

The following communication highlights recent approvals from the PTSF Board of Directors meeting on Tuesday, March 16, 2021. If you have questions related to the content of this update, please contact [Juliet Altenburg](#), MSN, RN—Executive Director.

PTSF BOARD UPDATE

Submitted by [Juliet Altenburg](#), MSN, RN—Executive Director

New 2021 Board Members

PTSF welcomes five new board members this year, including:



Elizabeth W. Dunmore, MD
 Vice President,
 Medical Affairs
 Conemaugh Health
 System
 Johnstown, PA
 Nominated by HAP.



John I. Lewis, MS
 President & CEO,
 ACMH Hospital
 Kittanning, PA
 Nominated by HAP.



Erin A. Pica, MHA
 Vice President
 Geisinger Surgery
 Institute, Geisinger
 Health System
 Associate Vice
 President, Geisinger
 Wyoming Valley
 Medical Center
 Wilkes Barre, PA
 Nominated by HAP.



Joseph T. Sawyer, Jr., MBA, FACHE
 SVP, President
 Guthrie Robert Packer
 Hospital
 Sayre, PA
 Nominated by HAP.



Patrick A. Kim, AB, MD, FACS
 Professor of Clinical
 Surgery, Perelman
 School of Medicine,
 University of
 Pennsylvania
 Division Vice-Chief, Penn
 Presbyterian Medical
 Center, Trauma Surgery,
 Surgical Critical Care and
 Emergency Surgery
 Philadelphia, PA
 Nominated by PAMED.

Diversity – Equity – Inclusion (DEI) Statement

The PTSF Board approved a DEI statement that will guide practices as it seeks to build a more diverse and inclusive culture. The statement is:

The PTSF supports diversity, equality, and inclusion of all people. We as an organization are committed to equal access and care for all trauma patients and residents of Pennsylvania. We recognize the challenges that face various marginalized communities in Pennsylvania and dedicate our efforts to providing excellent care to everyone. As an organization we strive to have representation from a diverse group of healthcare providers and administrators that represent our constituency and give voice to the issues of our communities.

To that end the PTSF encourages all our collaborating institutions and partners to share our vision and to promote a diverse representation of clinicians and administrators to serve as board and committee members. We envision a shared perspective of trauma and patient care in Pennsylvania that is first class and includes our the most vulnerable in our communities.

We ask that these principles guide hospitals as they submit names of staff wishing to volunteer for PTSF committees, and organizations that submit board candidates to fulfill vacancies. DEI will be incorporated into PTSF policies and practices in a variety of ways moving into the future.

DONNELLY RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD



OAK BROOK, IL (March 25, 2021) – The [Board of Certification for Emergency Nursing \(BCEN\)](#), the benchmark for board certification across the emergency nursing spectrum, announced that Julie Donnelly, MSN, RN, TCRN, Trauma Program Manager, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, is the recipient of BCEN’s 2021 [Distinguished TCRN Award](#). This annual national award recognizes one top TCRN-certified nurse for their advocacy for trauma care excellence through trauma nursing specialty certification.

Held by nearly 6,200 nurses and introduced just five years ago, the [Trauma Certified Registered Nurse \(TCRN\)](#) is trauma nursing’s highest professional credential. Nurses who earn the TCRN must demonstrate advanced clinical knowledge and expertise across the continuum of trauma care from injury prevention to acute care to rehabilitation. Trauma is a [major public health issue](#), and trauma nurses play a leading and highly collaborative role in trauma care.

“When the TCRN was introduced, we were so excited to have a certification just for trauma that we could offer to nurses in the trauma bay and in our intermediate and ICU trauma-designated units,” said Donnelly. “I am truly honored to receive this award. I see it as a team award for Jefferson and all of the trauma nurses here, not just me.”

2020 ANNUAL REPORT—PHOTOS NEEDED!

PTSF staff are working to finalize the 2020 Annual Report, and we need your help.

Trauma Centers and pursuing hospitals are asked to submit photos that showcase your trauma team’s efforts during the pandemic. We hope that this report will serve as a scrapbook that highlights your heroic efforts throughout the year. 2020 will certainly “be one for the books,” and we want to feature YOU. It is our time to thank every one of our healthcare heroes.

As the frontline heroes in your community, please consider being part of this important project that highlights 2020. Submit your photo to Kevin Burd, kburd@ptsf.org by Friday, April 30, 2021. Feel free to contact him with any questions. We ask that you only submit photos whereby the individual(s) featured in the photo have given their permission for PTSF to reproduce their image within the report.



Submit photos by April 30, 2021

STANDARDS OF ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

Charles Barbara, MD—Committee Chair

Kimberly Gorman, DNP, AG-ACNP-BC, RN, CNL, CNRN, TCRN—Committee Vice-Chair

[Darlene Gondell](#), MSN, RN, CCRN-K, CNRN, TCRN—Staff Liaison

The Board of Directors approved the following Standards of Accreditation changes and clarifications that the Standards of Accreditation Committee proposed during the March board meeting, including:

Standard 1: Commitment

- Clarified that all programs must have Trauma Resuscitation Management guidelines that include at a minimum ATLS principles and c-spine clearance. This is consistent with the existing required guidelines and policies listed in Appendix D.

Standard 2: Capacity & Ability

- Clarified that all programs must have policy(s) for admission of the trauma patient to the institution that includes at a minimum: criteria for admission, most common units admitted to, non-trauma service admissions, and special populations such as pediatrics, burns, geriatrics, and obstetrics if applicable. This is consistent with the existing required guidelines and policies listed in Appendix D.

Standard 6: Performance Improvement & Patient Safety Program

- The PIPS indicator section at the end of Standard 6 has been reformatted to clearly identify the required PI indicators that must be monitored by the Trauma Program at a minimum and additional PI indicators that are recommended for consideration by the Trauma Program to monitor. Screening for Substance Abuse, Brief Intervention, and Referral for Treatment (SBIRT) was added to the list PI indicators that are required to be tracked consistent with the current Standards.

Standard 10: Physicians

- Clarified the language of one of the required Orthopedic Surgery practice management guidelines at Adult Level I-III and Pediatric Level -II Trauma Centers. Unstable pelvis and acetabular fractures practice management guideline must be in place. This is consistent with language of the existing required guidelines listed in Appendix D.

Appendix D: Guideline and Policy Reference Tool

- This appendix has been updated to include additional policies and guidelines existing within the body of the Standards of Accreditation. The goal of the revision is to clearly identify the required operational and patient care policies and guidelines from the Standards.

The revised Standards of Accreditation (dated 4.1.2021) are available in a new section of the PTSF website dedicated to the Standards: [VISIT THE STANDARDS PAGE](#). If you have any requests for the Standards Committee, including topic discussions or Standards revisions please submit your request anytime [HERE](#). The next Standards Committee meeting occurs in May. Any requests for subject discussion must be submitted by April 23rd.

TECHNOLOGY & TRAUMA REGISTRY UPDATES

Deborah Chappel, MSN, RN, CCRN-K—Trauma Registry Committee, Chair
[Lyndsey Diehl](#), RHIA, CHDA, CSTR—Trauma Registry Committee, Staff Liaison

TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

Updated 2021 PTOS Manual & Additional Resources

The [2021 PTOS Manual](#) was updated with various clarifications and is posted to the Resources area of the Trauma Registry section of the PTSF website. Additionally, the following 2021 resources were also updated and posted to the website:

- PTOS/Collector Change Document
- Facility Lists (acute care, personal care, psychiatric, rehabilitation, and skilled nursing)

Please refer to the PTOS/Collector Change Document for further details regarding the specific changes that have been made within the PTOS Manual.

2021 Mid-Year Patch

A software patch to correct identified issues and errors within the registry software is currently being developed. The patch is scheduled to be released the end of June. Further information will be distributed by PTSF and ESO staff in the coming months.

Q1 2021 Quarterly Reports

The first quarter of 2021 ended on March 31, 2021. Q1 2021 quarterly reports will be sent by the end of April. Quarter ends for the remainder of the year are as follows:

- June 30
- September 30
- December 31

TRAUMA REGISTRY COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Trauma Registry Committee and PTSF Board of Directors approved the following changes to PTOS/Collector. These approved changes are not planned to be reflected in the software until the implementation of the new software platform. If an approved change is only related to guidelines found within the PTOS Manual and does not affect the software, the change will be implemented January 1, 2022.

1. Remove the language “Patients transferred into your facility and then discharged home from your ED should not be included in the PTOS.” from the PTOS inclusion criteria.
2. Retire the following from the PTOS dataset:
 - a. Social Security # (not transferred to the central site, optional)
 - b. Did patient have discharge diagnosis of cervical spine fracture, subluxation, or neuro deficit not addressed on admission? (Audit Filter 20)
 - c. Was initial [abdominal, intrathoracic, vascular, cranial] surgery performed ≤ 24 hours? (currently optional)
 - d. Procedures 3 Tab (Not transferred to the central site, optional)
 - i. Tension Pneumothorax
 - ii. Pericardial Tamponade
 - iii. Epidural or Subdural Hemorrhage
 - iv. Hemothoraces

- v. Hemoperitoneum
 - vi. Ruptured Aorta
 - vii. Did patient sustain a stab wound to the abdomen and receive non-operative management?
 - e. Did patient sustain a GSW to the abdomen and receive non-op management? (Audit Filer 8)
3. Require the following additional consults to be captured for non-burn patients at non-burn centers:
- a. Trauma
 - b. Neurosurgery
 - c. Orthopedics
 - d. Anesthesiology

During the 2021 Fall Conference, a detailed review of all changes to PTOS/Collector for 2022 admissions will be presented.

The next Trauma Registry Committee meeting will be held June 10, 2021. Please send any requests for discussion to [Lyndsey Diehl](#).

OPERATIONS UPDATE

Submitted by [Kevin Burd](#), Director of Operations

PTSF Directory

PTSF maintains directories for both Accredited Trauma Centers and those hospitals pursuing trauma center accreditation. Names in the directory are also placed within PTSF email groups that are used for PTSF communications. Please submit any changes for your hospital's directory page to PTSF administrative assistant [Linda Stamey](#).

Address Change

Please be advised that PTSF has a new mailing address, although the physical location has not changed. Please inform your accounting/billing departments. The new address is:

Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation
275 Cumberland Parkway, #234
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

We still encourage use of electronic correspondence (EMAIL) since all paper mail is scanned and stored electronically. The only communications that should be mailed through the postal service are hospital payments of trauma center fees.

Thank you for your attention as we attempt to **GO GREEN** when possible!

SAVE THE DATE: PTSF ANNUAL CONFERENCE & MEETING

PTSF is planning a **virtual** Fall Conference and meeting again this year. October 13-15, 2021; please plan to attend. Information related to the Call for Speakers, Call for Research, and Call for Vendors is currently being finalized. Keep an eye on your inboxes for further details. Your contributions to best practices in trauma care are appreciated and they further our mission—optimal outcomes for every injured patient.

NEW TRAUMA PROGRAM LEADER ORIENTATION

Trauma Nurse Colleagues, the *New Trauma Program Nurse Leader Orientation* is scheduled on April 14 from 10 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. This optional course offers an overview for nurse leaders who are new to their roles in both accredited trauma centers and hospitals pursuing trauma accreditation. The primary audience includes Trauma Program Coordinators/Managers, Trauma Program Directors and Trauma Performance Improvement Coordinators.

Provided by PTSF staff, this course features several topics to orient you, and guide you in your new role. Highlights include the American College of Surgeons (ACS), PTSF, Trauma Registry, Trauma Performance Improvement, Site Survey & Accreditation, Trauma Program Resources, and “Hot Topics in Trauma.”

If you have any questions about the New Trauma Program Nurse Leader Orientation, please contact [Anna Over](#), Manager of Trauma Center Development. Click here to [REGISTER](#); registration closes Friday, April 9, 2021.

2020 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSIONS AVAILABLE ON-DEMAND

Conference videos are posted to the PTSF website. Link(s) are provided for each day and we invite you to view these sessions. Contact [Linda Stamey](#) with any questions related to the videos and/or continuing education opportunities.

STATE, NATIONAL, AND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES/MEETINGS

Save the Date . . . for upcoming events. If you have events that you would like to advertise on the PTSF calendar, contact [Linda Stamey](#). Remember to check these organizations websites, dates are subject to change based on the latest COVID-19 guidance.

Virtual Meetings scheduled in April 2021 include:

- April 7-9, 2021— [American Burn Association 53rd Annual Meeting](#)
- April 26-27, 2021— [PHIMA Annual Conference](#)
- April 26-28, 2021— [Lifesavers National Conference on Highway Safety Priorities](#)
- Spring 2021—ESO Training Academy “WAVE 2021” Annual Conference will become a series of online events.

In-Person Meetings scheduled in April 2021 include:

- April 11, 2021—Medical Disaster Response, Las Vegas, NV
- April 12-14, 2021—Trauma, Critical Care & Acute Care Surgery, Las Vegas, NV