

## Our Vision is Clear

*(From Executive Director, Juliet Geiger)*

Happy New Year!

As we begin a new year at the Foundation, we prepare for one of the largest travel schedules in many years.

Over 50 hospital visits will be conducted including 20 site surveys, over 30 registry visits and several educational/consultative visits. Our

Pennsylvania trauma center map has more locations than ever—30 accredited trauma centers.

Beyond those 30 trauma centers, four more hospitals are pursuing level three accreditation and one hospital is pursuing level two accreditation. As PTSF looks to the future we will focus on our new vision statement:

*(Continued on page 2)*

## A Tribute to Dr. John Pryor

*The following article comes to you from the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. We dedicate this newsletter to Dr. Pryor's memory as we reflect on his life from those who knew him best . . .*

The University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine expresses our sincere thanks for the outpouring of support received since the announcement of John P. Pryor's death on Christmas Day. We have been overwhelmed with communications from around the world with wishes of condolences, prayers, and offers of support for our HUP colleagues and for the Pryor family.

John Paul Pryor was the Trauma Program Medical Director for the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and was serving his second tour of duty with a forward surgical team as a com-



bat surgeon with the United States Army when he was killed by enemy fire in Iraq. John (42) of Moorestown, NJ leaves behind, his beloved wife Carmella and 3 children (Danielle 10, Frankie 8, John-John 4). John came to the University of Pennsylvania in 1999 after completing his surgical training at the State University of New York in Buffalo.

After completing his Fellowship in Trauma Surgery and Critical Care, he joined the HUP faculty. John or "JP" as many of us referred to him was a "magical man, with boundless energy and goodness. He was an

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### Save these Dates!

- **March 3-4, 2009** Pa-ATS Spring Conference, Hershey Lodge, Hershey, Pa.
- **March 11, 2009** HAP/SATC Meeting, Harrisburg, Pa.
- **April 8-10, 2009** 12th Annual STN Annual Conference: "Mosaic of Trauma Care," Sheraton-Phoenix Downtown Hotel, Phoenix, AZ
- **October 21-23, 2009** 13th Annual Fall Conference & Meeting, Location: TBA

## Our Vision is Clear

(Continued from page 1)

**“The Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation will become the premier organization in Pennsylvania to assure optimal outcomes of all injured patients.”**

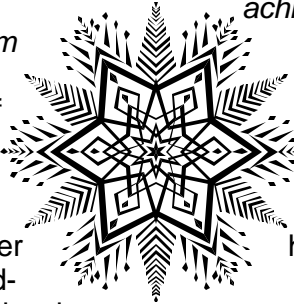
The key word is all patients.

That means we will do all we can to assure that even injured patients not cared for within the walls of our trauma centers are

receiving appropriate care. This means we will focus more than ever on the system of care we deliver.

A high functioning system means equal access for all patients regardless of location. To accomplish this goal, the Foundation will gather partnering organizations together this year to create a road-map for trauma system development moving toward the future.

We can no longer be reactive; rather, we must be proactive in *doing the “right” thing for the “right” patient at the “right” time to achieve the “right” outcome!*



I wish to thank all of you for the important work that you do; I hope the New Year brings you peace and happiness.

## A Tribute to Dr. John Pryor

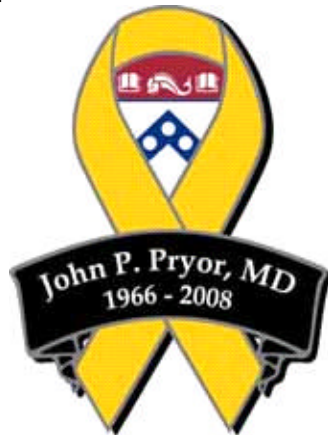
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outstanding physician, gifted surgeon, teacher, and mentor. At his core were many great values, but his passion for service to others was his greatest. He gave back something to each and everyone of us, everyday. His favorite quote by Albert Schweitzer remains in his office and it captures the essence of John Pryor.

“... Seek always to do some good, somewhere. Every man has to seek his own in his own way to realize his true worth. You must give some time to your fellow man. Even if it’s a little thing, do something for those who need your help, something for which you get no pay but the privilege of doing it. For remember, you don’t live in a world all your own. Your brothers are here, too.”

John was an eloquent speaker and writer who contributed to the literature and media. He wrote an

op-ed for *The Washington Post* about “The War in West Philadelphia.” He wrote, “In Iraq, I found myself drawing on my experience as a civilian trauma surgeon each time mascals (mass casualties)



would overrun the combat hospital... The wounds and nationalities of the patients are different, but the feelings of helplessness, despair and loss are the same. In Iraq, soldiers die for freedom, for

honor, for their country and for their buddies. Here in Philadelphia, they die without honor, without purpose, for no country, for no one.”

John absolutely adored his wife and his three children. During conversations concerning family, John’s smile was infectious and

you always knew how proud he was of each of them. John’s life outside of the hospital with his family might include tossing the football, jam sessions in the basement on his guitar with the kids banging the drums, and of course many a night post call John could be found on his bed surrounded by the kids horse-playing and eating pizza.

JP has affected many lives and for many of us he truly exemplifies the meaning of the word “hero.” The World has suffered a great loss with John’s early passing. John Pryor will always have a place in our hearts. May we all carry on his mission and dedication of caring for the injured and may we never forget the man who has taught us so much.

## Christine Wargo Nominated to Foundation Board

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On December 4, 2008, the Foundation Board of Directors accepted the Pennsylvania State Nurse's Association (PSNA) and the Pennsylvania Trauma Nurse Advisory Council's (PATNAC) nomination for Christine Wargo to serve on the PTSF Board.



Chris is the Trauma Operations Manager at Geisinger Medical Center in Danville, Pa. She has been at Geisinger Medical Center for over 14 years. She began her career at Lehigh

Valley Health Network Cedar Crest (formerly Lehigh Valley Hospital) in 1980 and spent 15 years in various clinical and middle management positions. Prior to accepting the Trauma Coordinator position at Geisinger, Chris was the assistant manager of the trauma intensive care at Lehigh Valley Health Network Cedar

Crest.

Chris is a graduate of Lankenau School of Nursing Diploma

program in Philadelphia, PA. In 1989 she received a BSN from Kutztown University and in 1998 an acute care MSN from Allentown College St. Francis de Sales.

Her organizational memberships include the Pennsylvania State Nurses Association, Society of Trauma Nurses, American Trauma Society Pennsylvania Division, American Association Critical Care Nurses, Hospital Association Section on Accredited Trauma Centers and Susquehanna Safe Kids Local Chapter.

## "Thank You" for Your Service to the Board of Directors

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The PTSF Board of Directors bids farewell to two board members.

Robert Pezzoli, President and CEO of Temple University Hospital served on the Foundation Board for four years and represented the Hospital and Health-system Association (HAP). Bob was a member of the Finance

Committee.

Mary Kate Fitzpatrick, RN, MSN, CRNP, Clinical Director of Nursing Operations at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania also leaves the Foundation after sharing her skills with us for the last six years. She represented the Pennsylvania State Nurses

Association (PSNA). Katie was chairperson of the Policy and Procedure Committee and a member of the Executive Committee.

Both Bob and Katie will be greatly missed.

## The New "Image" at The Foundation

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It was time for a change. And, the Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation is proud to show you our new image!

In fact, the previous logo was created prior to the electronic age, making it difficult to reproduce and to share with trauma centers. Now the new logo is available in various formats, and

will be given to trauma centers upon their request.

This change was not only prompted by the need for a digitally-friendly logo, but also by our new vision statement that emphasizes our focus on the delivery of quality care for ALL patients throughout the trauma system.

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5070B Ritter Road, Suite 100  
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[www.ptsf.org](http://www.ptsf.org)

## Electronic Application for Site Survey— *E-AFS 2010*

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In order to more fully beta-test the electronic application for survey (E-AFS) before mandatory use by all surveyed trauma centers, the Board of Directors approved the use of a paper AFS for the 2009 survey season.

A memo describing the details of this decision was sent to all trauma coordinators on December 4, 2008. The “paper” AFS was disseminated to all surveyed

trauma coordinators electronically by Paige Jordan and will be due by February 6, 2009 for hospitals applying for level one and two trauma center accreditation and by February 20, 2009 for those hospitals applying for level three accreditation.

Paige Jordan will be convening an E-AFS workgroup comprised of volunteers from the original beta test group to continue with

beta testing and finalization of the E-AFS, which will be used for the 2010 site survey season.

E-AFS development plans for 2009 include continued work with Digital Innovations, Inc. to integrate the physician credentialing database into the E-AFS for use beginning in 2010.

## Board Approves “Mock” Site Survey Preparation Education

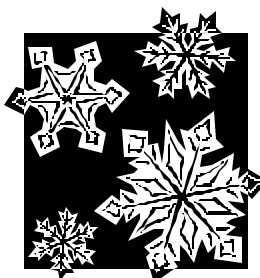
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According to the PTSF “New Trauma Center Policy” (AC-130), for hospitals pursuing accreditation, PTSF mandates a consultative visit the year prior to the formal site survey.

In order to meet criteria for this visit processes such as surgeon call schedules, triage activation criteria and a comprehensive performance improvement (PI) process must be in place. Another important component is proper staffing including a trauma coordinator and trauma program medical director.

During the last several years we have encountered hospitals pursuing level three accreditation that do not have this in place. In order to continue to provide supportive education the Board of Directors approved that starting in 2009; PTSF will be able to provide mock survey services to hospitals pursuing accreditation as well as mature trauma centers. Survey teams will be developed by Foundation staff as is done with a formal survey. PTSF staff will accompany the survey team and

the format of the day will be similar. The difference, however, will be that the survey team will focus less on medical record review and more on educational opportunities throughout the day.



A report will also be developed by Foundation staff as is done during both the consultative visit and formal survey. The cost of the service will remain the same. Questions regarding this new process should be directed to Paige Jordan.

## Pa COT: Trauma Update

*State Chairperson: Patrick Reilly, MD, FACS, Vice-Chief, Division of Traumatology & Surgical Critical Care, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania*

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The Pennsylvania Chapter of the American College of Surgeons' Committee on Trauma (PaCOT) welcomes new trauma directors to become active members of our organization.

In addition to the opportunity to

become involved in the many efforts of the organization, the PaCOT can also offer support in dealing with the many challenges of being a trauma director and navigating the accreditation process.

For more information regarding the PaCOT, please contact the state chairman, Pat Reilly, MD, FACS at reillyp@uphs.upenn.edu or by phone at 215-662-7323.

## Foundation Staff in the News

Nathan McWilliams, Director of MIS/Trauma Registry recently received the Central Pennsylvania Health Information Management Association's (CPHIMA) distinguished member award for 2008.

This award is presented to an individual from the association whose work or actions have benefited CPHIMA members and who stand as good examples of the HIM profession.

Juliet Geiger, Executive Director, will be the first author for an article published in the Journal of Trauma Nursing in 2009. The title of the article is, "When

West Meets East: The Experience of the STN nursing delegation's visit to China with the People to People Citizen Ambassador Program."

Juliet accompanied 39 nurses to China in October 2008 for a two week experience to exchange information with Chinese Nurses on emergency/trauma nursing. The program was sponsored by the Emergency Nurses Association in collaboration with the Society of Trauma Nurses (STN).

Juliet will do a presentation on her experience at the HAP/SATC

meeting in Harrisburg on March 11. Juliet was also elected to the Board of Directors of the Society of Trauma Nurses this year.



Foundation Staff (from left to right):  
Front row: Linda Henry, Kelly Bernhard, Nate McWilliams and Juliet Geiger.  
Back row: Kevin Burd, Kristine Luca-baugh and Paige Jordan.

## ATTENTION: Credentialing Database Update

Trauma centers no longer need to submit copies of the credentialing databases for physicians, nurses and social workers.

The educational components of the standards (Standards, VI, VII, X and XXX1) will now be part of your trauma center's site survey process.

This new process is for all trauma center levels—consultative visits, new applications and "mature" trauma centers. The review will start with those trauma centers being surveyed in 2009.

With the next phase of the electronic application for survey (E-AFS), the physician database will be incorporated as part of the software. Nurse and social worker education will need to be

maintained by the trauma center.

As was noted in the winter edition (2007-2008) of the "Foundation News," trauma centers no longer need to use the Foundation's database to track education and CME. In-house systems that monitor compliance can be utilized. On site survey day, Foundation staff will ask for several employee files—chosen at random—to show overall compliance with physician, nursing and social work credentialing standards.

At the next meeting, the Policy & Procedure Committee will examine how the reports will be disseminated to the trauma centers—whether that will be in a separate report or incorporated into the site survey accreditation report.

If you have any questions (or comments) related to this new process, please contact project coordinator, Kevin Burd at [kburd@ptsf.org](mailto:kburd@ptsf.org).

**"Trauma centers no longer need to submit copies of the credentialing databases for physicians, nurses and social workers."**

## Pediatric Committee Update

*Committee Chairperson: Barbara Gaines, MD, Trauma Program Medical Director—Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC*

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This committee has been through much change in 2008 including a title change, which will now increase the scope of how that committee functions.

Many thanks are given to Dr. Bob Cilley, Pediatric Trauma Medical Director at the Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center. Dr. Cilley was instrumental in the work of the committee since 2003.

The most notable accomplishments during this time were the

revision of Standards for Trauma Center Accreditation which not only included Pediatric Centers but also Adult Centers as well.

The committee goals for 2009 and beyond are:

- To continue to provide input into the revisions of the Adult and Pediatric Standards for Trauma Center Accreditation.
- To work to be more involved in pediatric research, including the participation in a study to develop Acute Stress

Disorder Screening and Interventions in Trauma Patients.

- To develop a guideline related to Radiologic Imaging of Pediatric Patients.
- To examine pediatric registry issues in collaboration with the current Registry Committee.
- To continue examination of standards involving care of pediatric patients in adult trauma centers that care for injured children. (ATC-CIC).

## Committee to Develop Site Survey Outcome Measurements

*Committee Chairperson: Michael Pasquale, MD, FACS, Trauma Program Medical Director—Lehigh Valley Health Network*

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The "Outcomes Committee" met in November 2008 to approve several initiatives for the next three years.

In 2009, two objectives will be focused on. The first is to develop a list of "opportunities for improvement" (OFI's) for each phase of care. Once those OFI's are agreed upon, the support of Digital Innovations will be enlisted to integrate them into the 2010 Outcomes Software. Likewise, peer review language will also be incorporated into the software to

provide an additional mechanism for peer review protection. Another objective of the committee will be to examine occurrence definitions starting with the top five occurrences of pneumonia, DVT, PE, UTI and septicemia. When definitions are finalized, state-wide education will be provided.

Dr. Pasquale, committee chairperson, submitted a manuscript to the "Journal of Trauma" in December 2008 based on the Outcomes committee study con-

ducted in 2004 which examined inter-rater reliability of mortality preventability classifications. The study is titled: "Preventability Classification in Mortality Cases: A Reliability Study" by Michael D. Pasquale, MD, Antony M. Grigoris, PhD, Andrew B. Peitzman, MD and the Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation (PTSF) Outcomes Committee.

The next meeting (conference call) is scheduled on March 17th at 2 p.m.

## Legislative Update

HAP sponsored a conference call on January 22 to update the trauma center community about the need for grass roots advocacy efforts.

As explained by Tim Ohrum, Director, Legislative Services, the state budget is currently in a defi-

cit, which will necessitate cuts in many programs. This means NOW is the time to invite legislators to your hospitals to educate them regarding the need to maintain funding.

To help you with these efforts, resources are available on the

HAP-SATC website. As you move forward, please inform Kirsten Saweikis at [Ksaweikis@haponline.org](mailto:Ksaweikis@haponline.org) of your efforts. Juliet Geiger is available, as well, to speak to legislators as part of a group presentation at your hospital.

## 2009 Members for Committees featured in this newsletter

### Pediatric Trauma Committee

Barbara Gaines, MD – Chairperson  
Chris Gessner – Vice-Chair  
Margaret McGoldrick – Ex-officio  
Robert Barraco, MD  
Jeffrey Bednarski, MD  
Robert E. Cilley, MD  
Donna Grather, RN  
Simon Lampard, MD  
Kerry Larkin, RN  
Chris McKenna, RN  
Carol Logan Hanson, MSN, RN  
Matthew Moront, MD  
Michael Nance, MD  
Susan Rzucidlo, RN  
Ronald Scorpio, MD  
Marla Vanore, RN, MHA

### Trauma Registry Committee

Richard MacKenzie, MD, FACEP – Chairperson  
Margaret McGoldrick – Ex-officio  
Susan Bank  
Gail Blinstrub, RN  
Maureen Bone  
Roxanne Chandler  
Robert Cherry, MD  
Susan Butler, RN  
Simon Lampard, MD, FACS  
Debra Lillback, RN, MSN  
Linda McAndrew, RN  
Chris McKenna, RN  
Jack Protetch  
Kathleen Randall, RN, MSN  
Judy Schultz  
Donna Titus, RN

### OUTCOMES Committee

Michael D. Pasquale, MD - Chairperson  
Gary W. Welch, DO, FACOS – Vice Chair  
Margaret McGoldrick – Ex-officio  
Louis Alarcon, MD  
Kathleen Bones, RN  
Riad Cachecho, MD, FACS  
Barbara Gaines, MD  
Amy Goldberg, MD  
Lanyce Horn, RN  
Mark Kaplan, MD, FACS  
Debra Lillback, RN, MSN  
Michael Lloyd, MS, RN  
Chris McKenna, RN  
Anne-Marie Podgorski, RN, BSN  
Patrick Reilly, MD  
Thomas Santora, MD  
Elizabeth Seislove, RN, MSN  
Debbie L. Stroop, RN  
Christina Wargo, RN, MSN

## 2009 PTOS Manual Distributed

For the first time ever, the PTOS manual was disseminated in an electronic version via a CD. Each trauma center was mailed a CD via U.S. mail prior, to the Christmas holiday. A 350-plus paged manual makes for a very large electronic file, 135 MB to be exact.

The manual's large size is why it was sent via CD and why we had some difficulty getting it posted to the website. If you are having

any difficulty opening the PDF file from the CD please contact Nathan McWilliams at [nathan@ptsf.org](mailto:nathan@ptsf.org) and we will send you a new CD.

We will soon be posting another version of the DOH Ambulance listing with larger margins to the Registry area of our website so that when printed and punched the holes will not obscure data.

## COLLECTOR V4 Installation Window

By now, all institutions should be aware of the extended Collector V4 installation window for 2009 and the steps involved.

Briefly, as a reminder, the usual Collector CVW update should be installed first. This is required so that data may be processed at the PTSF central site for 2009. Once the 2009 Collector CVW update has been installed suc-

cessfully your institution should contact Digital Innovation, Inc. (DI) to begin discussing the Collector CV4 installation.

For further detail please review the Collector V4 Update Memo posted on our homepage [www.ptsf.org](http://www.ptsf.org).

## “Basic Registrar” Course Offered

Mark your calendars! The two-day “Basic Registrar” course is scheduled for April 16 and 17, 2009.

This course is designed for individuals new and/or inexperienced to the trauma program and particularly to the trauma registry including: coordinators, registrars and trauma prevention personnel. This course is intended for those individuals with one/two year or less experience in the trauma

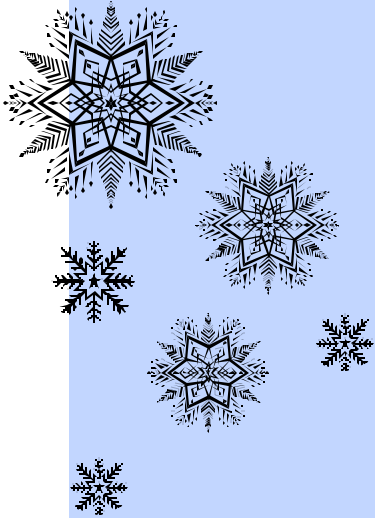
registry.

This two-day Basic Registrar Course will provide a basic knowledge of the trauma system in Pennsylvania, the Collector trauma registry software, Pennsylvania data definitions, scoring mechanisms, registry best practices, classification systems and more!

Look for a full brochure in the coming weeks.

Newsletter posted on January 26, 2009

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PTSF/PaCOT  
13th Annual  
Conference & Meeting  
October 21-23, 2009  
***Hold the Date!***

[www.ptsf.org](http://www.ptsf.org)

### 2009 Foundation Board Meetings

March 19, 2009

July 29-31, 2009—level II & level II trauma center deliberations

September 16-17, 2009—level III trauma center deliberations

December 10, 2009

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