

*Welcome to the March 2024 PTSF Board Update which highlights the latest PTSF Board of Directors approvals from the February 2024 PTSF Board Meeting in addition to PTSF news.*

## FROM THE PTSF BOARD CHAIR



Henry Boateng, MD

Dear Colleagues,

It is my great honor and pleasure to serve as board chair this year for the Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation. The PTSF has been a leader in improving trauma care for injured Pennsylvania citizens since its inception in 1985 when it was tasked in the EMS Act to serve as the accrediting body for trauma centers. Since then, we have led the way in standardizing trauma care across the state. There's no question that we continue to strive for our mission statement of "Optimal outcomes for every injured patient" in Pennsylvania.

We have accomplished many things over the past 40 years, including our statewide data system, the expansion of Trauma Centers throughout the state, and supporting hospitals in rural areas to seek and attain trauma accreditation to address regional trauma care gaps, to name a few. We look forward to taking on new challenges.

Over the next year, PTSF is excited to build and implement new software products with IQVIA. We anticipate this initiative will improve and modernize our data collection, streamline our research efforts, and allow us to evolve to suit the needs of our trauma programs. PTSF staff have worked tirelessly to bring this software initiative into being, and we are excited for our trauma programs to have access to the software soon.

We hope to be able to expand the excellence of our own trauma system to other states. Over many years, our PTSF staff and board members have mentored other states to elevate their designation processes and standards of care stand. Other states reach out to us for support since we are seen as a national leader in this realm.

The number of accredited trauma centers continues to grow in Pennsylvania. Currently, we have 52 trauma centers encompassing 55 trauma programs, with six more pursuing trauma accreditation. We have an amazing and dedicated staff, led by Juliet Altenberg, who are dedicated to elevating trauma care delivered to the citizens of Pennsylvania. I believe we are actively fulfilling the goal of establishment of the PTSF, and it is my great honor to work with our board and incredibly dedicated and knowledgeable staff to push our mission forward!

## PTSF STAFF NEWS: WE ARE HIRING



PTSF is growing its Performance Improvement team as it embarks on exciting new initiatives involving the launch of new software products that will revolutionize performance improvement activities in Pennsylvania and beyond. Our new Performance Improvement Specialist position will report to Rebecca Geyer, Director of Performance Improvement. Key responsibilities will include hospital education involving our new PI Software and coaching trauma programs on best practices to optimize trauma center and trauma system performance. This position is a full-time role and requires travel; however, there is the ability to work remotely when not involved in in-person activities. Pennsylvania residency is strongly preferred. If you are a nurse skilled in performance improvement and have a passion for education, we want to hear from you! Learn more and apply [here](#)!

## TECHNOLOGY & TRAUMA REGISTRY UPDATES



Lyndsey Diehl, RHIA,  
CHDA, CSTR, Director of  
Trauma Registry

### Pennsylvania Trauma Registrar Spotlight!

Please join the PTSF staff in congratulating Judith Schultz, BA, CSTR, CAISS, Director of Trauma Registry at Lehigh Valley Health Network. Judy was the recipient of the very first ATS Trauma's Unique Leaders and Innovating Professionals (TULIP) Award in the category of "Trailblazing Leadership." Congratulations, Judi, on your well-deserved recognition!



PTSF staff knows Pennsylvania has some of the best trauma registrars in the nation! For more information about the ATS TULIP Awards and to make a future nomination, please visit the [American Trauma Society \(ATS\) Website](#).

### 2024 ESO Annual Update

As previously communicated, the 2024 Annual Update has been delayed; however, ESO has communicated that it should be made available within the next few weeks. PTSF fully understands the severe consequences of this delay and the current inability to validate 2024 records for TQIP submission. We will continue to assist and support PA trauma centers to the best of our abilities.

In the meantime, PTSF staff recommends abstracting patients with 2024 admission dates within the 2023 software until the 2024 software is installed. Also, do not delay the submission of any 2024 records to the PTSF. Once the 2024 software is installed, updates will be required to be made within 2024 records that were originally abstracted in the 2023 software. Once these 2024 records are updated within the 2024 software, they should be reclosed and resubmitted to the PTSF. Note that resubmissions do NOT impact the timeliness of submission.

Note, minimal changes to the software and both the PTOS and NTDS datasets were made for 2024 admissions. Please refer to the PTOS/Collector Change Document and the 2024 Annual Update webinar posted on KnowledgeConnex for more information related to these changes.

# TECHNOLOGY & TRAUMA REGISTRY UPDATES CONTINUED...

## 2024 Trauma Registry Resources

Resources such as the 2024 PTOS Manual have been distributed via email. Please remember to always utilize the appropriate PTOS Manual based on the admission year of the patient! PTSF staff will be updating the home page of the Web Portal as soon as possible with these resources.

## ESO Customer Support

ESO Support is available **7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. CT. Monday - Friday**. For high priority items, please call ESO's Support line at **866-766- 9471 (select option 3)** to connect with a registry technical support representative. If you are not directly connected to a representative, please leave a voicemail, and ESO Support will call you back **within one hour**. For lower-priority items, place a support ticket by emailing ESO Support at [support.ptsf@eso.com](mailto:support.ptsf@eso.com). PTSF staff continues to advocate on behalf of PA Trauma centers when issues regarding ESO customer support arise. Please continue to copy Lyndsey ([ldiehl@ptsf.org](mailto:ldiehl@ptsf.org)) on support tickets submitted to ESO Support and provide the assigned case #. This will provide PTSF with the information needed to discuss any concerns with ESO staff.

## COMMITTEE UPDATES

### POLICY & PROCEDURE COMMITTEE

Board Committee Chair: Jo Ann Miller, MSN, FNP-C, CCRN, TCRN



PTSF Staff Liaison:  
[Courtney Moraites](#), MPA

#### **Board of Directors Policy (BD-109) Non-Board Committee Membership:**

To better clarify expectations of PTSF committee membership, the PTSF Board approved several additions and revisions to BD-109 – Non-Board Committee Membership policy. Changes include updating the purpose statement to define non-board committee membership, committee composition, and the overall goals of PTSF non-board committees more clearly. Committee conduct requirements were also added in addition to updating the duties of the committee chair.

#### **Accreditation Policy (AC-128) Notification Regarding Changes in Trauma Center Operations for Pursuing and Accredited Trauma Centers:**

Updates to AC-128 were approved by the Board to offer additional information to trauma centers on when PTSF should be notified regarding changes in Trauma Center Operations. Changes included:

- The need for centers to suspend trauma services beyond temporary emergency department closure/diversion were amended to read suspend or remove. Examples of the suspension or closure were amended to include level III or IV non-essential services.
- Guidance was added for level III and IV trauma centers that have an addition of or change in physician specialty services. Additional guidance includes examples.
- Language was also added to change “Trauma Center Contact” to “Hospital Administrator Trauma Center Contact”.

## EDUCATION

### 2024 PTSF HOSTED TRAUMA CENTER EDUCATION

**Tuesday, April 16th | 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. : New Trauma Program Nurse Leader Orientation – Virtual**

- New trauma program nurse leaders from both pursuing and accredited centers are invited to join PTSF staff for this course which is taught by a variety of PTSF staff members. Topics include National Trauma Organizations and Resources, the American College of Surgeons (ACS), the PTSF, Trauma Registry, Trauma Performance Improvement, Site Survey & Accreditation, Trauma Program Resources, and “Hot Topics in Trauma.” The primary audience includes new Trauma Program Coordinators/Managers, Trauma Program Directors, Performance Improvement Coordinators, Nurse Registrars, Educators, and other nurse leaders working with the trauma program. [Registration is open!](#)

**August 5th-9th\*: Free Software Super Users Education at the Sheraton Harrisburg Hershey Hotel**

- Each Trauma Program is invited to send up to four (4) super-users to in-person training. The PTSF recommends that each Trauma Program should have the following staff members attend the training: TPM, PIC, Registrar, plus one additional individual. Please register all super-users from your program to attend on the same day! Ideally, one representative from each hospital will register the entire team at once. The training is a full eight-hour day (estimated 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.).
- A hotel room block is available with discounted room rates for attendees. Please book your room as soon as possible due to limited availability. The PTSF encourages you to coordinate with your trauma program and book early to reserve your room through this [link](#).
- **\*Friday, August 9th** - is reserved primarily for staff from hospitals pursuing trauma program accreditation or those with limited experience with the current software. If this does not apply to you, please avoid registering for the Friday training unless there are no other options for your team. [Registration is open!](#)

## 2024 STATE AND NATIONAL CONFERENCES

- April 10-12– STN TRAUMACON – Orlando, Florida  
<https://www.traumanurses.org/education/traumacon-2024>
- April 23-24 – ATSPA Annual Conference – Lancaster Marriott at Penn Square, Lancaster PA.  
<https://www.atspa.org/conference>
- April 28-May 3 – TCAA 2024 Annual Conference - Nashville, TN  
<https://www.traumacenters.org/page/December2023>
- May 2 - 4 – Pennsylvania College of Emergency Physicians, Kalahari Resorts, Pocono Manor.  
<https://www.pacep.net/Pages/Content.aspx?id=21>
- May 20-22 – AACN NTI 2024, Denver CO. <https://www.aacn.org/conferences-and-events/nti?tab=NTI%20Denver>
- September 11-14 – AAST - Las Vegas, NV <https://www.aast.org/annual-meeting/2024-annual-meeting>
- Sept 29 – October 2 - American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) Scientific Assembly - Las Vegas, NV. <https://www.acep.org/sa>
- **October 15 & 16 - PTSF Statewide Annual Conference: Sheraton Harrisburg Hershey, Harrisburg PA.**
- October 19-22– ACS Clinical Congress with COT Meetings – San Francisco, CA. <https://www.facs.org/for-medical-professionals/conferences-and-meetings/clinical-congress-2024/>
- November 12-14 – ACS TQIP Annual Conference, Denver, Colorado. <https://www.facs.org/quality-programs/trauma/quality/trauma-quality-improvement-program/conference/hotel-2024/>

# 2024 PTSF ANNUAL STATEWIDE CONFERENCE

**October 15th-16th, 2024**

**Location: Sheraton Harrisburg Hershey Hotel, 4650 Lindle Road, Harrisburg, PA**

## Special Features:

- Day One
  - PTSF Research Competition hosted by the PTSF Research Committee
  - Pina Templeton Injury Prevention Competition hosted by the PTSF Research Committee and American Trauma Society - PA Division
  - Committee meetings
  - Trauma education
  - PATNAC and PACOT Meetings
- Day Two
  - 15th Annual Major John P. Pryor Memorial Lecture featuring John Holcomb, MD, FACS
  - PACOT Resident Paper Competition
  - IQVIA Transition Success: Key Steps after Go-Live
- The ATS Injury Prevention Professionals Course will be conducted both days as a separate track requiring separate registration. An overview of the course can be found at: <https://www.amtrauma.org/page/InjuryPrevention> Registration links will go live by June 1.
- Sponsor and Exhibitor opportunities will be open through October 1, 2024. Register at: PTSF Annual Conference Exhibitor Registration. Questions? — Contact Courtney Moraites at [cmoraites@ptsf.org](mailto:cmoraites@ptsf.org)
- Conference attendee registration link will go live by June 1st.

## PTSF COMMUNICATIONS

### EXPANDED SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE

PTSF has added two more social media platforms to expand its reach! In addition to our presence on LinkedIn, we are now on Facebook and Instagram. Check us out and help us celebrate the people and activities of Pennsylvania's Trauma System!



## PTSF DIRECTORY

PTSF maintains a directory for Accredited Trauma Centers and hospitals pursuing accreditation. The directory is distributed twice each year to all trauma program managers in January and July. Please submit any changes for your hospital's directory page as soon as they occur to [Courtney Moraites](#), PTSF Accreditation Coordinator.

## COMMUNICATIONS TO PTSF

In lieu of paper mail, we encourage emailing all communications to the appropriate PTSF staff. Exceptions include payments which should be mailed to: **Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation, 275 Cumberland Parkway, #234, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055.**