

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### International TraumaCare: The Leader in Cutting-Edge Trauma Care

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Trauma is the leading cause of lost years of life in the United States. Trauma accounts for more deaths in those younger than 24 years of age than all other modalities combined, and numbers more than 125,000 deaths per year in the United States alone. In developing nations as deaths due to infection and malnutrition are decreasing, trauma is growing, particularly as automobiles become increasingly available. Trauma includes a variety of insults ranging from penetrating trauma such as knife and gun shot wounds to blunt-force trauma such as in motor vehicle collisions. Not only is trauma diverse in its etiology, but also in its effects. Trauma frequently impacts multiple-organ systems both directly and indirectly. This is particularly evident in the trauma victim suffering severe hemorrhage. To those unaccustomed to caring for such patients the answer may seem simple enough: stop the blood loss and replace the blood loss. Unfortunately, the treatment of severe hemorrhage is much more complex. One's "fight or flight" response triggering intrinsic neurohumeral responses and the liberation of local mediators in the face of acute hypotension evokes a wide range of compensatory effects, potentially protective in the short term, but damaging if unchecked or prolonged. Treating these subsequent effects, such as coagulopathies or shock lung, remains among the most challenging aspects of traumatology. International TraumaCare has long recognized these difficulties, devoting numerous lectures, monographs, and texts to this disease process. This edition of *TraumaCare* continues this tradition, clearly elucidating the traumatologists' struggle in the care of the hemorrhaging trauma patient. This edition of *TraumaCare* describes the pathophysiology of hemorrhage in the trauma patient and offers cutting-edge modalities and treatment plans with an eye to the future in the quest to improve outcomes in the hemorrhaging trauma patient.

As evidenced in this issue, International TraumaCare continues as the international multidisciplinary leader in cutting-edge trauma care. International TraumaCare was formed in 1988 as the International Trauma Anesthesia and Critical Care Society (ITACCS) specifically to further the development of traumatologists. ITACCS evolved into the broader multispecialty society International TraumaCare over the ensuing years as the term *traumatologist* broadened to include not only anesthesiologists, intensivists, trauma surgeons, and emergency medicine physicians but also other

physician and nonphysician trauma care specialists, and it counts among its nearly 2,000 worldwide members a multitude of specialists. International TraumaCare has achieved a reputation for producing and sponsoring high-quality educational programs and academic activities. International TraumaCare has contributed to and/or organized more than 100 major trauma care textbooks and monographs. Among these, the most up-to-date and inclusive trauma text, 2007's two-volume *Trauma*, edited by Wilson, Grande, and Hoyt, with worldwide contributions from International TraumaCare faculty, has received top reviews.

International TraumaCare has unrivalled capabilities for assembling intellectual resources, marshalling multinational governmental support, and concentrating international technology and information transfer to the benefit of various projects. International TraumaCare's dedication to all aspects of trauma care and the improvement of trauma care throughout the world is evidenced in many successful projects. International TraumaCare promotes knowledge, skills, and the art of traumatology through an ambitious comprehensive and complex educational strategy that includes the availability of educational programs pertinent to the interest of all who contribute to the care of the trauma victim. This capability is readily demonstrated by one of International TraumaCare's current efforts, Sedation and Airway Support For Everyone (SAFE). International TraumaCare recognizes that an increasing number of procedures and minor operations are being performed without the involvement of an anesthesia provider away from the traditional operating room setting. SAFE's mission is to improve patient safety by creating a standard international training program for procedural sedation and out of operating room airway management. SAFE is targeted to nonanesthesiologist physicians, nurses, physician's assistants, medics, and other paraprofessional personnel involved in sedation and out of operating room airway management. The training is Web-based training followed by simulation training with clinical integration at certified centers throughout the world. A textbook, authored by more than 40 International TraumaCare faculty, has an anticipated publication date in Spring 2008. For additional information, please contact the International TraumaCare SAFE special project at [itcsedation@google.com](mailto:itcsedation@google.com).

International TraumaCare is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to offer continuing medical education for physicians. The hallmark of International TraumaCare has always been its educational endeavors. The annual scientific meeting of International TraumaCare has become the international forum for all specialists involved in traumatology and includes current practice, basic science, and clinical research. An internationally recognized faculty present cutting-edge topics. The 20th Annual TraumaCare Symposium was held in Las Vegas, Nevada, in May 2007. Traumatologists from many nations met to discuss advances in the management of trauma victims. The educational benefit from such interactions is enormous and translates to a benefit for patients. TraumaCare 2008 ([www.traumacare2008.com](http://www.traumacare2008.com)) will be held jointly with the Japanese Society of Anesthesiology's annual meeting June 11-13, 2008, in Yokohama, Japan. As is International TraumaCare's custom, the annual meeting rotates annually among the continents whenever

possible. In addition to TraumaCare 2008 in Yokohama, Japan, please mark on your calendars for TraumaCare 2009 ([www.traumacare2009.com](http://www.traumacare2009.com)) in Ulm, Germany; TraumaCare 2010 ([www.traumacare2010.com](http://www.traumacare2010.com)) in Delhi, India; and TraumaCare 2011 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. All are invited!

International TraumaCare's educational endeavors don't end with the annual TraumaCare scientific meetings. International TraumaCare provides a large number of trauma care continuing medical education symposia ([www.itaccs.com/programs/index.htm](http://www.itaccs.com/programs/index.htm)) throughout the world. International TraumaCare's diverse faculty bring an extraordinary depth of experience to these trauma team seminars. "Trauma: the Team Approach" seminars are exceptionally popular and well received, reaching a large and varied audience.

Trauma care encompasses mass casualty situations as well as the more common single or several victims. The International Chief Emergency Physician (ICEP) Course ([www.icep-itaccs.com](http://www.icep-itaccs.com)) was developed to assist in gaining expertise in managing mass casualty situations. International TraumaCare has been providing ICEP since 1997. The objective of ICEP is to teach physicians already knowledgeable in prehospital emergency medicine how to integrate with emergency services the medical care and manage casualties from a mass casualty incident. The basic curriculum is adaptable to meet the requirements of the participants. ICEP trains participants to be leaders within a local command structure and to manage all medical aspects of mass casualty incidents and disasters. Participants learn how to define medical priorities, analyze and organize key issues such as triage of victims, medical care (and its limitations), prehospital care, and transportation at mass casualties and disasters.

*TraumaCare* is another venue International TraumaCare uses for education and the dissemination of information. Now in its 18th year, the peer-reviewed *TraumaCare* provides current information to the multidisciplinary International TraumaCare membership. All traumatologists and any others involved with the trauma patient care will find interest and immediate application in *TraumaCare*.

*TraumaCare* offers a forum for sharing ideas and techniques for managing trauma patients and provides an educational framework to train and nurture traumatologists. *TraumaCare* features current developments in the field, such as articles on clinical practice, research, case reports, book reviews, meeting reports, product news, and more. *TraumaCare* also offers the opportunity for trauma CME credits. There is no better intersection of trauma, anesthesia, and critical care than *TraumaCare*. *TraumaCare* is Web-based at [www.itaccs.com/traumacare/index.htm](http://www.itaccs.com/traumacare/index.htm).

International TraumaCare also supports the advancement of trauma care through research. Its Research Award Program ([www.itaccs.com/research/index.htm](http://www.itaccs.com/research/index.htm)) and Trauma and Resuscitation International Group for Experimentation and Research (TRIGGER) ([www.itaccs.com/triger/index.htm](http://www.itaccs.com/triger/index.htm)) are part of ongoing efforts to advance trauma care. The Research Award Program is intended to provide initial support for investigators who seek to obtain further support for the continuation of their projects. Awards are made within the general field of perioperative trauma, anesthesia, emergency medicine, and critical care, including basic science or clinical research, clinical management, education, or administration.

TRIGGER is an extension of the original mission of International TraumaCare. Just as trauma encompasses diverse fields of medicine, TRIGGER is committed to an interdisciplinary approach to trauma research. This approach fosters interactions between traumatologists in a various fields and connects trauma medicine to industry.

TRIGGER provides an institutional infrastructure that encourages and supports its physician scientists by serving as an interface between clinical investigators and sponsors of clinical trials of drugs and devices, outcomes/quality improvement, and quality-of-life studies. TRIGGER is able to conduct and administer both federally funded clinical trials and industry-sponsored trials through research, education, intervention, and health promotion, applying the highest ethical and scientific standards. By fostering academic collaboration, effecting communication with industrial sponsors, and promoting a focused and structured administrative process, TRIGGER is able to conduct research and translate the resulting information into treatment modalities that improve patient care and health.

As International TraumaCare looks forward, improving trauma care in developing nations is an important component of the mission of International TraumaCare. International TraumaCare has assisted national and international organizations in developing functional trauma care guidelines, educational programs, and trauma systems. A variety of educational and supportive programs are in place to assist countries in providing outstanding trauma care to their citizens. As part and parcel to these efforts, International TraumaCare is proud of its reinvigorated South American component and the creation of the Latin American Trauma Anesthesia and Critical Care Society ([www.lataccs.com.ar](http://www.lataccs.com.ar)), a component society dedicated to the advancement of trauma care in the Spanish-speaking world. Chile welcomed International TraumaCare and hosted a wonderfully received TraumaCare 2006 in Santiago. Other successful trauma programs have taken place in Latin America since that meeting. More are planned in the near future. Many are taught in both Spanish and English. Additionally, International TraumaCare is excitedly anticipating TraumaCare 2011 in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

International TraumaCare is a recognized leader in cutting-edge trauma care. Multidisciplinary traumatology is a broad field encompassing overlapping practices of medicine. The breadth of International TraumaCare is one of its major strengths. Sharing ideas and experiences with those around the world gives International TraumaCare a unique perspective as a truly international organization. Discussions among international colleagues with diverse backgrounds and experiences invariably lead to new and exciting ideas and solutions. International TraumaCare continues its mission to ensure excellence in trauma care through educational, research, and supportive endeavors. The upcoming years present numerous challenges for traumatologists. We must provide trauma care leadership in our hospitals and communities. International TraumaCare enhances the opportunity for cutting-edge excellence in trauma care.

For more information, please visit [www.itaccs.com](http://www.itaccs.com).