Message from the Chief Executive Officer

The past 18 months have been a time of tremendous growth for the Texas EMS, Trauma and Acute Care Foundation. The opportunities and challenges TETAF has faced have led to a stronger, more dynamic organization.

For the 2017 legislative session, TETAF engaged Erben and Yarbrough, a legislative advocacy consulting firm, to supplement staff resources. Their relationships combined with TETAF’s respected expertise and leadership on trauma and emergency healthcare provided a strong voice at the Capitol.

With the tight state budget environment the Legislature faced in 2017, many areas of healthcare saw significant state funding reductions. However, through active stakeholders and strong TETAF advocacy efforts, the legislature chose to maintain level funding for the trauma system and general revenue was appropriated to supplement the depleted EMS and Trauma Care Tobacco Endowment Fund.

TETAF’s survey service line experienced major growth in 2017, with a full year of doing neonatal intensive care unit verification surveys, as well as the continuation of the trauma and stroke survey processes.

TETAF has grown substantially since its founding, and its governance model had not evolved with the needs of the organization. With the guidance of our consultant, Integrated Healthcare Strategies, TETAF has updated and revised its governance model to ensure broad participation by thought leaders and appropriate representation for all segments of the trauma and emergency healthcare system. With an updated governance model and a newly elected board and councils, TETAF is moving in a positive direction. Reflective of TETAF’s growth, the staff has increased from three full-time employees in 2016 to seven by January 2018. In addition, TETAF retained the services of Kevin Reed as corporate counsel, further strengthening the organization.

It is a privilege and honor to represent your interests.

Dinah S. Welsh, Chief Executive Officer
TETAF: ADVOCACY AT THE CAPITOL

TETAF continued to be the thought-leader on legislation related to trauma and emergency healthcare during the 2017 Texas legislative session. Building on its legislative relationships and educational efforts during the 2016 interim, including successfully advocating for an interim charge on state trauma funding, TETAF tracked more than 140 bills and worked on several major pieces of legislation relating to trauma and emergency healthcare, as well as the state budget.

By raising awareness and visibility of RAC funding needs through one-on-one meetings and testifying at the March 29, 2016, Texas House Committee on Homeland Security & Public Safety interim hearing, TETAF was able to successfully advance a rider that would have provided $6 million a year in additional funding to the Trauma Service Area Regional Advisory Councils (RACs). Rep. J. D. Sheffield, M.D. (R-Gatesville) included the rider in the House-passed budget. However, the Senate did not concur, and the final budget bill did not include the additional RAC funding. While disappointed in the outcome, TETAF and its partners laid the groundwork for future RAC funding requests and educated lawmakers and staff on the important roles of RACs in the trauma and emergency healthcare system and in the state’s natural disaster preparedness planning efforts.

An unprecedented number of bills were filed to eliminate the Driver Responsibility Program (DRP) without providing replacement sources of funds, or to alter the program in some way. TETAF joined a broad coalition of organizations representing hospitals, law enforcement, counties and the judiciary to support House Bill 2068 by Rep. Larry Phillips (R-Sherman). While eliminating the DRP, HB 2068 would have replaced lost funding for the state trauma system by increasing the state traffic fines penalizing irresponsible drivers, including those convicted of driving while intoxicated, while giving counties and judges more leeway to adjudicate individual cases. While the bill received almost unanimous support in the House, it died in the Senate as other bills took precedence in the final weeks of the legislative session. The push to eliminate the DRP is sure to return in 2019, and TETAF will continue to work throughout the interim to identify potential alternative revenue sources and unite stake-

![Image of TETAF representatives at a press conference](image1.png)

Robin Garza, BSN, RN, spoke at a press conference on distracted driving.

![Image of TETAF representatives at Senate Finance Committee](image2.png)

Jeffrey Beeson, DO, testified on behalf of TETAF, before the Senate Finance Committee during the 2017 legislative session.

holders. Some 20 attempts to ban the use of red light cameras — and eliminate another important source of trauma funding — also failed.

After 10 years, the Texas Legislature succeeded in passing a statewide prohibition on texting while driving, and it was signed into law by Gov. Greg Abbott. TETAF and many other advocates supported House Bill 62 by Rep. Tom Craddick (R-Midland); Sen. Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) championed this important injury prevention bill in the Senate.

The Texas Legislature sent a record low number of bills – 12.4 percent of filed bills – to the governor in 2017. This compares to 21.1 percent of filed bills passed in 2015, and 24.5 percent in 2013. In addition to the texting while driving ban, other successful TETAF-supported bills becoming law include a grant program to reduce violence against nurses and several bills improving access to the workers’ compensation program for EMTs, as well as legislation expanding state-funded pre-kindergarten to children with a parent eligible for the Star of Texas Award, and granting property tax relief to the spouse of a first-responder killed in the line of duty. The groundwork was laid for a new local project grant for rural EMS providers that would also provide a distance learning paramedic program. A work group to recommend improving access to mental health services for first responders was created at the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, and it began meeting in early 2018.

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Grassroots Advocacy

More than 200 advocates traveled to Austin for TETAF’s biennial Trauma and Emergency Healthcare Day at the Capitol on Feb. 21, 2017. Physicians, nurses, EMTs, survivors and other advocates spent the day meeting with lawmakers to share firsthand the needs of the trauma and emergency healthcare system. They also were recognized in both the House and Senate galleries, and resolutions were passed recognizing the event and the achievements of the system.

Throughout the legislative session, TETAF made it easy for stakeholders to communicate with their elected officials through the use of VoterVoice, a web-based grassroots advocacy tool to send personalized email messages to elected officials.

TETAF Board members and other RAC, designated trauma hospital and EMS representatives traveled to Austin for several important hearings throughout the legislative session. Testifying before committees and meeting one-on-one with key legislators were invaluable in helping disseminate a coordinated, consistent trauma and emergency healthcare system message.

Day at the Capitol attendees met with Sen. José Menéndez (D-San Antonio), second from left.

Rep. Trent Ashby (R-Lufkin) met with a constituent/trauma advocate during the TETAF Trauma and Emergency Healthcare Day at the Capitol.

More than 200 advocates participated in TETAF’s biennial Trauma and Emergency Healthcare Day at the Capitol on Feb. 21, 2017. Sen. Charles Schwertner, M.D. (R-Georgetown), front row center, met with the group after recognizing Trauma and Emergency Healthcare Day at the Capitol on the Senate Floor.

Members of the Texas Trauma Coordinators Forum participated in Trauma and Emergency Healthcare Day at the Capitol. They met with Sen. Larry Taylor (R-Friendswood), center, to discuss trauma funding.
Regulatory Activities
TETAF regularly attends meetings of several state agency councils, including the Governor’s EMS & Trauma Advisory Council, the Texas Council on Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke and the Texas Perinatal Advisory Council. As appropriate, TETAF provides input and updates at each.

Advocacy with Congress
In late September 2016, U.S. Reps. Michael C. Burgess, M.D. (R-Texas), Kathy Castor (D-Fla.), Gene Green (D-Texas) and Richard Hudson (R-N.C.) introduced a bill to establish a grant program for military-civilian partnerships in trauma care. It provides for the allocation of $20 million to trauma centers which would enable military trauma teams to provide trauma and related acute-care in civilian facilities. In addition, the legislation provides for the allocation of another $20 million which would enable military trauma care providers to care for civilians in military trauma centers. TETAF communicated its support and the need for the legislation with members of the Texas Delegation.

Disaster Response
TETAF’s 22 Trauma Service Area Regional Advisory Council members work daily to support the state’s trauma and emergency healthcare system and prepare for large-scale needs. EMS agencies also work with designated trauma hospitals to treat those affected by life-threatening illnesses and injuries, ranging from a flu epidemic to a major explosion. Because of leadership, planning, training, communication and coordination between all segments of the trauma and emergency healthcare system, Texas has the infrastructure to respond to hurricanes, floods and other natural disasters as well as events with multiple victims like mass shootings.

In addition to working to secure needed resources, TETAF ensures that lawmakers and other opinion leaders recognize the important functions provided by each segment of the state’s trauma and emergency healthcare system. During the 2018 interim, TETAF is supporting several legislative studies on disaster response and trauma funding, with the goal of influencing legislation in the 2019 state legislative session.
SURVEY SERVICE LINES

Verification Surveys

TETAF continued to provide trauma and stroke center designation verification surveys for Texas hospitals. In addition, TETAF maintained a continuous quality improvement process to ensure its surveyors and their assessments meet all state-required criteria and provide hospitals with valid, helpful feedback that ultimately benefits patients. In fact, hospitals reported more than 98% satisfaction with their survey experience during post-survey evaluations.

In 2016, TETAF developed and implemented a Texas Perinatal Services Program and began surveying neonatal intensive care units to verify their compliance with regulations adopted by the Texas Department of State Health Services, as recommended by the Texas Perinatal Advisory Council. TETAF actively participated in the development of the perinatal designation criteria.

TETAF established the survey process and trained a team of neonatologists and neonatal nurses as surveyors and more than 75 surveys have been conducted since the beginning of the program. In March 2017, TETAF launched a Perinatal website component with various resources related to neonatal as well as maternal care state designation.
TETAF Hospital Data Management Course

TETAF continues to educate hospital staff through the popular TETAF Hospital Data Management Course. The course has been accepted by the American College of Surgeons (ACS) as approved trauma registrar education for all levels of trauma facilities. This signature program trained more than 175 students over the past two years on proper hospital data input, abstraction and statistical reporting.

- TETAF Hospital Data Management Course - Feb. 26-27, 2015 in Austin
- TETAF Hospital Data Management Course - Feb. 24-25, 2016 in The Woodlands
- TETAF Hospital Data Management Course - July 27-28, 2016 in Amarillo
- TETAF Hospital Data Management Course - April 10-11, 2017 in Beaumont
- TETAF Hospital Data Management Course - Oct. 5-6, 2017 in South Padre
- TETAF Hospital Data Management Course - Nov. 29-30, 2017 in Houston

Additional Education

Texas EMS, Trauma and Acute Care Foundation presents educational programs to meet the needs of trauma and EMS personnel not being met with other state or national organizations. Throughout 2016 and 2017, TETAF partnered with various trauma/emergency care groups and Regional Advisory Councils to offer a variety of educational programs. Among the educational seminars were the following:

- Stop the Bleed/Bleeding Control (BCon) - Feb. 10, May 9, May 11, Aug. 23, 2016 and Feb. 22, 30, 31, 2017 in Austin
- Advocacy Training: Pre-Day at the Capitol - Feb. 17, 2015 in Austin
- Panhandle RAC Stroke & STEMI Conference presented by TETAF - April 21, 2015 in Amarillo
- TETAF EMS Data Management Course - May 7, 2015 in Austin
- Panhandle RAC Trauma Conference presented by TETAF - July 8, 2015 in Amarillo
- AAAM Abbreviated Injury Scoring Course - July 27-28, 2015 in Wichita Falls
- AAAM Abbreviated Injury Scoring Course - July 30-31, 2015 in Corpus Christi
- Trauma Injury Prevention Symposium - Aug. 17, 2015 in Austin
- Panhandle RAC Trauma Conference presented by TETAF - April 28, 2016 in Amarillo
- TETAF EMS Data Management Course - June 15, 2016 in Belton
- Advocacy Training: Pre-Day at the Capitol - Feb. 21, 2017 in Austin
- Panhandle RAC Stroke & STEMI Conference presented by TETAF - April 24, 2017 in Amarillo

Between 2015-2017, the foundation trained more than 850 students through TETAF coordinated educational courses. In addition to course coordination, TETAF continues to be an approved provider of nursing and EMS continuing education hours. This provides TETAF the opportunity to assist additional stakeholders and provide continuing education through the Texas Trauma Coordinators Forum (TTCF) and RAC educational events. TETAF Vice President of Operations, Brenda Putz, BSN, RN, has served as faculty for the TTCF Texas Trauma Designation Education Course for more than a decade.

Online Resources and TETAF Publications

In addition to face-to-face education programs, TETAF has rich online content which provides guidelines as well as presentations to facilitate on-demand learning.

In May 2016, TETAF published its Burn Clinical Practice Guide-line. This 20-page online book was developed by the TETAF Trauma Division. Rose Marie Bolenbaucher, MSN, RN, TCRN, led the effort, and secured collaboration with Texas Trauma Program Managers and Texas Burn Center program leadership to provide guidance to hospitals in Texas. The content was reviewed and edited by Dr. Brian Eastridge and the GETAC Trauma Systems Committee Trauma Medical Directors Workgroup.

TETAF produced and published this document to be used as guidance only in the development of burn treatment policies and protocols within hospitals in Texas. It is the third TETAF publication, joining Guide to Trauma Center Designation for Hospital Executives and Trauma Activation Guidelines.

The Resources section of TETAF’s website provides content for trauma, EMS and perinatal care providers. Resources include links to TETAF publications, state documents and the Electronic Library of Trauma Lectures® by the Society of Trauma Nurses. TETAF also shares the Inter Facility Transfer Toolkit for the Pediatric Patient.

EMS Resources

- Department of State Health Services
  Office of EMS Trauma Surveillance
- State Medical Director Online Course
- Memorandums of Agreement for Disaster Response
- GETAC EMS Committee
- Texas EMS Staff of Honor
- Texas Ambulance Association

NICU Resources

- Neonatal Adoption Presentation (NSP)
- Level II Hi-Res Webinar (HRW)
- Texas Perinatal Advisory Council
- National Neonates Association
- Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
  Transitioning Newborns from NICU to Home/Discharge Toolkit
- Neonatal Levels of Care Designation – What to Start
- Level II Hi-Res Webinar (HRW)
- Level II Hi-Res Webinar (HRW)
- Regional Advisory Council Web & Content Info
- Neonatal Intensive Care Awareness Month
- Month of Stress (MOS) NICU Family Support Program

Pediatric Resources

Pediatric Transfer Toolkit Available

TETAF has been actively involved in the development of pediatric transfer guidelines to assist staff to accomplish a safe and timely transfer. Criteria is based on the severity of injuries at hospitals across the United States and treatment transitions.

The inter facility transfer toolkit was developed by the Emergency Nurses Association Pediatric Committee, a Pediatric Special Interest Group of the Society of Trauma Nurses and EMS for Online National Resources Center.

Organization of 15 members, the toolkit seeks to assist in the development of pediatric transfer guidelines to assist staff to accomplish a safe and timely transfer. Criteria is based on the severity of injuries at hospitals across the United States and treatment transitions.

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TETAF highlighted the importance of incorporating active shooter planning into emergency operations plans and referenced a study of 154 hospital-related shootings from 2000-2011 published in the June 2016 Annals of Emergency Medicine. TETAF also called attention to the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine’s new report by the Committee on Military Trauma Care’s Learning Health System and its Translation to the Civilian Sector released June 17, 2016.

To assist the Texas Department of State Health Services, TETAF hosted GETAC injury prevention, treatment and report documents, including:

1. Bicycle Injuries
2. Occupant vs. Non-Occupant Injuries
4. Hospital Impact of Injuries
5. Burden of Injuries
6. Firearm Report
7. Pediatric Report
8. Data Request from the Trauma Committee
9. 2016 GETAC Trauma Center Survey
10. 2016 GETAC Trauma Service Area Survey

TETAF continues to provide live streaming as well as post recordings of GETAC meetings, with more than 14,000 views since the service was initiated.

Public Education

TETAF continues to play a role in addressing injury and illness prevention through public education. In some areas, TETAF addresses the general public directly, and in others, TETAF works with RACs and trauma/EMS personnel to promote their involvement in public education.

TETAF was an active participant in the Stop the Bleed efforts in Texas, hosting resources online for stakeholders and the public, and offering bleeding control courses free of charge. TETAF brought the Stop the Bleed campaign to the state capitol, training legislative staff to respond in an emergency.

TETAF’s Just Drive! campaign and injury prevention advocates continued efforts to warn against the dangers of distracted driving. Public opinion helped drive the successful legislative effort in 2017 to ban texting and driving statewide.

Texas Trauma Quality Improvement Program

Some 35 Level I and II trauma centers have joined the Texas Trauma Quality Improvement Program (TQIP) Collaborative, which was organized in February 2016. These facilities share protected data and receive confidential statewide reports through the American College of Surgeons. TETAF serves as the host organization for Texas TQIP and supports the effort through logistical coordination, finances and staff support of the elected clinical leadership.

With the goal of improving the quality of care for trauma patients, Texas TQIP allows participating facilities to:

- Receive feedback on their relative performance on some 32 models of care;
- Provide a forum to explore variability to identify best practices;
- Allows for benchmarking risk-adjusted outcomes as a state or region against all nationally participating centers and compare centers within Texas or among regions;
- Use existing trauma center staff and data collection infrastructure; and
- Focus on outcomes and better understand processes of care.

In addition to the benefits of reviewing hospital-specific quality and performance data and comparing it to others, Texas TQIP is working to provide:

- Educational experiences
- Online data analysis tool
- Web conferences
- Annual meeting
- Clinical Best Practice Guidelines
Looking Forward and Giving Thanks

In November of 2017, the TETAF General Assembly passed new bylaws and closed out the year by electing a brand new board of directors in December. This new board is the result of an extensive restructuring process and will lead the organization into 2018 and beyond.

TETAF would like to thank the outgoing members of the board for their service:

- Brian Eastridge, MD - Chair
- Jennifer Carr, BSN, RN
- Courtney Edwards, MSN, RN
- Rajesh Gandhi, MD
- Robin Garza, MSN, RN
- Lisa Hutchison, BSN, RN
- Jim Parisi, MBA, RN
- Lisa Price, BSN, RN, CEN
- Kathy Rodgers, RN
- Robert Saunders, EMT-P
- Lori Vinson, MSN, RN
- Hilary Watt

TETAF FINANCIALS

Jan. - Dec. 2017

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