

## February GETAC meeting motions

The Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC) met on Friday, February 25, 2011, in Austin. Following are the motions put forward after the chair, staff, standing committees and other groups reported on their most recent activities. Draft minutes from the meeting will be posted at [www.dshs.state.tx.us/emtraumasystems/governor.shtm](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/emtraumasystems/governor.shtm).

### Action Items

A motion was made by Linda Dickerson to endorse the Physicians Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment Paradigm (POLST) initiative position statement to be used as a resource document for legislative support. The motion was seconded by Luis Fernandez, MD. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Vance Riley and seconded by John Smith to have GETAC endorse the Narcotic White Paper and then forward it to DSHS to be placed on the website as a resource document. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Robert Vezzetti, MD, and seconded by John Smith to endorse the 2009 joint position statement from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) and Emergency Nurses Association (ENA) "Guidelines for Care of Children in the Emergency Department." The motion passed unanimously.

TEXAS EMS CERTIFICATIONS AS OF MARCH 28, 2011	
ECA	3,078
EMT	31,223
EMT-I	3,781
EMT-P	14,731
LP	5,971
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>58,784</b>
BASIC COORDINATOR	121
ADVANCED COORDINATOR	225
INSTRUCTOR	1,971

## Texas trauma facilities receive new designations



### UTMB: Level I trauma facility

The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston has regained designation as a Level I trauma facility. UTMB officials announced in March that the school's John Sealy Hospital received the re-designation, some two-and-a-half years after Hurricane Ike caused it to be closed. It lost Level I status while shut down and functioned without any formal designation after reopening in August of 2009.

In the first 12 months after reopening, Sealy was seeing Level I patients, but official designation was reserved for the other trauma facilities in that area, Ben Taub General Hospital and Memorial Hermann Hospital in the Texas Medical Center. Both reported increased traffic while Sealy's emergency room was shut down. Memorial Hermann became, for a time, the nation's busiest trauma center.

The re-designation followed a review of 12 months of data by the American College of Surgeons to ensure that the center was again providing the research support, educational programs and 24-hour availability of specialty care required of Level I facilities.

### The Medical Center of Plano: Level II trauma facility

In March The Medical Center of Plano received official designation as a Level II trauma facility. The Medical Center has the only Level II trauma

center in Collin County and is only the third hospital in the Dallas-Fort Worth area with the capabilities to treat major surgical trauma cases.

Dr. Matt Carrick, medical director over the trauma program, said building a trauma center tends to have a halo effect. "To meet all the requirements—nursing staff, facilities and resources—you end up upgrading all your other programs as a secondary effect," Carrick said. A helicopter pad already receives traffic from cities north of Plano, and critical patients from Plano are generally taken by ambulance to the hospital.

The Medical Center of Plano earned designation, in part, by offering specialists in neurosurgery, orthopedic surgery, thoracic and vascular surgery and spinal surgery, among other disciplines, and the hospital had to prove it could operate as a Level II trauma center to get approval from the American College of Surgeons.

### LPMC: Level IV trauma facility

Lake Pointe Medical Center was recently designated a Level IV trauma facility by the Department of State Health Services. A 112-bed acute-care hospital in Rowlett, LPMC has been serving Rockwall, Rowlett, Royse City and the surrounding communities since 1987. The hospital provides an emergency department with "Fast Track" services, a 14-bed intensive care unit, women's services, Level II and Level III neonatal intensive care units, interventional cardiology, diagnostic imaging and eight operating rooms. With more than 400 affiliated physicians, Lake Pointe Medical Center provides most specialty services. LPMC also participates in the North Central Texas Trauma Regional Advisory Council, the Texas statewide trauma system, and works closely with local EMS providers.

"Add this designation to our recent [Joint Commission] Primary Stroke Center Certification, and Lake Pointe is continuing to grow the level of care necessary to enhance the quality of life in our community" according to J. Eric Evans, CEO of the Lake Pointe Health Network.

## EMS Obituaries

**Alfred "Fred" Kuhlman**, 48, of Kirby, died March 25, 2011. Kuhlman was a paramedic with Kirby Fire Department for more than 23 years.

**Gregory Simmons**, 51, was killed while battling a wildfire in West Texas. He was an EMT and had been a member of the Eastland Fire Department for 11 years.