

# Trauma Matters

The Official Newsletter of the Texas Trauma Coordinators Forum

August 2017



## Texas Trauma Coordinators Forum

The mission of the Texas Trauma Coordinator's Forum is to provide a forum for networking, mentorship, emergency preparedness, securing and maintaining of trauma financing and provision of education to professionals involved in trauma care. TTCF encompasses all aspects of trauma care for both the injured and those at risk of injury.

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Membership is open to anyone interested in improving care for trauma patients. Meetings of the TTCF are held quarterly and provide an outstanding opportunity to network with Trauma Coordinators, Trauma Registrars, Trauma Program Managers, and Trauma Personnel throughout Texas. The Forum shares information regarding trauma system development, hospital designation, and legislation information regarding Trauma and Emergency Medical issues as well as updates on injury prevention programs, trauma registry requirements, and rule changes. TTCF Committees & Workgroups include: Level I/II, Level III, Level IV, Injury Prevention, Special Populations, Public Relations/Legislative, Fund Raising, Education, Trauma Registry, and Mentorship.

### *Please remember to RSVP for the TTCF meeting!*

*On-line registration (RSVP) using Eventbrite via the TTCF homepage [www.ttcf.org](http://www.ttcf.org) is important to provide adequate meal and room provisions at each meeting. For further information please contact Jacky Betts by email: [jbetts@unitedregional.org](mailto:jbetts@unitedregional.org)*

### Upcoming Dates (2017):

#### **TTCF 4th QTR Meeting – November 17, Ft. Worth**

Texas EMS Conference - November 19-22, Ft. Worth  
TQIP National Conference - November 11-13, Chicago

TOPIC - September 7, RAC-E, Arlington  
ABLS - September 8, RAC-E, Arlington  
TNCC - September 6-7– Longview & Houston  
September 7-8 - Greenville & Stephenville  
ENPC - September 7-8 Longview, Corpus & Humble  
TCAR - September 14-15 - Bryan  
September 21-22 - Ft. Worth



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Membership applications can be found on the TTCF homepage [www.ttcf.org](http://www.ttcf.org). Due each year in February, membership costs are: \$50 (online) \$60 (in-person) & \$ 65 (non-member in-person). Dues are not prorated or transferable.

Dues are processed via Texas Trauma Coordinators Forum, P.O.Box 177, Wichita Falls, TX 76307.

## TTCF Group on Google Groups List Server

We have officially made the move to Google groups. It is important that you request to become a member of the TTCF Google list server group to stay aware of important events and afford yourself our fantastic networking opportunities.

### HOW TO JOIN:

1. Go to <https://groups.google.com/>
2. Type “TTCF” in the search box
3. Click the groups button (make sure the posts button is not highlighted)
4. Click on “TTCF”
5. Request to become a member!

## Have your heard ???

There’s a TTCF Calendar !

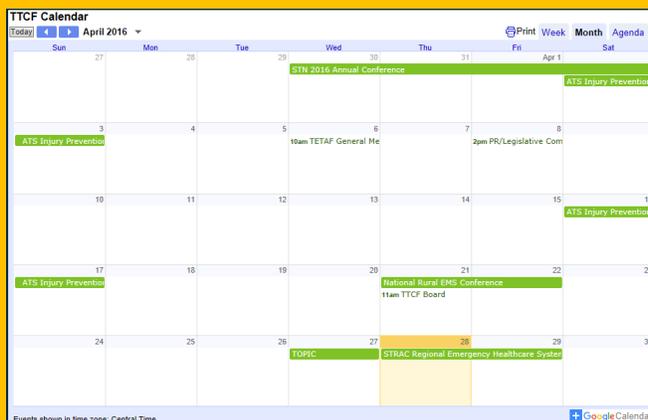
Stay up to date on:

- Board Meetings
- General Meetings
- TOPIC classes
- Other events & classes!

Access “*Calendars*” at: [www.ttcf.org](http://www.ttcf.org)

Registry info & classes at:  
[www.texastraumaregistrars.com](http://www.texastraumaregistrars.com)

To add your event please contact a  
TTCF Board, Committee or  
Workgroup member!



# TTCF Executive Board



**Robin Garza**  
President

## President

- Shall preside over all general membership and Board of Directors meetings
- Shall be empowered to call emergency meetings of the Board of Directors in situations where action is needed prior to the next scheduled meeting
- Shall be the official to sign and/or authorize operations issues related to TTCF, but only after discussion and agreement of a majority of the Board of Directors.
- Shall provide an agenda at each meeting
- Shall mentor the president elect.
- Shall prepare an Annual Report with assistance of the Historian for presentation at the 1st quarterly meeting.
- Shall lead annual assessment of projects and focus on upcoming year activities at annual strategic planning meeting.
- Shall be responsible for providing approval of articles submitted to the TTCF webpage
- Shall attend general membership meetings, or in absence, make arrangements with the past president and/or the president elect to assume necessary duties.

## President-Elect

- May assume the duties of the President in his/her absence.
- May serve as an ex-officio member of any/all committees.
- Shall attend general membership meetings, or in absence, make arrangements with the President to cover necessary duties.



**Sherry Jennings**  
President –Elect



**Kathy Rodgers**  
Historian

## Historian

- Shall record and preserve the record of TTCF activities and achievements and assist the President in preparing Annual Report.
- Shall coordinate with the general membership in obtaining TTCF historical material and other memorabilia reflecting the organization's history.
- Shall submit revisions and changes to the webmaster for the History page on the TTCF website.
- Shall attend general membership meetings, or in absence, make arrangements with the President to cover necessary duties.

## Secretary

- Shall keep minutes of all general membership and Board of Directors meetings.
- Shall electronically post meeting notices to all members a minimum of thirty (30) days prior to the next scheduled meeting.
- Shall make copies of previous minutes available on TTCF webpage.
- Shall maintain records and copies of pertinent documents as directed by the President.
- Shall provide copies of documents to webmaster for posting on the TTCF website.
- Shall keep records of current membership.
- Shall be responsible for maintaining display board.
- Shall be responsible for maintaining projector.
- Shall attend general membership meetings, or in absence, make arrangements with the President to cover necessary duties.



**Brett Dodwell**  
Secretary



**Jacky Betts**  
Treasurer

## Treasurer

- Shall collect all funds and shall have custody of such.
- Shall make distribution of such funds upon order of the Board of Directors.
- Shall deposit all funds in an insured account in an insured financial institution.
- Shall submit a current written financial statement to the Board of Directors on a quarterly basis.
- Shall negotiate contracts for meeting facilities.
- Shall attend general membership meetings, or in absence, make arrangements with the President to cover necessary duties.

## Parliamentarian

- Shall serve as a non-voting member of the Executive Board and will not participate in the motion process, except to make sure the correct procedures are followed via the most current Roberts Rules of Order.
- Shall assist and support the President in maintaining order and adhering to time schedules.
- Shall assist with the coordination of motions/resolutions.
- Shall coordinate the election process of officers for the organization as well as the other voting procedures.
- Shall facilitate annual review and update the organizational bylaws with report to Executive Board at 1st quarter meeting.
- Shall attend general membership meetings, or in absence, make arrangements with the President to cover necessary duties.



**Danielle Sherar**  
Parliamentarian

## *How to use registry reports to increase trauma data accuracy*

■The whole purpose of a trauma registry is to use your data to improve patient care and make better program management decisions. But as the *Orange Book* points out, the only way to transform your registry into useful information is to use registry reports and validation to maintain quality data. Unfortunately, report writing and data validation often take a back seat to other priorities. When you are struggling to maintain a concurrent trauma registry, does it make sense to set aside time for running reports and doing quality checks?

**Sponsored Content:** This article was developed by Trauma System News in cooperation with [himagine solutions](#).

This question was answered for me a few years ago when I was the registry manager at a large Level I trauma center. As part of my job I regularly ran several registry reports, including monthly trending reports for MOI, admit unit, complication counts, physician admit service, etc.

Like most registry teams, we often dealt with chart backlogs, so I decided to cut back on reporting and help with abstraction. The plan was that devoting more resources on the front end would help us get caught up with our data.

However, within just a few weeks I realized things were not working out as expected. While I was saving time on running reports, I was spending more time than ever cleaning up data errors on the back end. I saw in hindsight that the effort I had been putting into reporting was actually paying off several-fold in better chart abstracting, higher quality data and a more useful trauma registry.

The bottom line is that data reporting is an absolutely critical part of data validation. Report writing—used in combination with trending analysis, consistency checks and logic—lets you spot the front-end problems that lead to bad data. The more frequently you look at your data through registry reports, the more accurate your trauma registry data will be.

Most trauma centers do not devote enough resources to data reporting. The good news is that even a basic reporting strategy can lead to significant improvements in data accuracy. Here are three suggestions for creating an ongoing reporting program that improves data quality while providing valuable information to trauma leaders.

### **1. Create monthly trending reports on key PI data points**

The *Orange Book* requires ACS-verified trauma centers to use registry data to support performance improvement, so PI is an ideal place to begin with data reporting. Run monthly registry reports on the data points that have the biggest impact on quality, outcomes and safety in your facility. For example:

### **2. Use reports to check data submitted to national registries**

If your hospital participates in the Trauma Quality Improvement Program (TQIP) or submits data to the National Trauma Data Bank (NTDB), regular internal reporting can help you ensure the quality of your data submissions. Develop ad hoc reports for:

**Key fields and exclusion triggers.** Begin by writing a custom report of required data elements in the NTDB dictionary. Many of these elements will overlap with your key PI data, like mechanism of injury and E-code. Other data fields, such as ED discharge disposition, are important because they can trigger exclusion from TQIP.

**Comorbid conditions and complications.** Your ad hoc reports should also include comorbidity and complication data fields, since these affect risk adjustment in NTDB and TQIP benchmarking. Watch for patterns to identify potential data problems. For example, your monthly comorbidity reports might show a fairly consistent percentage of older

## *How to use registry reports to increase trauma data accuracy*

patients with hypertension. If you suddenly begin to see wide fluctuations in this field, check the patient charts to make sure they were abstracted correctly.

**Data submission frequency reports.** NTDB/TQIP submission frequency reports provide an excellent opportunity to use reporting to drive accuracy. Review the reports to identify any inappropriate use of null values. For example, the “report of physical abuse” field should always contain either *yes* or *no*, never “not known” or “not recorded.”

**Benchmark reports.** You should also examine NTDB/TQIP benchmark reports to identify the data fields that have the highest frequency of use and are most likely to trigger an exclusion. The following data fields typically have the greatest overall impact on benchmark and research reports for these programs:

### **3. Develop reports that support hospital and physician goals**

Data reporting is also an opportunity to prove the value of the trauma registry to hospital and physician leaders. Consider beginning with:

**Utilization data.** Monthly registry reports on hospital length of stay (LOS) and readmissions will help administrators manage resource utilization. Validate the data through selective checks. For instance, if a report shows that a trauma patient with a low ISS is readmitted to the hospital, check the records to confirm the discharge process. Was the patient sent home too early? Did he or she have enough pain medication and receive the right follow-up care? Were the appropriate physicians involved in the discharge process?

**Physician benchmarking.** Using registry data to develop a Physician Report Card will help the trauma medical director evaluate the core team more objectively. This report could include each physician’s monthly volume, patient count by ISS score ( $\leq 15$  and  $> 15$ ), complications, fall-outs from patient audit filters, ICU LOS and hospital LOS. Cross-check ISS against procedures and complications and double-check all outlier LOS values. This exercise will help ensure physicians are evaluated fairly. It will also serve as another data validation checkpoint for the trauma registry.

### **Close the loop**

Not every registry team will be able to tackle all these reports at once. That is why it often makes sense to work with a trauma registry outsource vendor with the resources to keep your registry current—and the expertise to provide you with a broad range of accurate and actionable reports.

But no matter how you proceed, getting started with a handful of key reports will help you transform your registry into a useful tool. The important point is to use data reporting to drive registrar learning. Reports help catch errors, but ultimately you need to use error findings to “close the loop” with registrars.

To find out how to create a practical and effective registrar feedback loop, download [The Step-by-Step Guide to Improving Trauma Data Accuracy with Ongoing Registrar Learning](#). This free e-book from **himage solutions** will show you how to develop an ongoing registrar feedback process that addresses the root causes of abstraction errors, reduces variability and improves trauma data quality. ■

### **[Article Online](#)**

Irene Lopez BSN, RN, CSTR  
Trauma Registry Manager  
himage solutions

## *TTCF Level IV Committee*

**Why should I attend the Level IV Committee meeting?** Many of you may ask yourself this question.

As a Level IV Trauma Program Manager/Trauma Coordinator – this is ***YOUR*** Committee – we provide:

Excellent time for interaction with other TPM/TC

Open forum – all questions and suggestions are welcome

Direct interaction with Trauma Surveyors

Education for Trauma PI/”Loop Closure”

Education on “Trauma Facility Checklist Criteria”, etc.

Experienced “seasoned” and “new” TPM/TC share

Speakers : “What is working for me/what is not working”

Other trauma topics are addressed which may include – trauma activation charges, trauma flow sheets: electronic-vs-paper, etc.

This is a time for you to connect with other Level IV trauma managers – we all wear many hats, not just trauma, many of us are Cardiac/Stroke Coordinators – many other positions.

You are not alone, we are your “trauma” family.

Come to the Level IV Committee meeting ----- we welcome you!!!

Thank you,

Janice Markwardt, RN - Level IV Committee Chair

Joy Henry, RN - Level IV Committee Co-Chair



For updates and contact information about the Level IV Committee please visit:

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

## Mentorship / Membership

Rebecca Crocker & Melanie Martin & Rosie Bolenbaucher



Welcome to TTCF! All new members and visitors to TTCF will spend their first meeting in the Membership/Mentorship committee. Important organizational information is provided and there is opportunity for networking and Q&A with experienced trauma coordinators. The State designation coordinators and a representative

from TETAF are also present to answer questions. The Membership/Mentorship committee is a great place to start your TTCF journey!

This committee provides new members with a first impression of the organization and is key in the growth of our trauma group. Please contact

Rebecca Crocker if you are interested in supplying mentorship support or sponsoring any new members. Support can be very rewarding and enables everyone involved to grow and become better educated with numerous aspects of trauma care and networking opportunities.



## Legislative/Public Relations Workgroup

Marvin Cloud & Jennifer Kraatz

**Legislative Updates and additional Texas Trauma information: Look for the updates from Texas EMS Trauma & Acute Care Foundation (TETAF) at [www.tetaf.org](http://www.tetaf.org)**

The PR/Legislative Workgroup expresses their most sincere appreciation to TTCF members who participated in the *2017 Trauma Day at the Capitol*. This event reiterates the importance of support of continued funding for trauma care in the state of Texas. The group is committed to encouraging the need for TTCF individuals to identify & reach out to their Texas legislators to make educate them on the need for continued and increased trauma funding, as well as informing them that the current funds have been cut or appropriated to other organizations without any source of replacement.

## Trauma Registry

Irene Lopez & Garrett Hall



NTDB standards continue to be implemented and successful uploads are starting to occur with XML format. Vendor tests are encouraged,. Quarterly registry training continues and data request policies update will be completed soon relating to epidemiology data requests. DSHS is in the process of converting to 2017 NTDB data dictionary and hopes to up and running this fall.

Contact [injury.web@dshs.state.tx.us](mailto:injury.web@dshs.state.tx.us) for additional resources.

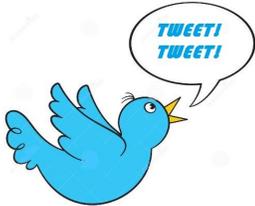
## TTCF

Texas Trauma Coordinators Forum  
1600 11th Street  
Wichita Falls, Texas 76301

*Texas Trauma Coordinators Forum (TTCF) encourages multidisciplinary participation in providing holistic healthcare across the entire continuum of care, from injury prevention through rehabilitation. Printing courtesy of:*

We are on the web!

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



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Start tweeting @TraumaRegistrar and hash tag #CSTR



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