

The following communication highlights recent approvals from the PTSF Board of Directors meeting on Thursday, December 9, 2021. If you have questions related to the content of this update, please contact [Juliet Altenburg](#), MSN, RN—Executive Director.

A REFLECTION FROM 2020-2021 BOARD CHAIR, MEG ASHTON



We invited Meg to write a reflection on her time as Board Chair during the last two years. Meg broke a “glass ceiling” by being the first Trauma Program Manager to serve as PTSF Board Chair.

Meg’s time as Board Chair started when the COVID-19 Pandemic was first declared. During the two years she served, she provided leadership and direction for our board during a time of virtual meetings and intensified hardships within our trauma centers.

We commend her for her incredible leadership during a challenging time. She will continue to serve on the PTSF Board of Directors as Immediate-Past Chair.

December is a time for many to celebrate the end of one year and anticipate the beginning of another new year. It is also a time to reflect on the past and plan for the future. The end of 2021 brought to a close my two years as the Chair of the PTSF Board.

It was January of 2020, that with great excitement, and some trepidation, that I was appointed as the Chair of the PTSF Board of Directors. Only the second woman to be appointed Chair in the PTSF’s history, I was also the first nurse, working as a nurse, to be honored to hold this position.

The next two years would bring great challenges to the PTSF as the COVID-19 pandemic hit the world. We all learned how to ZOOM, as Board meetings went virtual, and accreditation surveys were postponed. The PTSF staff worked remotely as they quickly responded with hybrid and virtual surveys and supported Trauma Centers as each responded to challenges related to the pandemic.

Although my term as Chair was conducted in a virtual world, it was none the less the most exciting, rewarding two years of my nursing career. I have come to appreciate the ongoing commitment of the PTSF in providing optimal trauma care across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania through research, injury prevention, the accreditation process, and most of all by the ongoing support and education provided to individual trauma centers.

Meg Ashton, RN, BSN, MHA, CEN—Trauma Program Manager
St. Mary’s Medical Center—Trinity Health Mid-Atlantic
Accredited, Level 2 Adult Trauma Center

2022 PTSF BOARD OFFICERS



DR. CHARLES BARBERA



DR. HENRY BOATENG



DOUGLAS G. HOCK



MEG ASHTON

The PTSF Board of Directors unanimously approved the Nominating Committee's recommendations for 2022 Board Officers for the 2022 term [January-December 2022]. Each officer serves to promote the mission and vision of PTSF. We thank them for their contributions to the Board of Directors, as well as board committees and workgroups.

- Board Chair: [Charles Barbera, MD, MBA, FACEP, FAAEM](#). Dr. Barbera is the first Emergency Medicine Physician to serve as PTSF Board Chair; he served as Vice Chair (2020-2021). He is nominated to the board by the Pennsylvania College of Emergency Physicians (PaCEP)
- Board Vice Chair: [Henry A. Boateng, MD](#). Dr. Boateng served as Secretary-Treasurer (2021). He is nominated to the board by the Pennsylvania Medical Society (PaMED) and the Pennsylvania Orthopaedic Society (At-Large).
- Board Secretary-Treasurer: [Douglas G. Hock, MBA, CPA](#). Douglas Hock is nominated to the board by the Hospital and Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania (HAP).
- Immediate-Past Chair: [Meg Ashton, RN, BSN, MHA, CEN](#). Meg Ashton is nominated to the board by the Pennsylvania State Nurses Association (PSNA). She served previously as Chair (2020-2021) and Vice Chair (2018-2019).

A NEW YEAR AHEAD

From the Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation staff . . . we wish you a happy, healthy, and safe New Year!
"Donning our Holiday Sweaters at our virtual '21 Holiday Gathering"



Top row left to right: Dor Adams, Juliet Altenburg, Linda Stamey, Gaby Wenger; Middle row left to right: Rebecca Geyer, Anna Over, Amy Krichten, Darlene Gondell; Bottom row left to right: Lyndsey Diehl, Kevin Burd, Stephanie Radzevick.

WELCOME—TO A NEW PTSF BOARD MEMBER



We are happy to welcome new board member, Denise M. Torres, MD, FACS to the PTSF Board of Directors. Her three-year board term began January 1, 2022. Dr. Torres's name was submitted by the Pennsylvania Medical Society (PaMED) as a board candidate and approved by the PTSF Board at the December Board Meeting.

Dr. Torres is the Interim Chair of the Geisinger Surgery Institute and Department of General Surgery, as well as Director for the Division of Acute Care Surgery for Geisinger Health System and Trauma Medical Director for Geisinger Medical Center with direct oversight for the organization's Trauma Programs.

Dr. Torres has been a leader for developing and maintaining Adult and Pediatric Trauma Centers throughout the Geisinger system with Level 1 Adult and Level 2 Pediatric centers at Geisinger Medical Center along with two additional Level 2 centers in the Northeast and two Level 4 centers throughout the Geisinger campuses. She has worked to expand standardization of trauma care throughout the Geisinger system and improve care to our most critically ill patients.

Along with her leadership roles for the Division of Acute Care Surgery and Trauma Surgery, Dr. Torres also serves on several hospital committees including Geisinger Health System Liability Committee, Geisinger Health System Catalyst Team, Geisinger System-wide Trauma Committee, Geisinger Medical Center Organ Donation Committee, and Geisinger Medical Center General Surgery Clinical Competency Committee. She is the Vice-Chair for the Pennsylvania Committee on Trauma, Co-Director for the Pennsylvania Trauma Quality Improvement Project Collaborative, and the Co-Chair of the Pennsylvania Trauma System Foundation Outcomes Committee.

A FOND FAREWELL—TO AN OUTGOING PTSF BOARD MEMBER



On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff members, we wish a fond farewell to Dr. Scaff—and thank him for his numerous contributions while serving on the PTSF Board since 2019.

He started his time at PTSF as the Trauma Program Medical Director of the only Level 3 trauma center in Pennsylvania—LVHN Lehigh Valley Hospital Pocono. During his time on the board, Dr. Scaff served on several committees and workgroups and continues to volunteer his time to further the mission and vision of PTSF. During his board tenure he served on the Conflict of Interest (COI) Committee, Finance Committee, Nominating Committee, and Standards of Accreditation Committee.

[Dr. Scaff](#) is a general/trauma surgeon at Grand View Health – Grand View Hospital, a level 2 adult trauma center in Sellersville, Pennsylvania.

BOARD UPDATES & APPROVALS

TO-100 TIMELINESS OF SUBMISSION TO THE CENTRAL SITE

The PTSF Board of Directors has approved a continuation of the waiver for [Policy TO-100](#), Timeliness of Submission to the Outcomes Central Site. Although the policy is still in effect, the submission of all death cases to the central site within 90 days is waived for 2022. For any questions related to this policy, please contact [Rebecca Geyer](#).

2022-2024 STRATEGIC PLAN

The 2022-2024 Strategic Plan was approved by the Board of Directors which will set the stage for strategic initiatives during the next three years.

The Plan includes components of trauma system development, performance improvement, advocacy, DEI, and the optimization of PTSF staffing that will be essential to support the increasing numbers of trauma centers in Pennsylvania.

The [Strategic Plan](#) is posted to the Resources section of the website.



CONFLICT OF INTEREST COMMITTEE

Submitted by [Kevin Burd](#), Staff Liaison

ANNUAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST SURVEY MONKEY SCHEDULED TO DEPLOY

The Board of Directors takes conflicts of interest very seriously to avoid real and perceived bias when making decisions regarding hospital accreditation or other determinations. A detailed Conflict of Interest (COI) [POLICY](#) is in effect at all PTSF board meetings and committee meetings.

Therefore, it is imperative that all trauma centers complete the Annual COI survey to update their potential conflicts of interest with current PTSF board membership according to the timeline noted below.

- **Wednesday, January 19, 2022** – Annual COI Survey/Survey Monkey will deploy to all Trauma Program Managers—accredited and pursuing trauma centers.
- **Wednesday, February 9, 2022** – The deadline to complete the survey.

All conflicts are then reviewed by the PTSF Conflict of Interest Committee to determine which board members are allowed to participate in hospital proceedings. Trauma Program Managers will be notified of the committee's COI determinations following their spring committee meeting.

2022 PTSF NON-BOARD COMMITTEES

PTSF Board Chair, Dr. Charles Barbera, approved the 2022 [COMMITTEE ROSTER](#) and you can view it in the Resources section of the PTSF website.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the trauma program staff members who served in the past, who continue to serve, and who are new to serving on committees. The work of each of you advances our mission and vision and improves the care of injured patients throughout the Commonwealth—and beyond. We understand how busy the healthcare environment continues to be and we value the gift of time, and expertise, that you give to PTSF.

Thank you from our Team!

TECHNOLOGY & TRAUMA REGISTRY UPDATES

Submitted by [Lyndsey Diehl](#), Director of Trauma Data Quality

2022 PTOS MANUAL AND ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The [2022 PTOS Manual](#) is posted to the PTSF website. Additionally, the following resources were updated and posted to the Trauma Registry Resources page of the PTSF website:

- [PTOS/COLLECTOR Change Document](#)
- Facility Lists:
 - [Acute Care Facilities](#)
 - [Personal Care Homes](#)
 - [Psychiatric Facilities](#)
 - [Rehabilitation Facilities](#)
 - [Skilled Nursing Facilities](#)
- [PTOS Element History](#)
- [PA EMS Agencies](#)

ESO Support is contacting PA trauma centers regarding 2022 software updates. Please watch for communications from ESO with further information about distribution and installation of the 2022 software package.

Q4 2021 QUARTERLY PTOS REPORTS

2021 Quarter 3 PTOS Reports were distributed to each accredited trauma center. 2021 Quarter 4 PTOS Reports will be distributed within the next month.

2022 REGISTRY EDUCATIONAL VISITS

As we face another unprecedented year, the format of registry educational visits will need to remain virtual for the time being. PTSF will reevaluate the format of these visits in hopes of returning to in-person visits mid-2022. We ask that all PA trauma centers discuss options for a virtual visit with your Information Technology (IT) Departments. If you need any guidance or have any questions, contact [Lyndsey Diehl](#).

If you are due to have a registry educational visit performed in 2022, Gabrielle Wenger will contact you soon with further details and information. As always, you can request trauma registry education at any time by contacting [Lyndsey](#) or [Gaby](#). We appreciate your understanding as we continue to strive to provide trauma registry education.

STANDARDS OF ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

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

Patrick Kim, MD—Committee Vice Chair

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

The most recent revision of the PTSF Standards of Accreditation on October 15, 2021, included clarification related to Multidisciplinary Peer Review Performance Improvement Committee Meetings attendance expectations. A video on how to track and calculate meeting attendance is now available on the PTSF website on the [Trauma Accreditation Resources](#) page. This 40-minute video provides trauma programs with guidance and support in calculating meeting attendance for a variety of unique situations. This Standard is summarized, and multiple examples are presented, including examples in Excel and the use of formulas within excel to calculate attendance. A PDF version of the presentation slides is also available on the Trauma Accreditation Resources page. We highly recommend taking advantage of this educational opportunity, which can be completed at a time that is convenient for you.

Kim Gorman, Darlene Gondell, and the entire Standards Committee would like to congratulate 2021 Committee Chair Dr. Barbera on being the Chair of the 2022 PTSF Board of Directors. We appreciate all he has done as a member and Chair of the Standards Committee. He will be missed on the committee, but we wish him the best in 2022 with his new board role.

OUTCOMES COMMITTEE UPDATE

Denise Torres, MD – Geisinger Medical Center

Russell Dumire, MD – Conemaugh Memorial Medical Center

Jill Volgraf, MSN, RN – Temple University Hospital

Donna Titus, MSN, RN, CEN – Jefferson Torresdale*

[Rebecca Geyer](#), MSN, RN, TCRN – PTSF Staff Liaison

[Gabrielle Wenger](#), RHIT, CPC, CAISS, CSTR – PTSF Staff Liaison

The Outcomes Committee has continued their work with policy TO-100: Timeliness of Submission to the Outcomes Central Site. **The timeliness requirements for submission of death cases had been waived in 2021, and the Board of Directors has recently continued that waiver for 2022.** Timeliness of mortality case submissions to the central site will not be tracked for 2022. Additionally, the Outcomes Committee Taxonomy workgroup has provided draft clarification behind the policy statement “all issues in addition to the death will be reviewed with the taxonomy classification system.” This draft clarification is being sent to the Policy & Procedure Committee and then the Board of Directors for additional input and approval.

The next Outcomes Committee meeting is scheduled for March 17, from 2 p.m. until 3 p.m. Committee membership is being finalized for 2022 and then meeting invites will be sent out to all members for the year. Please reach out with any questions or suggested topics to [Rebecca](#) or [Gaby](#).

*Please see a staff update to our leadership team that is included in the PA-TQIP Collaborative update.

PIPS COMMITTEE UPDATE

Richard Lopez, DO Committee Chair – Geisinger Wyoming Valley
Kim Shoff, BSN, RN, CCRN-K Committee Vice Chair – WellSpan York Hospital
[Rebecca Geyer](#), MSN, RN, TCRN – PTSF Staff Liaison
[Gabrielle Wenger](#), RHIT, CPC, CAISS, CSTR – PTSF Staff Liaison

The PIPS Committee has been working to review some of the Opportunities for Improvement (OFI) definitions listed in the Outcomes manual, specifically Undertriage, Overtriage, Delay in Trauma Team Arrival and Delay in Trauma Team Notification. The work is to provide better clarity in language to improve consistency in use of these definitions across the state. Once all four OFI definitions are updated and approved by the Board of Directors, they will be updated in the Outcomes Manual.

The next PIPS Committee meeting is scheduled for February 7, 2022, from 1 p.m. until 2 p.m. Committee membership is being finalized for 2022 and then meeting invitations will be sent out to all members for the year. Please reach out with any questions or suggested topics to [Rebecca](#) or [Gaby](#).

PA-TQIP COLLABORATIVE UPDATE

Denise Torres, MD – Geisinger Medical Center
Russell Dumire, MD – Conemaugh Memorial Medical Center
Jill Volgraf, MSN, RN – Temple University Hospital
[Rebecca Geyer](#), MSN, RN, TCRN – PTSF Staff Liaison
[Gabrielle Wenger](#), RHIT, CPC, CAISS, CSTR – PTSF Staff Liaison

The PA-TQIP Collaborative would like to thank Donna Titus (Jefferson-Torresdale) for her time on the leadership team, her expertise, and her willingness to serve. As she transitions out of her responsibilities with PATNAC, we want to also welcome Trauma Program Manager Anthony Martin (Reading Hospital – Tower Health) as the new PATNAC representative to the Collaborative Leadership Team. We look forward to working with him.

Ongoing projects that will continue in 2022 include: a detailed look at penetrating injuries, pediatric radiologic recommendations for non-pediatric centers, and VTE prophylaxis in the Neurotrauma patient. Additionally, the Collaborative will continue to provide an opportunity for mortality case reviews to continue establishing consistency in our PI efforts across the Commonwealth.

The next PA-TQIP Collaborative meeting is scheduled for January 18, 2022. Collaborative meeting dates are being finalized for 2022, once confirmed, meeting invitation will be sent out for the year. Please reach out with any questions or suggested topics to [Rebecca](#) or [Gaby](#).

OPERATIONS UPDATE

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

PTSF Directory

PTSF maintains directories for both Accredited Trauma Centers and those pursuing accreditation. PTSF distributes an updated Directory twice each year in January and July. 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](#).

Annual PTSF Fees

The current Fee structure for accredited trauma centers and hospitals pursuing accreditation remains unchanged through December 2022. In November 2021, trauma programs received invoices for 2022 trauma fees. Those fees are due to PTSF no later than **January 15, 2022**. There may be concerns with the timeliness of the mail service, therefore (regardless of receipt) checks dated prior to the January 15th deadline will not incur late fees. If you have any questions, contact PTSF Finance Specialist [Dor Adams](#).

Mailing Address

Please be aware of PTSF's mailing address:

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

We still encourage the use of electronic correspondence (EMAIL) since all paper mail is scanned by PTSF staff and stored electronically. Thank you for your attention as we attempt to **GO GREEN** when possible!

OUR STAKEHOLDERS & PARTNERS . . . SUPPORTING OUR MISSION & VISION



Marla L. Vanore, RN BSN, MHA was named as ATS Board of Directors President. She was elected for a two-year term. Marla works at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia as Director of the Injury Prevention Program. In her previous role, she served as Trauma Program Manager and was active on PTSF committees and workgroups. Watch her welcome message by clicking [HERE](#).

The American Trauma Society (ATS) is dedicated to the elimination of needless death and disability from injury. The ATS celebrates their 54th anniversary in 2022.

TraumaSystemNews

“Brief Resident Education Improves Trauma Documentation and Registry Data,” click [HERE](#) to read this article by Jennifer Hopp that was published in the January 6th edition of Trauma Systems News. Trauma System News provides trauma program and trauma system leaders with information to help develop more effective systems of care for injured patients.

Jennifer is a Trauma Registrar at Jefferson Abington Hospital, an accredited level two trauma center in Abington, Pennsylvania.

PATNAC

The Pennsylvania Trauma Nurse Advisory Council held elections in December for their 2022 Officers. The results include:

- Chair—Anthony Martin, BSN, RN, TCRN, Trauma Program Manager, Reading Hospital – Tower Health, Reading, Pa.
- Secretary—Tammy O’Connor, MSN, RN, CCNS, TCRN, Trauma Program Manager, Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.
- Treasurer—Sarah Mattocks, MSN, RN, TCRN, NE-BC

PTSF ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE

2021 CONFERENCE ON-DEMAND SESSIONS

Conference videos are currently being posted to the website and will be completed by the end of this month (January 2022). Once complete, an email notification will be sent to trauma program staff. Sessions will be available for viewing, but continuing education credits are no longer available. Contact [Linda Stamey](#) with any questions related to the videos and/or continuing education opportunities.

2021 CONFERENCE RESOURCES

During the PTSF Fall Conference, Dr. Mark Gestring, Stop the Bleed Chair for the American College of Surgeons gave an update on Stop the Bleed educational resources available to trauma centers. Within the chat area, participants asked for links to several videos and resources. See below for links trauma centers can access for more information:

- Stop The Bleed [WEBSITE](#)
 - “Get Trained” - NEW Online Course is posted which can be viewed FREE-OF-CHARGE.
- University of Rochester Kessler Trauma Center Stop The Bleed [VIDEO](#)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS—SAVE THE DATE!

PTSF staff members are actively planning for an in-person conference October 6-7, 2022, at the Sheraton Harrisburg-Hershey Hotel, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. We hope you will join us for this networking event. As information is finalized, we will share it with trauma program staff. We look forward to this event and will take all precautions necessary to comply with CDC guidance.

STATE, NATIONAL, AND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES/MEETINGS

Save the Date . . . for upcoming events. Remember to check these organization’s websites—dates are subject to change based on the latest COVID-19 guidance. A complete [listing](#) [2022 and future dates] of local, state, national, and international meetings is posted to the website and updated monthly.

- February 6-9, 2022 -- [Society of Critical Care Medicine \(SCCM\) 51st Critical Care Congress](#)
- February 20-25, 2022 -- [Western Trauma Association \(WEST\) 51st Annual Meeting](#)
- March 3-4, 2022 -- [John M. Templeton Jr. Pediatric Trauma Symposium](#)
- March 7-13, 2022 -- [American College of Surgeons \(ACS\) Committee on Trauma](#)
 - COT 100th Annual Meeting and ATLS Global Symposium
- March 12-15, 2022 -- [American Association of Neuroscience Nurses \(AANN\) Neuroscience Nursing Annual Conference](#)
 - Hybrid conference in-person and virtual
- March 22-26, 2022 -- [American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons \(AAOS\) Annual Meeting](#)
- March 27, 2022 -- [Mattox Medical Disaster Response Conference](#)
- March 28-30, 2022 -- [Mattox/Vegas Trauma, Critical Care & Acute Care Surgery 2022](#)
- March 28-29, 2022 -- [American Health Information Management Association \(AHIMA\) Advocacy Summit](#) [virtual]
- March 30-April 1, 2022 -- [Society of Trauma Nurses TraumaCon 2022](#)
- April 5-6, 2022 -- [American Trauma Society, Pennsylvania Division \(ATSPA\) Annual Conference](#)
- April 5-8, 2022 -- [American Burn Association Annual Meeting](#)
- April 19-May 4, 2022 -- [Trauma Center Association of America \(TCAA\) Annual Conference](#) [virtual]
- April 25-26, 2022 -- [Pennsylvania Health Information Management Association \(PHIMA\) Annual Conference](#)
- May 10-13, 2022 -- [Society for Academic Emergency Medicine \(SAEM\) Annual Meeting](#)
- May 12-15, 2022 -- [American Pediatric Surgical Association \(APSA\) Annual Meeting](#)
- May 15-18, 2022 -- [American Association of Critical Care Nurses National Teaching Institute](#)
 - Offered “virtually” June 6-8, 2022
- June 1-3, 2022 -- [Pennsylvania Emergency Nurses Association \(ENA\)](#)
- June 19-23, 2022 -- [National Association of State EMS Officials \(NASEMSO\) Annual Meeting](#)
- July 14-16, 2022 -- [Panamerican Trauma Society Congress of Trauma, Critical Care, and Emergency Surgery](#)
- July 15-18, 2022 -- [American College of Surgeons \(ACS\) Quality & Safety Conference](#)
- September 7-10, 2022 -- [The 6th World Trauma Congress WTC 2022](#)
- September 17-21, 2022 -- [Governors Highway Safety Association \(GHSA\) Annual Meeting](#)
- September 21-24, 2022 -- [81st Annual Meeting of AAST & Clinical Congress for Acute Care Surgery](#)
- September 30-October 3, 2022 -- [Emergency Nurses Association \(ENA\) Annual Conference](#)
- October 1-4, 2022 -- [American College of Emergency Physicians \(ACEP\) Scientific Assembly](#)
- October 6-7, 2022 -- Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation (PTSF) Annual Conference & Meeting**
- October 11-14, 2022 -- [Association for the Advancement of Automotive Medicine \(AAAM\) Annual Scientific Conference](#)
- October 12-15, 2022 -- [Orthopaedic Trauma Association \(OTA\) Annual Meeting](#)
- October 16-20, 2022 -- [American College of Surgeons \(ACS\) Clinical Congress](#)
- November 2-5, 2022 -- <https://pediatrictraumasociety.org/meeting/>
- December 11-13, 2022 -- [American College of Surgeons \(ACS\) Trauma Quality Improvement Program \(TQIP\) Conference](#)

PTSF NEW TRAUMA PROGRAM NURSE LEADER ORIENTATION

- May 25, 2022—10 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.*
 - November 9, 2022—10 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.*
- *Registration information will be emailed closer to the registration date(s)