

The following communication highlights recent activity from the PTSF Board of Directors meeting on December 7, 2018. PTSF and the Board of Directors wish to thank each trauma center—and trauma care provider—for their ongoing commitment to the care of injured patients. You advance our mission and vision each and every day! If you have questions related to the content of this update, please contact [Juliet Altenburg](#), MSN, RN—Executive Director.

## PTSF WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS IN 2019

The board approved four new board members to serve on the Board of Directors for the 2019-2021 term. The individuals were nominated by the member organizations that comprise the PTSF board, and were further reviewed and approved by the PTSF Nominating Committee prior to board approval. New membership includes:

Douglas G. Hock, MBA, CPA



Mr. Hock serves as the Executive President and Chief Operating Officer at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP), Philadelphia, Pa.

CHOP is a level 1 pediatric trauma center. Mr. Hock represents the Pennsylvania Hospital and Healthsystem Association on the board.

Susan L. Williams, MD



Dr. Williams serves as the Chief Medical Officer at Conemaugh Health System, Johnstown, Pa.

Within the Conemaugh system, Conemaugh Memorial Medical Center (Johnstown) is a level 1 adult trauma center. Dr. Williams represents the Pennsylvania Hospital and Healthsystem Association on the board.

Deborah R. Chappel, MSN, RN, CCRN-K



Ms. Chappel serves as Trauma Program Manager at Allegheny General Hospital (AGH), Allegheny Health System in Pittsburgh, Pa.

AGH is a level 1 adult trauma center. Ms. Chappel represents the Pennsylvania Trauma Nurse Advisory Council (PATNAC) on the board.

David W. Scaff, DO, MBA, FACS



Dr. Scaff serves as the Trauma Program Medical Director at Lehigh Valley Health Network, Lehigh Valley Hospital Pocono in East Stroudsburg, Pa.

LVH Pocono is a level 3 adult trauma center. Dr. Scaff represents the Pennsylvania Medical Society (PaMED) on the board.

Mr. Hock and Dr. Williams represent the HAP seats on the Board of Directors vacated by James Burke and Douglas Trostle. Ms. Chappel represents the PATNAC seat vacated by Michelle Fontana, and Dr. Scaff represents the PaMED seat vacated by Dr. Hoff. (See "A Fond Farewell," below.)

## BOARD MEMBERS RECEIVE RE-NOMINATION IN 2019

Four board members were re-nominated to serve additional terms. This includes:

- **Ronald J. Andro, MS, BSN, HSM**  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
The Western Pennsylvania Hospital – Allegheny Health Network  
Representing the Hospital & Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania—Mr. Andro was nominated to the board in 2017.
- **Charles Barbera, MD, MBA, FACEP, FAAEM**  
Chair, Department of Emergency Medicine  
Reading Hospital – Tower Health  
Representing the Pennsylvania College of Emergency Physicians—Dr. Barbera was nominated to the board in 2013.
- **John McCarthy, DO, FACEP, EMT**  
Medical Director  
Lehigh Valley Health Network MedEvac  
Representing the Pennsylvania Emergency Health Services Council—Dr. McCarthy was nominated to the board in 2016.
- **Patrick M. Reilly, MD, FACS, FCCP**  
Chief, Division of Traumatology, Surgical Critical Care and Emergency Surgery  
PENN Medicine – Penn Presbyterian Medical Center  
Representing the Pennsylvania Medical Society—Dr. Reilly was nominated to the board in 2010.

## A FOND FAREWELL

Sincere gratitude is extended to the following board members who ended their terms on December 31, 2018. We would like to thank them for their countless hours spent furthering the mission, vision and values of PTSF. These include:

- **James B. Burke, MBA, FACHE**  
During his tenure on the board, Mr. Burke served as Chief Operating Officer at Hahnemann University Hospital, and later as Chief Executive Officer at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children. Mr. Burke represented the Pennsylvania Hospital & Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania; he served on the board from 2009-2018. He served as Chairman of the Nominating Committee from 2013-2018. He also served as a member of the Conflict of Interest Committee (2012-2018), a member of the Finance Committee (2009-2018) and a member of the Ad Hoc Finance Committee Workgroup (2011). Mr. Burke took part in numerous board deliberation discussions, and assisted staff with board panel meetings as needed. His contributions to the board greatly benefitted the Commonwealth's trauma system.

- **Michelle Fontana, MSN, RN, CCRN**

Michelle served as the first Pennsylvania Trauma Nurse Advisory Council (PATNAC) representative to the board of directors. She is the Trauma Program Manager at UPMC Mercy; she served on the board from 2010-2018. Michelle served as Chairman of the Standards Committee from 2010-2018, and was an active member on the committee since 2002. She also served as a member of the Conflict of Interest Committee (2012-2013, 2016-2018), Executive Committee (2010-2018), Policy & Procedure Committee (2010-2018), Burn Committee (2010, a member since 2006) and the Rural Trauma Committee (2011). Michelle also represents her hospital as a member of the PA-TQIP Collaborative. Michelle served as a mentor for several nurse board members, and she set the bar for clinical nursing excellence as PATNAC's first member to the board.

- **William S. Hoff, MD, FACS**

Dr. Hoff is the Network Trauma Director for St. Luke's University Health Network, St. Luke's University Hospital – Bethlehem. He represented the Pennsylvania Medical Society; he served on the board from 2008-2018. Dr. Hoff served as PTSF Board Vice Chairman (2014-2015), Chairman (2016-2017) and Immediate-Past Chairman (2018). He served as a member of the Executive Committee (2009-2018, Chairman 2016-2017), Conflict of Interest Committee (2016-2018), Ad Hoc Trauma Systems Development Committee (2017-2018), Finance Committee (2014-2017), Nominating Committee (2016-2017), Policy & Procedure Committee (2008-2018, Chairman 2009-2015), Bylaws Committee (2009-2012), Standards Committee (2008-2009), Rural Trauma Committee (2010-2011), Ad Hoc Needs Assessment Workgroup (2009-2010) and the Research Committee (2008). Dr. Hoff took part in numerous board deliberation discussions and panel meetings. During his tenure on the board, Dr. Hoff played a key role in PTSF accrediting the first level 3 and level 4 trauma centers.

- **Douglas R. Trostle, MD, MBA, FACS**

Dr. Trostle is the Chairman of Surgery for Guthrie Robert Packer Hospital. He represented the Hospital & Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania; he served on the board from 2008-2018. Dr. Trostle served as Chairman of the Conflict of Interest Committee from 2009-2018; he was a member from 2008. He also served as a member of the Finance Committee (2011-2018), Policy & Procedure Committee (2008-2018, Ad Hoc Trauma Systems Development Committee (2017-2018) and the Rural Trauma Committee (2010). Dr. Trostle's clinical knowledge as a trauma surgeon was a great asset in his role as an administrative member of the board. His contributions in the area of rural trauma center development were most appreciated. The Guthrie Health System had the honor of being the first health system to have a critical access hospital accredited as a Level 4 trauma center.

## WEBSITE ENHANCEMENTS INCLUDE TRAUMA REGISTRY TAB

The new Trauma Registry Tab on the website is live! The [Trauma Registry Tab](#) is located at the top of the homepage. Click on the link to navigate to the page. Then use the links on the right-side to review trauma registry specific resources, education and FAQ's.

You can also learn more about the Commonwealth's trauma registry. A contact link was included for you to get in touch with PTSF trauma registry staff.

## 2019 NATIONAL COMPLIANCE READINESS – ARE YOU READY?

The Analytic Solutions Network (ASN) Compliance Hub/Vendor Aggregator™ is now live. The Aggregator allows your local trauma registry to submit data to TQIP starting with 2019 admissions. Participation requires each hospital to register for the Vendor Aggregator™ and complete a Business Associate and Data Use Agreement with ASN. Additional information about the ASN Compliance Hub and steps for completing the registration process can be found at the links listed below:

<https://www.traumacloud.com/compliancehub/>

<https://www.traumacloud.com/2019compliancesteps/>

## ABOUT ANALYTIC SOLUTIONS NETWORK, LLC

Analytic Solutions Network, LLC (ASN) is a subsidiary company of Digital Innovation, Inc. and is committed to creating and supporting technical solutions for systems interoperability for the trauma industry. The ASN network is a robust and secure infrastructure that supports the Trauma Cloud™, Vendor Aggregator™, and outsourced Data and Reporting Services. The mission of ASN is to create solutions that work with all registry products regardless of trauma registry vendor and is backed by the expertise and experience of the leading trauma registry vendors.

For questions or additional information, please email [compliance@dicorp.com](mailto:compliance@dicorp.com).

## 2019 FUNDING DATA REVIEW BY TRAUMA CENTERS

Each year PTSF staff supports the trauma center funding allocation duties of the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS) by providing accredited trauma centers and eligible hospitals pursuing Level 3 accreditation with PTOS data that is entered into the funding formula dictated by the EMS Act.

The data used for 2019 funding will be 2017 PTOS data. For hospitals that were newly accredited in 2017 or 2018, data from the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council will be used with no review necessary by the trauma center. PTOS funding data reports will be disseminated by Stephanie Radzevick, Trauma Data Analyst, to each eligible hospital the first week in March. Hospitals will have four weeks to review the data and submit completed attestation forms confirming that the data is accurate or needs revision. The reports will be emailed to the Trauma Program Manager/Coordinator.

## 2019 ACCREDITED TRAUMA CENTER DIRECTORY

On January 7, 2019 [Dor Adams](#), Finance Specialist, sent the trauma center directory to each accredited trauma center for review and submission of any information that needs correction. The deadline for review and submission is [February 11, 2019](#). Once the directory is revised, a revised version will be emailed to all Trauma Program Managers/Coordinators. As a reminder, any changes in trauma program staff should be sent to PTSF no later than 30 days from the change. Timely communication regarding staff changes is helpful in assuring PTSF communications are sent to all appropriate trauma center staff.

Similarly, Trauma Program Managers/Coordinators are asked to review the trauma center pages on the website. If information needs to be updated at any time, please contact [Linda Stamey](#) to make those updates.

## 2018 ACCREDITATION SUMMARY

Amy Krichten, MSN, RN, CEN, TCRN—Director of Accreditation

Darlene Gondell, MSN, RN, CCRN, CNRN, TCRN—Manager of Accreditation

The following is a summary from the 2018 site survey deliberation and accreditation season. Significant Issue themes were identified in the following areas:

- Resuscitation Phase of Care: Triage, Expedited Evaluation, Rapid Transfer
- Performance Improvement
- Logistics: Attendance, Credentialing and Certifications
- Registry: Timeliness and Accuracy

The following educational sessions were provided as a result of the themes:

- AAAM Coding Course
- V5/Outcomes Training Course
- Impact of Transfer Timeliness of Trauma Patient Outcomes
- Just Say Yes – A plan & Process for Rapid Transfer Out
- Hierarchy Process for Transfer Out
- Registry Educational Visit Summary
- PI for Inter-Facility Transfers
- Managing your TQIP and State Timeliness Submissions
- Standardization of Data Sources for Registry Abstraction
- Data Integrity – Validation
- PTOS Inclusion Criteria – Yay or Nay?
- Changing the Trauma Culture – Level 3 and 4
- Multiple Research Presentations and Posters related to Clinical Management
- Central Site Submission and Taxonomy Principles

Reflecting outcomes, the following accreditation components were updated:

- AFS Updates:
  - Clarification in naming/categories of levels of alerts and consults
  - Clarification to the reason for transfer justification
  - Addition of “double transfer” identification
  - Simplified continuing education / CME reporting methods. Updated “Education and Credentialing Site Survey Report” is now available on the website
  - PI Updates:
    - Added no codable injury section in death evaluation
    - Added option for report called “Over/Under Triage Analysis: Initial Activation Level” and comment box if over/under triage is not within expectations.
  - Addition of SBIRT compliance questions
  - Clarifications of Advanced Practitioner ATLS expectations
- Site Survey Software/Deliberation Packet Updates
  - Additional detail in over/under triage rationale required by Surveyor
  - Clarifications if patient was initially not a trauma alert and then upgraded after arrival
  - Level IV Panel revisions: to include data and comments on admissions and transfers

We are looking forward to a very busy and exciting 2019 survey season. DI is continuing to enhance report capabilities to ease the AFS process. Please note the new standard report located in the Collector Report Writer software “Core Measures and AFS Report.” Do not hesitate to contact us with questions or assistance.

## STANDARDS OF ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

Michelle Fontana, MSN, RN, CCRN—Committee Chairman  
Amy Krichten, MSN, RN, CEN, TCRN—Staff Liaison

The revised Standards of Accreditation are posted to the website with revision date of January 1, 2019. Additional details can be found in the Standard documents located on the PTSF website.

The Standards Committee and PTSF Board of Directors approved the following changes and clarifications to the Standards of Accreditation. All changes are effective immediately, as they lessen requirements or provide clarification, unless otherwise noted.

### Standard 5: Registry

- Trauma Contacts, which are defined by the trauma program, must equal, at a minimum, PTOS volume.
- An example of an interrater reliability approach is to re-abstract a percentage of patient records.
- Registrars who are certified as Certified Specialists in Trauma Registries (CSTR) are not required to maintain continuing education logs as it is already a maintenance requirement by their recertification board.

### Standard 8: Injury Prevention

- For pediatric centers: All PTOS patients must undergo a screening for abuse. Positive screenings must result in an evaluation/investigation of the cause of the injury/abuse.

### Standard 10: Physicians and Standard 6: Performance Improvement

- Level 4 trauma centers only: In programs where trauma patients are regularly admitted to an in-patient unit, a medical service representative/liaison must participate in PI/Peer-Review committee. Liaison expectations apply. Best Practice is for the medical service who primarily covers in-patient care to maintain ATLS. This is an elevated expectation, compliance expected by October 1, 2019.

### Standard 11: Advanced Practitioners

- Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) who respond to the care of the injured patient in a supportive role (example: airway only) are excluded from ATLS certification standards.

### Standard 13: Nursing

- Units that are an extension of the Emergency Department, such as admission/holding/observation/critical decision-making units, require nursing credentialing compliance. This is an elevated expectation, compliance expected by October 1, 2019.
- Registered Nurses with an advanced certification are not required to maintain continuing education logs as it is already a maintenance requirement by their recertification boards. This is not applicable to the TPM or PI Coordinator.

### Standard 22: Laboratory and Blood Bank

- Prothrombin Complex Concentrate (PCC) – must be available and a guideline for utilization must be present. This is an elevated expectation, compliance expected by October 1, 2019.

The Standards Committee wishes to officially recognize and thank Michelle Fontana for chairing the committee for the past nine years. During that time, level 3 and level 4 standards of accreditation were drafted and approved by the board. Additionally, two major revisions of each standards publication occurred.

## POLICY & PROCEDURE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Meg Ashton, MHA, BSN, RN, CEN—Committee Chairman  
Kevin Burd—Staff Liaison

Two policies were reviewed by the committee, and recommended for board approval in December 2018. Those revised policies are posted to the website, including:

- **AC-129:** Process for use of Non-Board Certified Physicians—Alternate Pathway. Changes bring the policy in-line with current practice, as well as aligning policy language to meet current Standards requirements related to continuing education and American College of Surgeons (ACS) policy on alternate pathways.
- **AC-139:** Level 4 Trauma Center Re-Accreditation. The 2018 survey season was the first time to implement a Panel Survey. Therefore, policy recommendations (and revision) relates to logistics made by the trauma center participants, PTSF staff and the Board of Directors following the September deliberations.

Contact [Amy Krichten](#), Director of Accreditation, with any questions related to accreditation policies.

## PTSF ONLINE EDUCATION HAS A NEW LOOK, AND A NEW LOCATION

In 2019, PTSF Online Education will now be hosted and supported by KnowledgeConnex. This vendor may sound familiar; PTSF uses their services for conference registration. KnowledgeConnex supports many states with online education related to Health Information Management. This exciting new partnership will bring trauma-specific education to their site. Now, not only will our education be available to you—but it will be promoted throughout the country. PTSF-sponsored educational sessions will remain at no cost to PA trauma program staff.

Use the following link to access online education: <https://www.elearningconnex.com/ptsf/>

Once at the site, you can log in if you've previously registered for a course, or if it's your first time visiting, you can just view courses or register—either way, use the link above. Once registered, you can log in at any time, from any location.

Once you enter the site, the three most recent courses will be visible, but by clicking on "View More" all available courses will show. To register for a course, click "View Course Outline." Click "Purchase Course" on the next page; this will take you to the registration page.

As mentioned above, **all courses are free for PA Trauma members by selecting "Pennsylvania Trauma Member" under "Member Type."** Please note that at the bottom of the screen you can also register for additional courses at the same time by clicking "Attend This Session" for any other course listed. Once finished, click "Save Registrant." You will then receive an email from KnowledgeConnex with login information to set up an account and complete their courses. You need to save and remember your login information. You will use this to access any future courses without having to go through all of these steps.

Please note that KnowledgeConnex hosts a lot of other education that can be accessed from their site. Some could be pertinent, such as Anatomy and Physiology. PA trauma staff are welcome to participate in this additional education provided by other organizations, but remember only PTSF-sponsored content is free-of-charge. If you do take any additional education, please specify **PTSF** in the "How did you hear about this" section of that course's registration. PTSF benefits from viewed courses and course referrals.

## 2019 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Save the Date . . . for upcoming events. Items in **BOLD** print are PTSF-sponsored events. As events and meeting dates are confirmed in 2019, they are added to the website calendar. If you have events that you would like to advertise on the PTSF calendar, contact [Linda Stamey](#).

- January 15-19, 2019—Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma (EAST)
- **February 6, 2019—PA-TQIP Collaborative Meeting, Reading Hospital – Tower Health, West Reading, Pa.**
- March 1-2, 2019—John M. Templeton Jr. Pediatric Trauma Symposium
- **March 8, 2019—PTSF Board of Directors Meeting, PTSF Office**
- March 12-16, 2019—American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons (AAOS) Annual Meeting
- March 27-29, 2019—Society of Trauma Nurses (STN) Annual Trauma Conference
- April 2-5, 2019—American Burn Association (ABA) Annual Meeting
- **April 9, 2019— “New” Trauma Program Manager/Coordinator, PI Coordinator Orientation Class, PTSF Office**
- April 13, 2019—Medical Disaster Response Conference
- April 14-17, 2019—Trauma Critical Care & Acute Care Surgery Conference
- April 23-24, 2019—American Trauma Society, Pennsylvania Division, Annual Conference
- May 19-22, 2019—American Pediatric Surgical Association (APSA) Annual Meeting
- **June 24-25, 2019—PTSF Annual Spring Mini-Conference & PA-TQIP Collaborative Meeting, Best Western Premier, The Central Hotel and Conference Center, Harrisburg, PA**
- **July 18-19, 2019—PTSF Board of Directors Meeting & Annual Summer Deliberations, Sheraton Harrisburg – Hershey Hotel**
- **September 10, 2019—“New” Trauma Program Manager/Coordinator, PI Coordinator Orientation Class, PTSF Office**
- September 14-19, 2019—American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) Conference
- September 18-21, 2019—The American Association for the Surgery of Trauma (AAST) Annual Member Meeting & Clinical Congress of Acute Care Surgery
- September 23-26, 2019—Digital Innovations, Inc. Annual Users Conference
- **September 27, 2019—PTSF Board of Directors Meeting & Annual Fall Deliberations, Sheraton Harrisburg – Hershey Hotel**
- **October 16-18, 2019—PTSF Fall Conference & PA-TQIP Collaborative Meeting, Sheraton Harrisburg – Hershey Hotel**
- **October 17, 2019—PaCOT Annual Resident Trauma Paper Competition (at Fall Conference)**
- October 27-30, 2019—American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) Scientific Assembly
- October 27-31, 2019—American College of Surgeons (ACS) Annual Meeting & Clinical Congress
- November 16-18, 2019—TQIP Annual Conference, Dallas Texas & **PA-TQIP Collaborative Meeting**
- **December 6, 2019—PTSF Board of Directors Meeting**