2007 will be a conference call on November 13, 2007.

Conflict of Interest Committee Update

Mary Mannix, FACHE, Committee Chair, PTSF Board Secretary-Treasurer

The committee revised the Board Conflict of Interest Policy to clarify the issue of board members serving as consultants to trauma centers or hospitals pursuing trauma center accreditation. The definition of "consultant" was defined to include what constitutes a conflict. As board members are being asked to con-

duct mock surveys, function as external peer reviewers, and are partnering for accreditation preparations, the issue of conflicts is further expanding. An update on this issue was given at the PTSF fall conference. The revised policy can be found in the "members-only" section of the PTSF website.

Registry Committee Update

Richard MacKenzie, MD, FACEP, Committee Chair, Foundation Board Member

The registry committee is in the process of developing an ease and impact survey for the current data elements. The intent is to determine which elements are difficult to abstract and may be of little or no use to the different user groups. Look for this survey in 2008.

Electronic ED documentation is of growing concern to the committee, who has instructed Foundation staff to review current ED documentation software and develop a white paper regarding the issue. During a recent Committee meeting, members reviewed and discussed a burn transfer process report from Morrison Informatics. Also, recommendations for changes to the new ACS

Standard XV were referred to the Standards committee. Committee members reviewed committee goals; Burn committee and PIRIS updates were provided. Registry elements for inclusion, including one for ethnicity were reviewed and approved. Registry definitions were modified, including changes to the abstraction of on admission vital signs, and approved.

A complete review of COLLECTOR element and definition changes was presented at the fall conference. The last registry committee meeting for 2007 will be a conference call on November 6, 2007.

2008 COLLECTOR PLATFORM

Testing of the new Collector Version 4 platform has begun by the Foundation test group. The test group is made up of twelve trauma centers from across the state. The intent of this test is to review the data entry, flow and functionality of the new version 4 software. The focus of this test is on troubleshooting the software so that the data entry is as user friendly as possible. This test group will not discuss adding or removing any PTOS data elements, modifying PTOS data definitions or modifying PTOS element menu choices.



ACS UPDATE

The final report has been released by the American College of Surgeons and has been posted on the PTSF website. The core stakeholders group will be reconvening to review the assessment and prioritize areas for short-term and long-term action plans.

Research Committee Update

Jack Wilberger, MD, FACP, Committee Chair, Foundation Board Member

The research committee is currently concerned with the helmet repeal law, which is once again due for a report by the LB&FC in 2008. The committee is focusing on states that have had the universal helmet law reinstated in hopes of creating a white paper regarding the reason

and purpose for reinstating the helmet law.

At a recent Committee meeting, multiple studies were approved including two trauma triage studies and a GCS study. Also, fees for PTOS data were reviewed and ap-

proved.

Committee members continued to review the process for releasing institution-identifying data.

The final Research Committee meeting for 2007 will be on November 7, 2007.

Accreditation Update ~ 2007 Survey Season Wrap-Up

16 Site Surveys and one Educational Review were completed this survey season—2007.

13 Level I/II hospitals and three potential Level III hospitals were surveyed. Level III deliberations occurred at the September Foundation Board meeting. Any hospital accredited as a Level III trauma center will start services on November 1, 2007.

Details regarding common significant issues and enhancements to the site survey process were given at the PTSF fall conference and is posted on the website. Two in-state surveyors were used for Level III surveys this year. These and previous in-state surveyors presented their experiences at the PTSF fall conference.

Accreditation reports are posted on each trauma center's password pro-

TECTED AREA OF THE PTSF WEBSITE. 2008 Applications for Survey will also be posted on the PTSF website in November. The Board of Directors approved a revision of the new trauma center policy (AC-130) which now includes mandatory education at the hospital to review the process of accreditation. A new trauma center educational fee schedule was also approved. Please refer to the PTSF website for further information.

2008 Legislative Grant Information

PTSF received half of the amount of grant money from Governor Rendell this year (50K instead of 100K). Historically, that money was passed on to the trauma centers through reduced rates for educational conferences and registry visits for hospitals pursuing trauma center accreditation. By virtue of this you will notice that conference fees will be elevated as well as educational fees for non-trauma centers. We ask that you continue to educate your legislators regarding the value of trauma centers and trauma systems.

Public Hearing Addresses Revised Standards for Trauma Center Accreditation

The Standards Committee of the Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation conducted a public hearing at the PTSF/PaCOT Fall Conference on October 18, 2007, to address suggested revisions to the Draft 2008 Standards for Trauma Center Accreditation for all levels of adult and pediatric trauma centers.

Written comments regarding changes to the standards were addressed at this hearing. In addition, trauma stakeholders had the opportunity to make comments on behalf of their organization at the public hearing.

The final draft of the Pediatric Standards is currently posted on the PTSF website home page; the latest version of the Adult Standards is posted, as well. Written comments can still be submitted to the Standards Committee for review and consideration, but they must be received no later than November 19, 2007.



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A special *THANK YOU* to the following conference presenters/speakers and Committee members who made the PTSF/PaCOT 11th Annual Conference & Meeting a *success!*

Jeffrey Bednarski, MD—Hamot Medical Center
 Keith Clancy, MD—York Hospital
 Robert Cilley, MD—Milton S. Hershey Medical Center
 Tim Evans—Digital Innovation
 Lisa Fraser—Lehigh Valley Hospital
 Amy Goldberg, MD—Temple University Hospital
 Robbi Hartsock, RN—R. Aams Cowley Shock Trauma Center
 Tammy Hobel—Lehigh Valley Hospital
 Lanyce Horn, BSN, RN—Lancaster General Hospital
 Simon Lampard, MD—Altoona Regional Health System
 Debra Lillback, RN, MSN—Crozer-Chester Medical Center
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 Richard MacKenzie, MD—Lehigh Valley Hospital
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 Gail Newton—Pottsville Hospital & Warne Clinic
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 Jack Protetch—Allegheny General Hospital
 Aurelio Rodriguez, MD—Allegheny General Hospital
 Elizabeth Seislove, RN, MSN, CCRN—Lehigh Valley Hospital
 Donna Titus, RN—Frankford Hospital ~ Torresdale Campus
 Marla Vanore, RN, MHA—Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia
 Doris Warner, RN, MSN—Thomas Jefferson University Hospital
 Jack Wilberger, MD—Allegheny General Hospital
 James Yuschak, MD—Abington Memorial Hospital

2007 Dates to Remember

November 1	Level III Certificates of Accreditation issued
December 5	Foundation Board approval of 2008 Standards of Accreditation
December 31	Deadline for 4th quarter PTOS data submissions