

## Can You Make the Diagnosis?



**Art Proust,  
MD, FACEP**

It is estimated that more than 60 million cases of traumatic brain injury (TBI) occur worldwide each year, with motor vehicle crashes and falls the main etiology.

Intracranial hemorrhage (ICH) is a common complication of TBI and ongoing bleeding increases intracranial pressure leading to herniation and death. The recent CRASH-3 study published in Lancet Oct. 2019 [[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(19\)32233-0/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(19)32233-0/fulltext)] has potentially added to the role of Tranexamic Acid (TXA) in the treatment and management of traumatic hemorrhage in the pre-hospital, emergency department and trauma center settings. The following case illustrates how it could be utilized.

Paramedics were called to the scene of a 24-year-old male who fell 10 feet while blowing leaves off of a roof. The patient initially was unresponsive, then had pro-

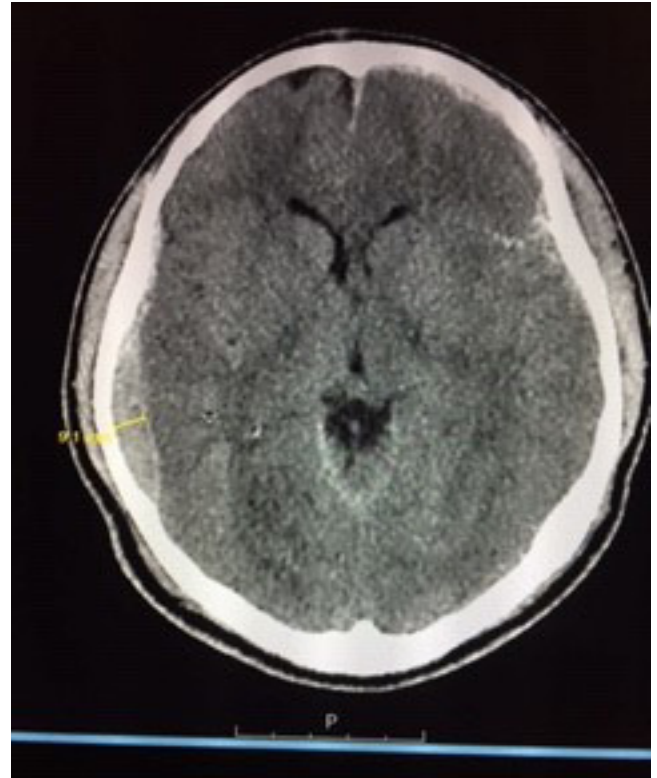
longed generalized seizure activity.

Upon paramedic arrival, the patient was unresponsive, then became agitated. Rapid trauma survey was performed, with blood noted occipitally and a GCS of 9. A cervical collar was applied for spinal motion restriction. His airway was unable to be secured in the field. No other immediate life-threatening injuries were noted.

Upon arrival to the emergency department, his airway was secured with RSI utilizing apneic O<sub>2</sub>, RAMP positioning, etomidate, rocuronium, bougie and videolaryngoscopy. CT imaging of his head, cervical spine, chest, abdomen and pelvis were ordered.

The CT of his head essentially noted a right temporal and parietal lobe subdural hematoma with maximal transverse thickness of 9 mm (Figure). The remainder of the CT scans were unremarkable. The patient was started on IV mannitol and keppra, and was admitted to the ICU.

TXA, an antifibrinolytic synthetic derivative of lysine inhibiting the enzymatic breakdown of fibrin, is used to treat or prevent exces-



sive blood loss. The CRASH-2 study [<https://journalfeed.org/article-a-day/2017crash-2-tranexamic-acid-in-trauma>] demonstrated a 1.5% decrease in mortality (number needed to treat = 67) when TXA was given to trauma patients with significant extracranial bleeding within 3 hours. It would seem to make biologic sense then that administration of TXA in patients with TBI might prevent or reduce ICH expansion and avert brain herniation and death.

CRASH-3 was a double blinded randomized control trial (RCT) with 9,202 included adult (16 years or older) patients (29 countries, 175 hospitals) with a TBI within 3

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# Can You Make the Diagnosis?

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hours of injury (GCS less than or equal to 12 or intracranial bleeding on CT) and no major extracranial bleeding. Patients were randomly assigned to receive TXA (loading dose 1 gram over 10 minutes, then infusion of 1 gram over 8 hours) or matching placebo (0.9% normal saline).

The primary study outcome, which measured head injury death from TBI within 28 days, revealed no statistical difference (18.5% TXA, 19.8% placebo). However, in the subgroup of mild to moderate head injury (i.e. GCS > 8), the mortality rate was 6.9% TXA and 8.3% placebo. TXA was

shown to be safe to use with no increase in clotting-related events or other adverse outcomes.

ITLS recently updated its Current Thinking topic, "Role of TXA in Management of Traumatic Hemorrhage in the Field – UPDATED 2019," [<https://www.itrauma.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Current-Thinking-TXA-Resource-Document-Update-FINAL-November-2019.pdf>] recommending TXA administration in patients with TBI within 3 hours and as soon as possible as the benefits are much greater. Specifically, early treatment of patients with mild TBI (GCS 13-15 + ICH) and moderate TBI (GCS 9-12)

with TXA seemed to offer the greatest mortality benefit without harm. TXA given for severe TBI (GCS 3-8) offered little improvement.

My take: the data, although not statistically significant, suggests mortality benefit with early use of TXA in the subgroups of TBI patients outlined above with no adverse effects; and warrants its use while waiting for future research.

— Art Proust, MD, FACEP  
Chapter Medical Director, ITLS Illinois

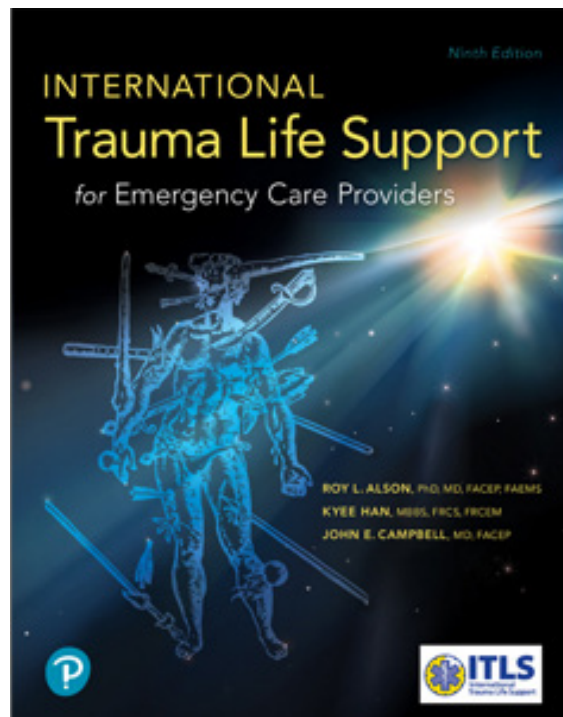
## ITLS 9th Edition Materials Released

The 9th edition ITLS Provider manual and accompanying course debuted in November 2019 at the International Trauma Conference in Las Vegas. This edition continues ITLS's tradition of excellence to ensure providers get the most out of the brief time they have to save patients' lives.

It is the first edition to be published after the death of ITLS founder and original author John E. Campbell, MD, FACEP. The 9th edition was completed under the guidance of Editor Roy L. Alson, PhD, MD, FACEP and Assistant Editor Kye Han, MBBS, FRCS, FRCES.

### TEXTBOOK

The 9e manual can be ordered directly from ICEP at the discounted cost of \$59.00 per manual plus shipping costs. Orders or questions about prices and shipping should be emailed to [Bookstore@icep.org](mailto:Bookstore@icep.org)



Orders can be prepaid with a check or credit card or ICEP can provide an invoice with payment due in 30 days.

The Student Resources included with the 9th edition textbook can be found at: <https://media.pearsoncmg.com/ph/chet/srs/bradyresources/products/product.html#student,isbn=0135379318>

It includes a series of skills videos and the online appendices to the book.

### INSTRUCTOR UPDATE

The 9th Edition Instructor Update online course was released in mid-February. Completion of the 9e Update is required before instructors may teach from the 9e Provider manual. Enroll in the Update now at [Learn.ITRAUMA.org](http://Learn.ITRAUMA.org).

The program mirrors the process created for the 8th edition Instructor Update, with a cost of \$35 to instructors. To date, more than 100 instructors in Illinois have com-

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# Affiliate Faculty Rosemary McGinnis Honored with ITLS Instructor Award

Rosemary McGinnis, RN, BSN, TSN, was honored with the Ray Fowler ITLS Instructor of the Year award at the 2019 International Trauma Conference in Las Vegas. Ms. McGinnis has been an active and dedicated instructor for ITLS in Illinois for more than 20 years and has served on the ITLS Illinois Advisory Committee for the past 12 years.

Ms. McGinnis retired from her full-time position as EMS System Coordinator for Ottawa Regional EMS System in June 2016. In retirement, she continues in her roles of instructor, affiliate faculty and Advisory Committee member to provide ITLS training at six different sites.

She participates in the Illinois EMS Forum and serves on the Illinois Department of

Public Health State Rules Committee and other Illinois state organizations.

Ms. McGinnis has coordinated or instructed at more than 60 ITLS courses from January 2008 to date, providing training for 640 students. In previous years she initiated ITLS training at two new sites. She has mentored new course coordinators providing constant support and instruction from course start to finish. She has willingly filled faculty spots at the last minute to ensure the course will run.

Ms. McGinnis also supports ITLS through her attendance at the ITLS conference every year and serves as a voting delegate. She is dedicated to the promotion of ITLS and is a pleasure to work with, said Chap-

ter Coordinator Sue McDonough. "In our minds, there is no one more deserving of this Instructor of the Year award!" Ms. McDonough added.



## ITLS Illinois Community Mourns Loss of Three Longtime EMS Advocates, Friends

The ITLS Illinois community has lost three dedicated advocates and educators with the passing of Wally Bedtke, EMT-P, Walter Bradley, MD, MBA, FACEP, and Dave Reisinger, RN, EMT-P, TNS, CCRN, this year.

Mr. Bedtke, of Chicago, a longtime coordinator for Amb Tran Group in the metropolitan Chicago area, passed away in January after a long illness. He had conducted 32 courses for ITLS Illinois since 2008. His wife, Deb Scott, served as an ITLS instructor at all of his courses.

Dr. Walter Bradley, who passed away at his home in Moline in February, leaves behind a tremendous legacy both in Illinois and in-

ternationally. Dr. Bradley served as Chair of the ITLS International Board of Directors for 4 years. He actively assisted in global development and promotion of the ITLS mission, helping to bring training worldwide to locations that included Poland and Mexico. He continued to serve as a course medical director in the Quad Cities and often attended the International Trauma Conference as an Illinois chapter delegate.

Those who knew and worked with Walter appreciated his self-deprecating humor and inclusiveness of all points of view. Despite his many health struggles, Walter always had a joke to share or a story to tell. He was a lover of fast cars, motorcycles,

and international travel.

At the end of April, the community lost another ally with the passing of longtime instructor Dave Reisinger due to complications from COVID-19. Mr. Reisinger, of Chicago, is remembered by all who knew him as a caring, compassionate educator, colleague and friend.

ITLS Illinois extends our deepest condolences to the families, friends, and colleagues of these individuals who dedicated their time and energy to furthering the mission of ITLS through the state of Illinois. All will be greatly missed.

# ITLS Offers Alternate Pathways to Provider Certification During COVID

ITLS recognizes that students worldwide may need or want to obtain ITLS Provider certification during the pandemic period, when many courses are not able to be held in person due to public health concerns.

The ITLS Board of Directors has approved alternate pathways for achieving ITLS Provider certification during this unprecedented time. There are options for two types of students:

1. New students seeking their initial Provider certification
2. Current students who wish to renew their existing Provider certification

The options and requirements for conducting certification courses vary and are detailed on the Alternate Pathways for ITLS Certification During COVID-19 Pandemic flow chart (click image to view full PDF) but several elements are universal:

1. The Written Exam will not be administered during the pandemic period due to exam security concerns.
2. The Patient Assessment Practical Exam will be conducted live via videoconference and will focus on the performance of the Rapid Trauma Survey and the Reassessment Exam.

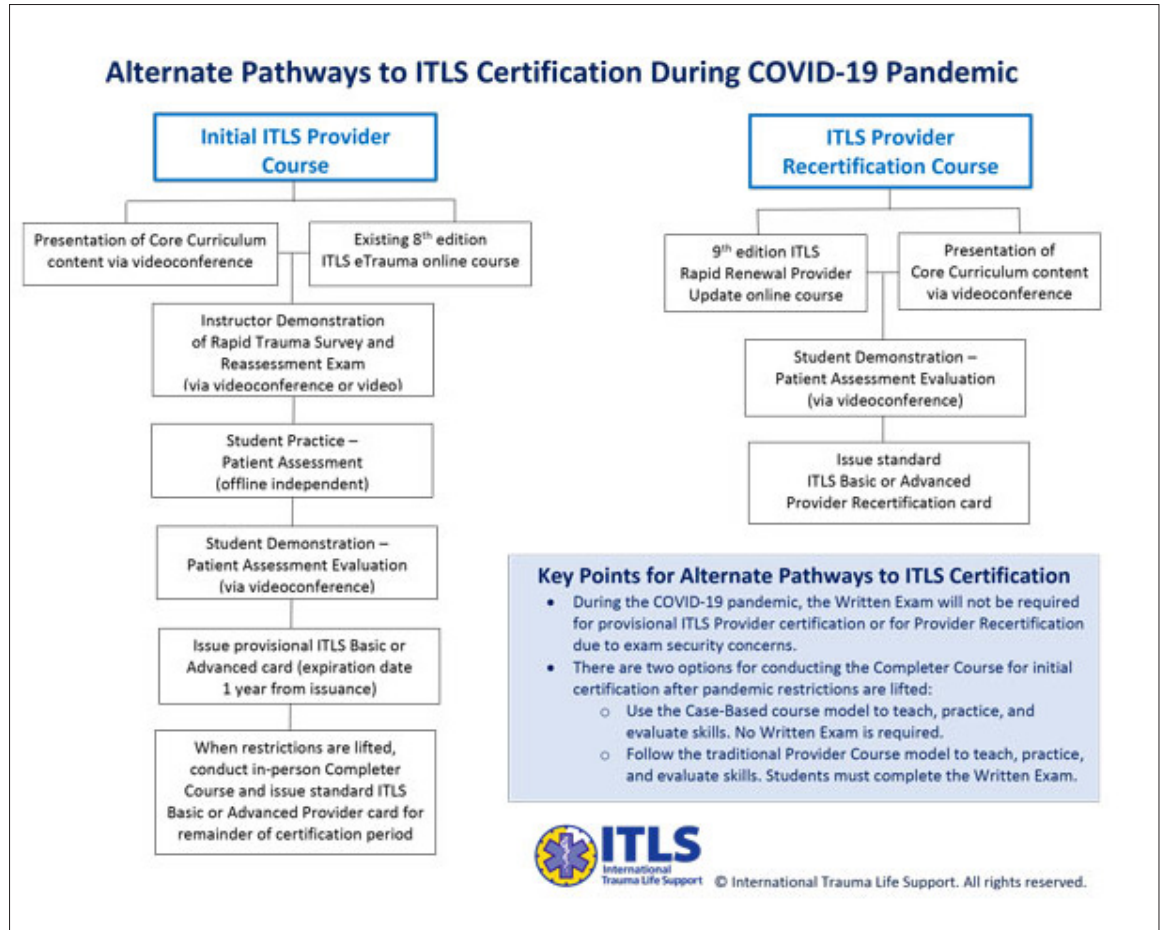
This guidance on alternate pathways replaces previous guidance from ITLS on extensions for Provider cards. ITLS Illinois extended Provider cards through June 30, 2020, for those Providers who requested it. Cards may not be extended beyond June 30. After that date, all students must comply with the alternate pathways requirements to receive or renew their certification.

Additional logistical concerns for each pathway are addressed in the document ITLS Guidance: Conducting ITLS Courses Remotely During the Pandemic. This document also includes best practices for remote learning for instructors and for students. This guidance document and the flowchart

are available at ITRAUMA.org.

If you are interested in pursuing ITLS Provider certification or recertification during the pandemic, please contact Chapter Coordinator Sue McDonough at [suem@icep.org](mailto:suem@icep.org) or your local coordinator to discuss. ITLS recommends confirming your eligibility and availability of the videoconferencing component BEFORE purchasing ITLS eTrauma or the ITLS Rapid Renewal Provider Update courses.

Programs may also opt to continue conducting standard ITLS courses as long as they comply with local, state, and federal regulations and restrictions.



# News and Notes from International

## ITLS Duty to Respond Course Module for Instructors Released

The course orientation video for ITLS Duty to Respond instructors is now available free of charge! Take the next step and start teaching this 1-day practical trauma management course designed for first responders who have a duty to respond to emergencies.

There are three paths to become a DTR instructor with different requirements for: current ITLS instructors; current PHTLS/TNCC instructors; and new DTR instructors. The minimum qualification is certification as an Instructor in First Aid.

The Course Orientation Module is required for all pathways. After completing this module by watching the 10-minute video presentation, you will be able to print a Certificate of Completion for this module. (The Module Completion Certificate does not confer eligibility to teach as an ITLS Duty to Respond Instructor.)

The next step in the process of becoming an approved ITLS Duty to Respond Instructor is to contact your local Chapter or Training

Centre with this Certificate of Completion. Your local program administrator will grant access to the student and instructor materials if applicable, or provide further direction on the additional requirements you need to complete before you may teach the ITLS Duty to Respond course.

Find out more and enroll in the Course Orientation module for instructors at [Learn.ITRAUMA.org](http://Learn.ITRAUMA.org).

The ITLS Duty to Respond course focuses on initial patient evaluation and critical interventions required to manage a patient until the next level of care arrives. Course modules highlight scene considerations, rapid trauma patient assessment, shock and bleeding, airway breathing interventions, delayed transport care, reassessment survey, triage and communications.

The target audience includes but is not limited to firefighters, law enforcement officers, security personnel, and all types of first aid and other responders. First aid certification is required as a prerequisite.

The cost of the DTR Pocket Guide is \$20.

## New Position Papers Published By Editorial Board

Since the last issue of the newsletter, the ITLS Editorial Board has released several new position papers of use and interest to ITLS instructors, course coordinators, and students:

- Airway Algorithm for Trauma
- Role of TXA in Management of Traumatic Hemorrhage in the Field – UPDATE
- Care of the Trauma Patient in the Age of COVID-19

The Airway Algorithm paper was led by Illinois Chapter Medical Director Dr. Art Proust. Download the papers from: [www.itrauma.org/current-thinking/topics](http://www.itrauma.org/current-thinking/topics).

## ITLS High Threat Materials Still Under Revision

The ITLS High Threat textbook and accompanying course materials (which will replace the ITLS Military curriculum) are still under development. Deployment of the program editors due to the pandemic has caused delays, and the new materials are expected to be released in fall 2020. More details will be announced.

# 2020 Conference Postponed to 2021

The COVID-19 pandemic is unprecedented in the scale and challenges it presents. The ITLS family must play its part in keeping our communities safe. For that reason, the ITLS Board of Directors has had some difficult decisions to make. These decisions were necessary to ensure the safety of the instructor and student network as well as allowing the continuity of ITLS operations.

After in-depth discussion, the ITLS Board of Directors have voted that it is in the best interest of ITLS and the instructor network

to postpone the 2020 International Trauma Conference and business session planned for Tampa, Florida. This was a difficult decision as the Board recognizes how important it is for the ITLS family to meet to discuss business and stay connected. In making this decision, they considered the effect of the pandemic on budgets and travel restrictions. The decision was made early on so that we all can plan accordingly.

This will mean that the International Trauma Conference and business session will be

rescheduled for Tampa in 2021. The conference planned for Niagara, Ontario, Canada will take place in 2022.

“The current situation is clearly affecting the personal and professional lives of us all,” said ITLS Board Chair Tony Connelly, EMT-P, BHSc, PGCEd. “ITLS will remain committed to our mission, and I want to thank you all for your continued dedication to helping save lives. We look forward to seeing you all in 2021. Please stay safe until we meet again.”



ITLS Illinois Advisory Committee members, course coordinators, instructors, and spouses all came together in Las Vegas for fun and education. Thanks to all who attended from our chapter!

# Highlights of 2019 Trauma Conference

ITLS Illinois is always one of the best represented chapters at the International Trauma Conference, and the 2019 conference in Las Vegas was no exception. There were 15 coordinators, instructors, and providers in attendance. Serving as voting delegates for the chapter were: Tony Cellitti, NREMT-P, CCEMTP, ATF; Mike Dant, BA, EMT-P; Rosemary McGinnis, RN, BSN; Dave Meiners, NREMT-P, FP-C; Matt Moyes, NRP, CCEMTP, RN, TNS, ASM-C; Art Proust, MD, FACEP; and Brad Perry, Paramedic.



Among those representing Illinois at the 2019 conference were: Mike Dant, Matt Moyes, Dave Reisinger, Sue McDonough, Rosemary McGinnis, Tony Cellitti, Missy Mallory, Karyn Eisemann, Dave Meiners, Nick Fish, Katherine Fish, Art Proust, Brad Perry and Jeremy Hafliker. Not pictured is Mike Gilbert, EMT-P.

Overall, the conference was a success with 275 attendees and 23 vendors from 26 countries.

## Education and Events

Participants raved about the educational sessions at the conference, including two presentations by pediatric trauma expert Julie L. Bacon, MSN-HCSM, CPN, CPEN, C-NPT, RN-BC, NE-BC, of Florida.

Other notable sessions included Crew Re-

source Management with James French, BM, BSc, Dip IMC RCS(Edinburgh), FRCEM (UK); Early Detection of Shock: Beyond Vital Signs with Bryan Bledsoe, DO, FACEP, FAEMS; and Stop the Bleed: Science and Practice to Save Lives with Craig Goolsby, MD, MEd, FACEP. Lightning rounds on hidden scene dangers and geriatric trauma were also popular with the audience.

The Trauma Competition trophy was awarded to the team from North East Ambulance Service in the UK. It was the team's first time taking 1st place.

Investigators participating in the Research Forum presented 5 different abstracts on a variety of topics throughout the conference.

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# ITLS 9th Edition Materials Released

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pleted the 9e Update and their 9e Instructor cards had been sent by email in the month following completion. (If you completed the program during the month of May, you will receive your updated card in June.)

The ITLS Instructor certification period is four (4) years effective with the 9e Instructor renewal course online. Fulfillment of teaching 1 time per year or 4 times in 4 years will be required for the next renewal.

## RAPID RENEWAL PROVIDER UPDATE

ITLS is proud to announce the release of the 9th Edition ITLS Rapid Renewal Provider Update. This course combines an online component with the Patient Assessment Evaluation in a live setting (conducted virtually via video-conference during the COVID-19 pandemic) to allow you to quickly, easily and effectively renew your ITLS Provider certification. You must hold a current, valid ITLS Basic or Advanced Provider certification to be eligible to renew through the ITLS Rapid Renewal Pro-

vider Update program. The cost of the Rapid Renewal is \$40 and can be started at Learn.ITRAUMA.org.

## ITLS ETRAUMA

After delays with Pearson Education, the 9th edition eTrauma contract has been finalized and work on updating the course is starting now. The 9th edition eTrauma course is expected to be released in late summer or early fall. The 8th edition course continues to be available until the 9th edition course is released.

## INSTRUCTOR MATERIALS

ITLS is pleased to announce that the 9th Edition Exams, PowerPoint Slides, and Coordinator & Instructor Guide are now available! Links to download the materials will be included with your Instructor Renewal card emailed to you by Chapter Coordinator Sue McDonough after completion of the 9th Edition Instructor Update.

Coordinators will receive access to all ma-

terials, including exams. Instructors will receive the PowerPoint slides and the Coordinator & Instructor Guide only, to preserve the security and integrity of the materials.

The PowerPoint slides released by ITLS are a "bridge" set. The files are not ADA-compliant; Pearson Education continues work on a final ADA-compliant set for future release. Note that slide sets are provided as a resource for instructors. Instructors may use as many or as few of the slides in each slide set as they need to adequately cover the course material. As in previous editions, slide decks are not created for Skills chapters.

## Coming Soon

Updated testing scenarios for traditional Provider and Case-Based Provider courses will be released later this spring! The existing Case-Based Learning practice scenarios are also being reviewed and updated to align with changes found in the 9th edition.

# Highlights of 2019 Trauma Conference

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All abstracts are available online at ITRAUMA.org/research. The abstract selected as the winner was "Vital Sign Monitoring and Demographic Comparisons of Paramedics in Warm Zone Active Shooter Drills", presented by William Suddarth, OMS II, a medical student at Rocky Vista University in Parker, Colorado. Thank you to Dr. Proust for serving as one of the judges for the Research Forum!

## Business Session Outcomes

Elected to the Board of Directors for a 3-year term were Anthony Connelly, EMT-P, BHSc, PGCEd. of Alberta, Canada; Alessandro Dente, MD, of Italy; and Aaron Jea-

nette, EMT-P, PI, of Indiana. Miles Darby, Paramedic, of Pennsylvania, was appointed after the conference to complete the term vacated when Jonathan Epstein, MEMS, NREMT-P, stepped down after accepting a new career position.

ITLS Illinois Advisory Committee Member Greg Love submitted a resolution for consideration at the Business Session. His proposed resolution sought to establish two scholarships funding all expenses to the annual International Trauma Conference. After discussion, the Congress voted and the resolution was not accepted. Feedback from other voting delegates was that limits of the offer needed to be set and that

a funding mechanism was necessary. Dr. Proust said it is an awesome idea submitted by Mr. Love but funding it could be difficult.

The Congress also approved a bylaws amendment that clarifies positions on the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee reflective of the passing of ITLS' President Dr. John Campbell in 2018.

Although the International Trauma Conference in Tampa, Florida, has been postponed to 2021 due to pandemic restrictions on travel and gatherings, we look forward to reconvening with all of our ITLS Illinois colleagues then.

# ITLS Illinois Advisory Committee News

## **Congratulations to Affiliate Faculty Approved in 2019**

Jason Wright, Paramedic, of Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center in Mattoon, was approved in December 2019 as a new Affiliate Faculty. Contact Sue McDonough at [suem@icep.org](mailto:suem@icep.org) if you are interested in applying or submitting a nomination.

## **ITLS Illinois Advisory Committee Meetings Set for Sept. 30, Dec. 4**

There are two meetings of the ITLS Illinois Advisory Committee remaining in 2020: September 30 and December 4. Both meetings will be held from 10:00 to 11:30 AM. Meetings are held at the ICEP office in

Downers Grove and available via Zoom for videoconference or audioconference participation. Final meeting format and any additional in-person meeting locations will be announced closer to the meeting dates.

As a reminder, all Affiliate Faculty are required to **attend one meeting every 2 years**; videoconference or audioconference meets the attendance requirement. Attendance at additional meetings is optional.

## **Chapter Coordinator Can Help Facilitate Instructor Networking**

Instructors in Illinois are required to teach four times in the 4-year Instructor certifica-

tion period (recently changed for the 9th edition from 3 years to 4 years) to keep current and be eligible for renewal. If you are not employed by or aligned with an ITLS training facility and need to find courses to instruct at to fulfill this requirement, please contact the chapter office for assistance.

The Advisory Committee understands this is an issue for many Illinois instructors and will be discussing possible solutions at the next meeting in September. In the interim, Chapter Coordinator Sue McDonough is happy to help you find a course location near to you and assist you in contacting the course coordinator.

## Upcoming ITLS Illinois Courses

For the most updated list of upcoming courses in ITLS Illinois, including registration information, please visit <http://cms.itrauma.org/CourseSearch.aspx>. Note: Course format and availability subject to change..

### **June 19: Combined Provider Recertification**

### **June 20: Combined Provider Recertification**

Registration: Steve Munson, [steven.munson@hshs.org](mailto:steven.munson@hshs.org), Decatur Ambulance Training Center (DATC), Decatur

### **July 16-17: Combined Provider Certification**

Registration: Dean Buch, [dbuch@medstarems.net](mailto:dbuch@medstarems.net), Medstar Ambulance, Belleville

### **July 18: Advanced Completer Certification**

Registration: Nick Fish, [Nick\\_fish@ivcc.edu](mailto:Nick_fish@ivcc.edu), Illinois Valley Community College, Oglesby

### **July 31: Combined Provider Recertification**

Registration: Shelley Peelman, [shelley.s.peelman@osfhealthcare.org](mailto:shelley.s.peelman@osfhealthcare.org), East Central Illinois EMS System, Champaign

### **Sept. 3-4: Advanced Provider Certification**

Registration: Eric Brandmeyer, [brandmeyere@andersonhospital.org](mailto:brandmeyere@andersonhospital.org), Anderson Hospital, Maryville

### **Sept. 18: Combined Provider Recertification**

### **Sept. 19: Combined Provider Recertification**

Registration: Steve Munson, [steven.munson@hshs.org](mailto:steven.munson@hshs.org), DATC, Decatur

### **Oct. 13: Combined Provider Recertification**

Registration: Jason Wright, [jwright@sblhs.org](mailto:jwright@sblhs.org), Sarah Bush Lincoln Health System, Mattoon

### **Oct. 13: Combined Provider Recertification**

### **Oct. 14-15: Combined Provider Certification**

Registration: Danelle Geraci [danelle.a.geraci@osfhealthcare.org](mailto:danelle.a.geraci@osfhealthcare.org), PAEMS, Peoria

### **Oct. 15-16: Combined Provider Certification**

Registration: Dean Buch, [dbuch@medstarems.net](mailto:dbuch@medstarems.net), Medstar Ambulance, Belleville

### **Oct. 17-18: Combined Provider Certification**

Registration: Jason Wright, [jwright@sblhs.org](mailto:jwright@sblhs.org), Sarah Bush Lincoln Health System, Mattoon

### **Dec. 18: Combined Provider Recertification**

### **Dec. 19: Combined Provider Recertification**

Registration: Steve Munson, [steven.munson@hshs.org](mailto:steven.munson@hshs.org), DATC, Decatur