



# ERLANGER Trauma Services Newsletter

THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF TRAUMA CARE. PERIOD.



THE  
**COMMITTEE**  
ON **TRAUMA**



## American College of Surgeons Trauma Verification

Erlanger's Trauma Program was verified as a Level 1 Trauma Center by the Verification Review Committee, a part of the American College of Surgeon's (ACS) Committee on Trauma (COT). During the October 3-4, 2019 survey visit, Erlanger met or exceeded the strict quality requirements set forth by the COT's Resources for the Optimal Care of the Injured Patient.

In an interview with *The Chattanooga*, Robert Maxwell, MD, FACS, Erlanger Associate Trauma Medical Director and Critical Care Medical Director,

stated, "ACS verification means that the trauma center meets the most stringent criteria available from the prehospital phase, trauma bay resuscitation, emergency surgical intervention, ICU care and rehabilitation after hospital discharge." He added, "It takes a team of dedicated professionals with a common goal of achieving excellence in trauma care." Erlanger's Level 1 Trauma Center is the comprehensive resource for injured patients in a 63-county Regional Trauma System service area covering parts of Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama and North Carolina.

## Trauma Quality Improvement Program



Kevin Harrell, MD

The American College of Surgeons' (ACS) 2019 Trauma Quality Improvement Program (TQIP®) Annual Scientific Meeting and Training was held November 16-18, 2019 in Dallas, Texas. TQIP® works to improve the quality of care for trauma patients using four key principles: set the standards, build the right infrastructure, use the right data and verify with outside experts.

University of Tennessee College of Medicine Chattanooga General Surgery resident Kevin Harrell, MD shared important trauma research conducted at Erlanger Health System. Use of the Need for Trauma Intervention (NFTI) criteria showed improvements in overtriage rates versus the Cribari Method of over/under triage. The NFTI criteria helps

to better categorize the subset of the trauma population who's Injury Severity Score does not accurately capture the patients' acuity on presentation and actually require full trauma team evaluation.

# 2020 TRAUMA COURSES

## Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS)

### ATLS 2 Day Student Courses

March 19 – 20      August 20 – 21  
June 18 – 19\*      October 15 – 16

\*Limited Availability

### ATLS 1 Day Refresher Courses

March 20      October 1  
August 21

To register, call 423-778-3815 or contact  
Stephanie Spain: [stephanie.spain@erlangers.org](mailto:stephanie.spain@erlangers.org)  
Vanessa Korter: [vanessa.korter@erlangers.org](mailto:vanessa.korter@erlangers.org)

## Advanced Trauma Care for Nurses (ATCN)

### ATCN 2020 Course Dates

March 19 – 20      August 20 – 21  
June 18 – 19      October 15 – 16

### To register contact:

Jana Poulson: [jana.poulson@erlangers.org](mailto:jana.poulson@erlangers.org)  
Renee Mills: [tabitha.mills@erlangers.org](mailto:tabitha.mills@erlangers.org) or  
423-778-6742

## Trauma Nursing Core Course (TNCC)

### TNCC Course Dates

January 28 – 29      September 29 – 30  
March 31 – April 1      December 1 – 2  
July 28 – 29

### For more info or to register contact:

Mollie Triplett: [margaret.triplett@erlangers.org](mailto:margaret.triplett@erlangers.org)  
Courtney Gross: [courtney.gross@erlangers.org](mailto:courtney.gross@erlangers.org)  
or 423-778-8396

### Rural Trauma Team Development Courses can be requested by contacting:

Katie Johnston at 423-778-6742 or  
[katherine.johnston@erlangers.org](mailto:katherine.johnston@erlangers.org)



## AMBASSADOR Regena J. Young, BSN, RN



Erlanger Trauma Services continues to provide free *Stop the Bleed* education throughout the trauma region. Regena J. Young, BSN, RN has become a Stop the Bleed Ambassador because she is passionate about ensuring people and organizations are trained to act in case of a bleeding emergency. Everyone can learn to save a life!

Stop the Bleed is one of our nation's largest public health campaigns designed to encourage bystanders to become trained, equipped, and empowered to help in a bleeding emergency before professional help arrives. Its goal is to save lives by training people across the country how to stop traumatic bleeding.

If you would like Erlanger Trauma Services to provide a *Stop the Bleed* class for your organization, go to [www.erlangers.org/stopthebleed](http://www.erlangers.org/stopthebleed) to complete a request form. After form completion, Regena will call or email you to schedule a class within five business days.

## MEET OUR TEAM: Injury Prevention Coordinator

Erlanger Health System has a dedicated Trauma Services Outreach and Injury Prevention Coordinator, Regena J. Young, BSN, RN to serve the trauma region. Regena addresses the top three mechanisms of injury determined by trauma registry data.

A nurse for twenty-five years, Regena received her Associate Degree in Nursing from Macon College in 1994 and her Bachelor's Degree in Nursing in 1996 from Georgia Southwestern in Americus, Georgia. She has extensive experience in emergency, intensive care, neurology, physical rehabilitation and trauma nursing. She has held many roles including House Supervisor, Nurse Manager, and Performance Improvement positions at hospitals in Middle Georgia and the Chattanooga, Tennessee Area.

## Fall Prevention TRAUMA PREVENTION TIPS

According to the CDC, Unintentional Falls are the leading cause of non-fatal injury for all age groups except 10-24 years where it was the 2nd leading cause. The very young (0-4 years) and seniors (65+ years) are at higher risk of suffering significant injury or death from a fall. At Erlanger, Falls are the number one reason for admission to Adult Trauma Services.

### Know what you can do to decrease the risk of falling at any age:

- 1. Medications** – Ask your health care provider to review your medicine.
- 2. Vision** – Have your vision checked and wear glasses/contacts as prescribed.
- 3. Foot wear** – Wear shoes at all times. Avoid bare feet and slippers, even in the house.
- 4. Position Changes** – Get up slowly after you sit or lie down.



- 5. Lighting** – Increase the lighting in your home or use a nightlight.
- 6. Alarm Device** – Think about wearing an alarm device to call help if you fall and can't get up.
- 7. Play Safely** – Make playground surfaces are safe, soft, and consist of appropriate materials (i.e., wood chips or sand, not dirt or grass).
- 8. Make Your Home Safer** – Use home safety devices, such as guards on windows that are above ground level, stair gates, and guardrails.

Erlanger offers free Tai Chi and Matter of Balance classes to help seniors improve their balance and address the fear of falling. For more information contact Regena Young at 423-778-5620 or email [regena.young@erlangers.org](mailto:regena.young@erlangers.org).



## Regional Mock Mass Casualty Event

On October 25th Children's Hospital at Erlanger Pediatric Trauma Services and Erlanger Health System Adult Trauma Services participated in a regional disaster drill with multiple agencies across North Georgia and Southeast Tennessee. The scenario consisted of a mock bus crash in Catoosa County, Georgia with fifty moulaged victims that were triaged and transported to area hospitals based on severity of simulated injury. Victims ranged in age from kindergarten through high school with injuries varying from minor scratches and bruising to major open fractures and internal bleeding.

## Children's Hospital at Erlanger...

*The BEST Comprehensive Pediatric Care in the Region*



S. Dave Bhattacharya, MD



Joseph "Pete" Kelley, MD, FACS, FAAP



Curt S. Koontz, MD, FACS



Lisa A. Smith, MD, FACS

Our University Surgical Associates Pediatric Surgeons specialize in trauma surgery and manage trauma care for children throughout the region.

*Providing Care for Critically Ill and Injured Children 24/7*



SAVE THE DATE

# 2020 TRAUMA SYMPOSIUM MAY 28TH & 29TH



## Erlanger's 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Trauma Symposium

It's time to mark your calendar for Erlanger Health System's 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Trauma Symposium on May 28-29, 2020 in downtown Chattanooga, Tennessee! Another year of stimulating lectures and exciting hands-on skill opportunities is planned. Eventbrite registration is now open. Watch for symposium updates at [erlanger.org/traumasym](http://erlanger.org/traumasym).

**Are you interested in speaking on a relevant trauma topic?** Review the Speaker Invite requirements and submit an abstract to the Trauma Symposium Committee at [erlanger.org/traumasym](http://erlanger.org/traumasym) or email Kayla Whiteaker, Adult Trauma Program Director at [kayla.whiteaker@erlanger.org](mailto:kayla.whiteaker@erlanger.org).

**Do you have a product or service that serves the need of trauma or critically ill patients?** Become an exhibitor to reach more than 300 healthcare providers over two days of exciting education. Sponsors can find exhibitor information at [erlanger.org/traumasym](http://erlanger.org/traumasym) or by contacting Regena Young via email at [regena.young@erlanger.org](mailto:regena.young@erlanger.org).

### Adult Trauma & Critical Care Surgeons

The six University Surgical Associates Trauma Surgeons are all board-certified in general surgery and surgical critical care. Available 24-hours a day, seven days a week, in-house at Erlanger Medical Center, the region's only Level 1 Trauma Center, they attend the needs of traumatically injured patients from throughout the Chattanooga area Trauma Region.

#### ERLANGER TRAUMA

To transfer a trauma patient to Erlanger Hospital, call the TRANSFER CENTER at 423-778-8100.

You will be connected with the trauma surgeon to report on your patient. Transfers can be accomplished with a single call!



Donald E. Barker, MD, FACS



Benjamin W. Dart IV, MD, FACS



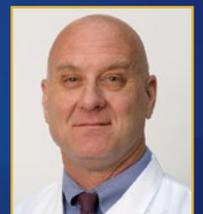
Robert A. Maxwell, MD, FACS



Darren J. Hunt, MD, FACS



Vincent A. Mejia, MD, FACS



Philip W. Smith, MD, FACS



[erlanger.org](http://erlanger.org)