



# THE NTI NEWS

NO. 1 VOL. 1 SPRING 2009

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ▶



The incidence of trauma in the United States—due to car wrecks, accidents, street and domestic violence, natural disasters, and other events—is ubiquitous; yet, we don't often think about it as the epidemic that it truly is. Not even counting the trauma suffered by American soldiers abroad, each year, 2.6 million trauma victims are admitted to hospitals, and more than 160,000 die from their injuries. It is the leading cause of death for Americans under age 44. Think about how many of us are touched by trauma—if not personally, then someone we love.

We formed the National Trauma Institute (NTI) to address trauma cohesively, in all its manifestations, and to elevate it on the national health care agenda so that we can make fast-paced progress on developing practices that prevent trauma and advanced treatments that reduce its effects on the body. And because trauma interventions are often developed on the battlefield, NTI combines both military and civilian resources to improve outcomes.

NTI owes its existence to the continuing support of Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, who secured federal appropriations in 2003 and again in 2008 and 2009 which enabled a military and civilian collaboration of Level 1 trauma and burn centers in San Antonio. NTI grew from that collaboration, and the organization's success to date is due to Senator Hutchinson's vision and commitment to caring for those suffering traumatic injuries, whether they are soldiers serving in Afghanistan and Iraq or citizens at home.

This first issue of the NTI semi-annual newsletter provides an introduction to our new Board of Directors—all influential figures in the field of trauma surgery—an unveiling of our dynamic website, a preview of the 15th Annual Trauma Symposium's line-up of presenters, and much more.

Learn more about what NTI is doing to fund trauma research and to disseminate best practices at our website: [www.NationalTraumaInstitute.org](http://www.NationalTraumaInstitute.org), and please consider joining us in our mission by contributing to this worthy cause.

*Sharon Smith*

## NTI MISSION STATEMENT ▶

To reduce injury, death and disability by:

- Elevating trauma on the national research agenda
- Increasing scientific knowledge related to trauma, burns and injury prevention
- Changing clinical practice throughout the state, nation and world

## NTI VISION ▶

To stop unnecessary suffering from trauma through prevention, education and research, and ultimately decrease rates of death and disability in trauma patients. NTI will be recognized as the premiere grant-making institution for translational trauma research.



[www.NationalTraumaInstitute.org](http://www.NationalTraumaInstitute.org)



**Ronald Stewart**  
Chairman

### Expanded Board Focuses on National Strategy

Launching our strategy to take NTI from a regional to a national focus, in 2008 we expanded our Board of Directors—already comprised of some of the top trauma surgeons in Texas—to include renowned surgeons from around the country and leaders of national trauma organizations. The strength of the Board, coupled with a fresh subcommittee and working group structure, promises to raise the profile of the organization and help us achieve our goals more quickly.



**Timothy Fabian**  
Vice Chairman

NTI's Executive Committee sets the organization's agenda, the Science Committee is responsible for overseeing the peer review process for NTI-funded research projects, and the Development/Philanthropy Committee directs the organization's private fundraising efforts. Learn more about our Board members and committees on the NTI website.

## STAFF UPDATE ▶

### NTI Digs Into National Agenda

With the addition of several staff people to the NTI team and a move into new office space in San Antonio, the organization is now ready to make quick progress.

**Sharon Smith**, NTI's Executive Director, has 25 years of experience as a hospital/healthcare executive and has been with NTI since its inception.

**Monica DeWitte**, NTI's Director of Operations, was previously the Trauma Division Program Manager at Brooke Army Medical Center and brings many years of experience to the job.

**Vivienne Marshall**, Ph.D., is our Director of Research. Previously P.I. and program director at Stemnion, Inc., a biotech company in Pittsburgh, Dr. Marshall's expertise is in wound healing and stem cell research.

**Valerie Thomas**, with 14 years of nonprofit development experience, is NTI's Development Director and will be working with donors to support our mission.

**Kim Overton**, Research Coordinator, brings many years of nursing experience to NTI, most recently at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio.



NTI's new office location  
in San Antonio

**Ronald M. Stewart**, MD, FACS  
NTI Board Chairman  
University of Texas Health Science Center  
at San Antonio

**Timothy C. Fabian**, MD, FACS  
NTI Board Vice Chairman  
University of Tennessee-Memphis

**P. David Adelson**, MD  
Phoenix Children's Hospital

**COL Lorne H. Blackburne**, MD FACS  
US Army Institute of Surgical Research

**Stephen M. Cohn**, MD, FACS  
University of Texas Health Science Center  
at San Antonio

**CAPT James R. Dunne**, MD, FACS  
National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, MD

**COL Brian J. Eastridge**, MD, FACS  
US Army Institute of Surgical Research

**John B. Holcomb**, MD, FACS  
University of Texas Health Science Center  
at Houston

**David B. Hoyt**, MD, FACS  
University of California, Irvine

**Donald H. Jenkins**, MD, FACS  
Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN

**Gregory J. Jurkovich**, MD, FACS  
Harborview Medical Center, Seattle, WA

**M. Margaret Knudson**, MD, FACS  
University of California, San Francisco

**Col Linda L. Lawrence**, MD, FACEP  
Travis Air Force Base, CA

**Ellen J. MacKenzie**, PhD  
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public  
Health

**Andrew B. Peitzman**, MD  
University of Pittsburgh

**Basil A. Pruitt Jr.**, MD  
University of Texas Health Science Center  
at San Antonio

**Mrs. Jocelyn Straus**  
San Antonio, TX

**J. Tracy Watson**, MD  
St. Louis University

**Steven E. Wolf**, MD  
University of Texas Health Science Center  
at San Antonio

**Robert Mazak**, NTI's Events Coordinator, is responsible for the Annual Trauma Symposium and other meetings and programs sponsored by NTI. He retired as a First Sergeant from the Army and has experience in emergency medicine and physical therapy.

**Tony Tomandl** is CFO for the National Trauma Institute and has over 30 years of financial experience in a variety of industries.

**Julie Salvitti** is NTI's Controller, following her work in a similar role with another non-profit organization.

**Ana Guerrero**, Office Manager, coordinates and supports NTI's infrastructure.

## RESEARCH UPDATE ▶

### Research Priorities in Place for First Grant RFPs

The NTI research plan is to identify revolutionary medical technologies for trauma care through data-driven needs analysis and translational research. The scope of projects may include injury prevention, pre-hospital treatments, hemorrhage control, resuscitation, orthopedic injury, burn care, head injury, tissue regeneration, critical care, and rehabilitation/recovery.

A recent review of research priorities by the NTI Board of Directors highlighted these areas for funding in the near future:

#### Hemorrhage

- Non-compressible Hemorrhage
- Blood Products and Substitutes
- Resuscitation
- Shock and Bleeding
- Coagulopathy
- Systemic and Local Hemostatic Therapy

#### Infection

- Hospital-acquired Infections
- Antibiotic Utilization

#### Disaster Preparedness

- Mass Casualty
- Transportation of the Critically Ill

#### Burns

- New skin
- Off-the-Shelf Skin

#### Airway and Ventilation Strategies

#### Technology Development

- Biosensors
- Wound vacuums
- Imaging studies and outcomes
- Organ Simulation



**Thank You Commercial Supporters of the 2008 14th Annual Trauma Symposium.** NTI sincerely appreciates the participation of last year's Symposium vendors, and we look forward to seeing you again this year.

## THANK YOU ▶

Acute Innovations  
 Air Force Reserve  
 Alsius  
 Argentum Medical  
 Athena GTX  
 AxoGen, Inc.  
 Cook  
 CSTARS  
 DVBIC  
 Edwards Life Science  
 Electromedical Products  
 Elsevier  
 Ethicon  
 Genzyme Biosurgery  
 HemCon  
 Hill Rom  
 Hutchinson Technology  
 IFlow  
 INNERCOOL Therapies, Inc.  
 Integrated Medical Systems  
 Laerdal  
 Life Cell  
 Lippincott Williams and Wilkins  
 Marketing Assessment, Inc.  
 MAST Biosurgery  
 Medela  
 Medtronic  
 Merck  
 Mission Vista Behavioral Health  
 Novo Nordisk  
 Ossur America  
 PerSys Medical  
 Sanofi-Aventis  
 Smith & Nephew  
 SonoSite  
 Stryker  
 Synthes  
 Synthes CMF  
 Trauma Cure  
 Trauma Tec, Inc.  
 TRUE Research Foundation  
 Wyeth  
 Z Medica  
 Zoll



### Premiere Trauma Education Event to Draw Emergency and Surgical Specialists

Mark your calendar for August 31 through September 2 for the 15th Annual Trauma Symposium at The Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center. Presentations cover trauma care broadly, from both the military and civilian perspectives, and include clinical and basic science, management guidelines and outcomes. The Symposium is a unique blend of military and civilian speakers and topics.



The Symposium bridges military and civilian spheres, assuring that the best trauma innovations from each sector find far-reaching application. In this photo from 2004, U.S. Marines from the 1st Expeditionary Force train for urban combat at their base near Fallujah, Iraq.

Photo: Marco Di Lauro

### Featured Symposium Speakers

**Lieutenant General Eric B. Schoomaker, M.D., Ph.D.**, Army Surgeon General and Commander of the US Army Medical Command. LTG Schoomaker has served with distinction in a wide variety of military medical assignments over the past three decades, most recently as the Commanding General, Walter Reed Army Medical Center and the North Atlantic Regional Medical Command. He holds a medical degree and a Ph.D. in Human Genetics from the University of Michigan Medical School.

**Dr. Dror Soffer**, Director of The Yitzhak Rabin Trauma Division of The Tel Aviv Medical Center. This center is the primary trauma center for the city and surrounding area and the referral center for trauma patients from hospitals around the country. Israel's experience with mass casualty situations as a result of terrorist attacks has put the country's specialists at the forefront of trauma practice.

**Dr. Mauricio Lynn**, Director of the Trauma Resuscitation Unit at Ryder Trauma Center at Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami and head of Mass Casualty Preparedness and Response at University of Miami, Jackson Memorial Medical Center. Dr. Lynn is a retired Lieutenant Colonel in the Israeli Defense Forces, Flight Surgeon with the Israeli Air Force Special Forces, Medical Commander of the Air Rescue and Medical Evacuation Unit, and Head of Trauma for the Military.

**COL Lorne Blackbourne**, NTI Board Member; Commander, United States Army Institute of Surgical Research; previously Assistance Chief of the Burn Center and Assistant Chief of the Trauma Service, U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research at Brooke Army Medical Center.

### SUNDAY AUGUST 30

Evening Social  
Marriot Plaza Hotel

### MONDAY AUGUST 31

#### Morning Presentations:

Military Mass Casualty Innovations  
Civilian Mass Casualty Innovations

#### Afternoon Breakout Sessions:

Trauma Nursing/Allied Health  
Emergency Medicine – Pre-Hospital  
Anesthesiology  
Ophthalmology  
Trauma/Critical Care  
Orthopedic Trauma

### TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 1

#### Morning Breakout Sessions:

Trauma Nursing/Allied Health  
Emergency Medicine – Hospital  
Anesthesiology  
Multiple Specialty  
Trauma/Critical Care  
Orthopedic Trauma

#### Afternoon Breakout Sessions:

Trauma Mental Health  
Craniofacial Trauma  
Anesthesiology  
Multiple Specialty  
Trauma/Critical Care  
Burn Surgery

### WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 2

Specialty Courses

**COL Brian Eastridge**, NTI Board Member; Director, Joint Theater Trauma System Program, responsible for the coordinated programs for military trauma care in Iraq and Afghanistan.

**Col Linda Lawrence**, NTI Board Member; Chief of Medical Staff, David Grant Medical Center, Travis AFB, CA; Attending Physician, Emergency Department, Travis AFB, CA; Emergency Medicine Consultant to the Air Force Surgeon General; Associate Professor, Department of Military and Emergency Medicine, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Bethesda, MD.

**Dr. Andrew Peitzman**, NTI Board Member; Professor of Surgery and Vice Chair for Clinical Services; Department of Surgery Chief, Division of General Surgery; Chief, Section of Trauma/Surgical Critical Care. Dr. Peitzman's particular areas of clinical interest include complicated abdominal surgery, critical care medicine and hernia repair.

**Dr. Steven Wolf**, NTI Board Member; Chief and Task Area Manager of Clinical Trials at the Army Institute of Surgical Research; Vice-Chair for Surgical Research, University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio.

Visit the NTI website at [www.NationalTraumaInstitute.org](http://www.NationalTraumaInstitute.org) to register and to see a complete list of faculty and presentation updates.

## TRAUMA SURVIVOR STORY ►

### Proficiency and Providence Transform Victim into Victor

Roberto Espinosa had a lot of luck and one of the best trauma teams in Texas on his side when, on October 7, 2002, the bottom literally dropped out of his life.

An ordinary ride in a restaurant freight elevator turned into a nightmare when a probable hydraulic fluid leak led the elevator to fail, plunging Roberto and several crates of produce to the basement three floors below San Antonio's picturesque River Walk. Pure adrenaline compelled him to squeeze out of the mangled metal box and climb to the kitchen level; but once there, he collapsed.

"I had no idea of the extent of my injuries," he recalls. "So when I saw the paramedics rushing toward me a few minutes later, I was shocked." With the precision exhibited by well-trained professionals, the first responders fell immediately to their task of strapping Roberto down, staunching the bleeding, and starting IV fluids. Before he knew it, he was



Roberto Espinosa enjoys one of many sunsets he can now share with his family as a result of excellent trauma care.

## BY THE NUMBERS ►

### The Economic Impact of Trauma

The annual cost of trauma in the United States is more than \$400 billion: \$80 billion in direct medical care costs and \$326 billion in productivity losses.



### Life Years Lost Due to Trauma

- Trauma injury accounts for 30% of all life years lost in the U.S.
- Cancer accounts for 16%
- Heart disease accounts for 12%
- HIV accounts for 2.1%

### Trauma as a Cause of Death

#1 for people ages 1-44, or 39% of all deaths.

#5 as leading cause of death overall, across all age groups.

162,000: Deaths due to injury each year in the United States.

on a gurney in an ambulance headed for Brooke Army Medical Center (BAMC), a Level 1 Trauma Center.

But Roberto's first real inkling that he was anything more than a routine accident victim came in a comment from one of the emergency medics. "Well, you've used everything we have in here," she said lightly, and Roberto could tell it was an attempt at levity in a sober moment. His second was the instant the ambulance doors swung open at BAMC. "A trauma team of about a dozen doctors and nurses were all there ready for me. I've never seen so many doctors in one place," he says. "And they were perfectly organized."

Time stopped for Roberto as medical staff swarmed around him, but the trauma team was acutely aware of the passing minutes as they fought to save his life. A priest was called to administer last rites.

It took two hours for them to clean and treat injuries to his head and a seven-inch gash down his back and staple up the wounds. It was in those two hours that the superbly skilled doctors and nurses realized that luck was also to play a role in Roberto's survival and recovery. The gaping wound at the base of his skull was worrisome. Roberto might survive it, but would he be paralyzed?

"I never believed I was going die—maybe I was in denial—but I was terrified at the thought of being paralyzed," he remembers.

Having stabilized Roberto, doctors and patient anxiously awaited the results from the x-rays, which would tell them if he'd be walking out the door or using a wheelchair. "It turned out to be one of those injuries where—an inch lower and I would have died, an inch to the right, and I would have been paralyzed."

Today, the only lingering evidence of Roberto's horrific accident is his refusal to walk over street elevator shafts—a superstition, he says—and a new life in a completely different and entirely rewarding career.

At 34, with a wife and two young children, Roberto took the accident as a wake-up call and immediately drew up a will, put his finances in order, and made sure his family would be protected in the event of his death. His thoroughness and attention to detail so impressed Northwestern Mutual, the firm he engaged for the work, that he was offered a job. And although he was a co-owner of the restaurant in which he had the accident, he left the industry immediately.

Eight years later, he still delights in helping people maneuver through the financial and legal tangles that often keep otherwise responsible adults from preparing for the unexpected. And he's still thanking his lucky stars and his trauma team for a new life that is now completely balanced and happy.



## TRAUMA FACTS ▶



On average in the United States in 2005, someone died in a fire about every **2 hours (143 minutes)**, and someone was injured every **29 minutes**. Each year in the United States, **1.1 million** burn injuries require medical attention.

Among people 65 years and older, falls are the leading cause of injury deaths and the most common cause of nonfatal injuries and hospital admissions for trauma. Each year in the United States, nearly **one third** of older adults experience a fall. In 2003, more than **13,700 people** 65 years or older died of fall-related injuries. Another **1.8 million** were treated in emergency departments for nonfatal injuries related to falls.

Each year trauma accounts for **37 million** emergency department visits and **2.6 million** hospital admissions across the nation.

Because trauma is a disease affecting all ages of people, the impact on life years lost is four times greater than heart disease or cancer.

### Members of Congress Express Support for NTI Funding in 2010

Seeking to help close the dramatic shortfall in funding for trauma research compared to other conditions, NTI sought support this year from Members of the House and Senate for federal trauma research funding. We are delighted to acknowledge support for NTI's request from Representatives Lamar Smith, Charlie Gonzalez, Ciro Rodriguez and John Carter. NTI expresses its sincere appreciation to these Members of Congress. Individual senators are not required to announce support until later this spring.

NTI anticipates that a major part of any federal funding received would be directed to developing techniques to treat non-compressible hemorrhage, which military officials have told NTI is their top medical research priority. Similar injuries among the civilian population cost thousands of lives each year.

## Honor A Loved One Give to the National Trauma Institute

Your generous support of the National Trauma Institute allows us to fulfill our commitment to funding trauma research, changing trauma practice and creating awareness about the devastating effects of trauma. Millions of Americans are touched by trauma every year, both at home and in overseas military operations—help us reduce the impact of trauma and alleviate related suffering.



### Make your gift mean more:

If desired, donors may give in memory of or in honor of a physician, hospital or loved one.

To make a donation to the National Trauma Institute online, visit [www.NationalTraumaInstitute.org](http://www.NationalTraumaInstitute.org) and choose from a variety of giving levels. If donating by mail, checks may be sent to the National Trauma Institute, 16500 San Pedro, Suite 350, San Antonio, TX 78732.

Contact NTI's Development Office for more information:

[Giving@NationalTraumaInstitute.org](mailto:Giving@NationalTraumaInstitute.org)  
or 210-233-6162



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## LEARN AND SAVE LIVES ►

### Annual Symposium Delivers the World's Most Advanced Trauma Education

**NTI's 15th Annual Trauma Symposium**

**August 31 – September 2, 2009**

Register Online Now at [www.NationalTraumaInstitute.org](http://www.NationalTraumaInstitute.org)

#### REGISTRATION FEES:

Physician.....	\$250
PA/RN/CRNA/NP.....	\$175
LVN/LPN/EMT/Paramedic/Technician.....	\$100
Student.....	\$50

Add \$25 for on-site registration

#### LOCATION:

Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, San Antonio, Texas

#### ACCOMMODATIONS:

Marriott Plaza Hotel, San Antonio, Texas

210-229-1000 or (toll free) 800-266-9432

Book before August 4, 2009 to secure NTI room rates: \$117/night government, \$129/night civilian

**SAVE THE DATE**