



THE NATIONAL TRAUMA INSTITUTE INITIATIVE ▶

More than 6,400 soldiers have died on the battlefields of the current wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The need for trauma research and enhanced technologies is especially urgent right now, as more than 47,000 soldiers have been wounded, many needing long-term recovery and rehabilitation.

In the United States, traumatic injury kills more than 170,000 Americans and accounts for more than \$400 billion in health care costs every year. Trauma accounts for 42 million emergency department visits and 2.0 million hospital admissions annually across the nation.

The National Trauma Institute (NTI) is uniquely situated to mobilize a rapid nationwide research effort directly aimed at reducing these numbers:

- Among more than two dozen research institutes at the NIH, none is devoted exclusively to trauma.
- The National Trauma Institute (NTI) fills the gap by setting a comprehensive research agenda to award grants to the best researchers in the country.
- NTI, as a military and civilian partnership, is the natural starting point to translate battlefield innovations to civilians at home.
- NTI, as the centralized institute to coordinate a national trauma research agenda, will substantially reduce the number of injuries and deaths due to trauma.

Trauma Research Gap:

- Forty-five years ago, a National Research Council report, "Accidental Death and Disability," first focused attention on the inadequacy of emergency and trauma care research. Although trauma research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has grown, its growth compared to other fields has been negligible.
- In 1994 NIH convened a task force to study the trauma research needs and gaps and produced the "Report of the Task Force on Trauma Research" (NIH, 1994). This report recommended doubling funding to trauma research centers, but sufficient funding was never appropriated. Within the context of years of potential life lost (millions of dollars per years of potential life lost per 100,000 population), the NIH support ration for HIV is \$3.35, for cancer \$1.65, and for trauma \$0.10.
- A 2006 Institute of Medicine report also discussed the lack of trauma and emergency care research funding and recognized the need for a multidisciplinary approach to the problem.



www.NationalTraumaInstitute.org

The NTI mission is to reduce death and disability by:

- Elevating emergency care and trauma on the national research agenda, through the synthesis and organization of research agendas from existing, active trauma researchers.
- Increasing scientific knowledge related to trauma, burns and injury prevention through translational multicenter research.
- Using research results to train doctors, nurses and other health care providers in trauma care improvement and innovation.

The goal of NTI research is to fund, develop, evaluate and rapidly implement revolutionary medical technologies that will improve clinical outcomes based on high quality, unbiased translational research. With support from Congress, NTI is creating partnerships with national organizations to become the premier grant making institution for translational trauma research.

To succeed, research agendas must be based on the establishment of coordinated, large-scale multicenter research collaborations. Multicenter networks enable researchers from the diverse disciplines of trauma and emergency care research to assemble sufficiently large data sets to establish robust research findings. Urgent subject areas of translational research include: injury prevention, triage, hemorrhage control, resuscitation, orthopedics, burn care, head injury, critical care, tissue engineering, rehabilitation and recovery, and outcomes research, with categories devoted specifically to the extremes of age within each subject area.

We are rapidly mobilizing the national trauma organizations and U.S. academic research institutions to improve the care provided to all Americans. Through the NTI, these goals can be realized.

