



The Pony Express

Headline News

EMSC Joins Life Flight Conference for Pediatric Trauma Symposium

On April 15, 2010, the EMSC State Partnership joined the Houston Fire Department and Texas Children's Hospital in a Regional Pediatric Trauma Symposium sponsored by Children's Memorial Hermann and [Memorial Hermann Life Flight](#) in Houston. Dr. Keith Gates, EMS Fellow at HFD, hosted the event which included speakers from a variety of disciplines, providing continuing education in the areas of special needs, child development, forensic medicine, and pediatric resuscitation. In addition, in a one-of-a-kind multi-institutional facilitated panel discussion, two pediatric surgeons and two pediatric neurosurgeons debated several issues concerning regional prehospital management of pediatric trauma.

EMSC Project Coordinator Tony Gilchrest and special guests Andrea Lynn and her son, Gary, kicked off the day with a presentation entitled "What's So Special about Children with Special Health Care Needs." Gary is the founder of the [Gary J. Lynn Foundation](#), and our sincere thanks goes out to Gary and Andrea for sharing their unique experiences and insight into the lives of families with special needs. Their message can help emergency service providers to overcome misconceptions, break down barriers to communication, and appreciate the value of family- and patient-centered care. Gary put the exclamation point on what is so special about kids with special needs.

[Child Life Specialists](#), Jamie Moreau and Leslie Johnson, of Texas Children's Hospital followed with a discussion on "Meeting the Developmental Needs of Children and Adolescents." This important topic provided some fantastic tips on how to gain and keep the trust and cooperation of children at various stages in their development as well as how to minimize children's fear and anxiety leading to more effective care.

Next, Sally Henin Awad, MD, FACEP, Medical Director for the [Forensic Nursing Program](#) at Memorial Hermann Hospital, presented an eye-opening lecture and discussion on "Forensic Medicine and Evidence Preservation in Child Abuse." This topic shed light on many issues associated with EMS response to suspected child abuse including identification of subtle signs and symptoms indicating abuse, EMS providers' responsibilities in mandatory reporting, and appropriate documentation.

Nathaniel H.P. Strobel, MD, F.A.A.P., Medical Director of [Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital PICU](#), wrapped up the morning lectures with a presentation on pediatric resuscitation. Dr. Strobel provided a fantastic review of the basics as well as a look at current outcomes and a thorough discussion about new changes in pediatric BLS and ALS.

Best Practices

Congratulations to Washington County EMS: 2010 EMSC Crew of the Year

The EMSC State Partnership is proud to present the 2010 EMSC Crew of the Year Award to Lt./Paramedic Justin Knuppel, Paramedic Katie Padeszwa, Loretta Olsen, and Laura Turner and to their esteemed coworkers at [Washington County EMS](#). These dedicated professionals have gone above and beyond the call of duty to assure the highest possible quality of pediatric emergency medical care.

According to EMS Director Kevin Deramus, these four individuals led a department-wide effort to improve their operational preparedness to manage critically ill and injured children as well as to develop a primary injury and disease prevention program. Each member of this team championed a different aspect of the initiative.

Lt. Knuppel worked feverishly with the Ronald McDonald House out of Austin to obtain grant funding for the purchase of complete Broslow™ Pediatric Resuscitation Systems for each of the MICU units to assure standardization and equipment readiness. Deramus said that this system has already made a difference in more than one call.

Staff member Laura Turner led a group of paramedics to become Texas Vaccine for Children Providers (TVFC), enabling them to provide grant funded vaccinations to school-age children in their community and surrounding communities. The program is currently serving more than 300 vaccines per year to underserved children.

Katie Padeszwa partnered with the Rotary Club to designate Washington County EMS as an official "Safe Baby Site" for the region. She provided employee training as well as public education for the program. In addition, Katie championed the cause for providing safe pediatric transport, extensively investigating and evaluating an appropriate pediatric transport device, then purchasing the device using local grant dollars.

Loretta Olsen is responsible for the Car Seat Distribution Program. As a trained technician, Loretta provides monthly Car Seat Safety Classes and makes sure that car seats are properly installed.

A commitment to excellence in pediatric emergency medical care makes Washington County EMS a model for the Texas EMS/Trauma System.

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Mail Pouch

EMSC State Partnership, TX

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Pediatric Trauma Symposium (continued from page 1)

Finally, Dr. Manish Shah, EMSC Co-Investigator and Pediatric Emergency Physician at [Texas Children's Hospital](#), kicked off the symposium's main attraction with a review of prehospital trauma literature related to four specific questions arising out of variations in practice and preference in prehospital pediatric trauma management in the region. However, the purpose of the panel discussion was to attempt to reach agreement on these issues, since evidence in prehospital pediatric emergency trauma management is significantly limited. The questions discussed are as follows:

1. At what age do you think that a child should be considered an adult regarding the pre-hospital triage, evaluation, and management of pediatric patients?
2. Should fluids and meds be provided for traumatic pediatric cardiopulmonary arrest; with or without head injury?
3. Should fluids and meds be provided for hypotensive pulsing pediatric trauma patients; with or without head injury?
4. Should families ever be separated (among several Level 1 trauma centers) in an effort to distribute the burden of managing pediatric trauma?

Paul Sirbaugh, DO, Director of Prehospital Medicine at TCH and Pediatric Medical Director for Houston Fire Department EMS, facilitated the discussion for the panel. He explained that this discussion was intended to provide expert opinion about the selected questions to ultimately influence future protocol revisions for pediatric trauma care in Houston and, possibly, other prehospital providers in the South East Texas Regional Advisory Council (SETRAC) trauma service area. Panel Participants included these distinguished guests:

- **David Wesson, MD.** Baylor/TCH, Chief, Division of Pediatric Surgery, Professor of Pediatrics, Baylor College of Medicine
- **Tom Luerssen, MD.** Baylor/TCH, Chief, Division of Pediatric Neurosurgery, Professor of Neurosurgery, Baylor College of Medicine
- **Charles S. Cox, Jr. MD.** UT/Hermann, Children's Fund Distinguished Professor and Director, Pediatric Trauma Program University of Texas Health Science Center Houston and Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital
- **James Baumgartner, MD,** Division of Pediatric Neurosurgery, University of Texas Health Science Center Houston and Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital

The panel discussions went well, and participants and the audience came away with valuable information for consideration in developing prehospital pediatric trauma protocols. This demonstrated the benefit of bringing experts together across institutional and inter-disciplinary boundaries to facilitate the development of best practices when evidence is limited. A full report of the panel discussion has been submitted for presentation at the 2010 Texas EMS Conference.

State Partnership Update

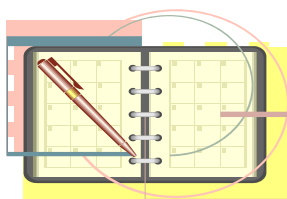
- Congratulations to our own Sally Snow, RN, BSN, CPEN, FAEN, Trauma Program Director at [Cook Children's Medical Center](#), for winning the 2010 National Heroes Award for EMSC Advisory Committee Member! Look for a full report about Sally in the next Pony Express.
- The Family Advocates Network is growing, with advocates in several regions of the state. If you are interested in helping to improve emergency care for children, drop your contact information in the [Mail Pouch](#) or call 832-824-6028.
- Work is continuing on the development of regional pediatric on-line medical control and a pediatric protocol resource. Please continue to send in your protocols and suggestions.

Final Thought

Education is learning what you didn't even know you didn't know.

Daniel J. Boorstin

Upcoming Events



- May 16 - 22: National EMS Week
- May 19: National EMSC Day
- June 24: EMSC Advisory Committee Teleconference 2:00pm. Details to Follow

Mark Your Calendar