

NOVA SCOTIA HEALTH TRAUMA PROGRAM

Newsletter Fall 2021 | Issue 2

Leadership Message

Finally, we welcomed the summer of 2021 and some semblance of normality after a tough COVID-19 year. Summer is indeed our busiest season and, this year has been no exception.

Thankfully, we've been able to start resuming our key educational activities. In July, we hosted two successful Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) courses. As well, our NSH Trauma Program Webinar Series will start again this month with Dr. Andrew Beckett sharing the experience of the trauma program at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto with a presentation on "Trauma in the time of COVID-19". In addition, we are looking ahead to 2022 and have set dates for upcoming ATLS courses and Trauma Rounds. Planning is also underway for upcoming Rural Trauma Team Development Courses (RTTDC) – course dates will be available soon.

Looking ahead, our focus will be on improving the care of trauma patients after the initial resuscitation. The QEII is our Level 1 referral hospital for adult patients in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. After resuscitation, all major trauma patients who require inpatient care are admitted to various services (i.e., ICU, general surgery, orthopedic surgery or neurosurgery). Improved coordination of care after resuscitation is necessary to optimize trauma outcomes and system efficiency. The vast majority (99%) of the medical journey for our trauma patients occurs after the initial trauma resuscitation phase, and we are actively investigating ways to improve the management and care of trauma patients post-resuscitation.

I am very proud of all our trauma team members and continue to see compassionate and expert care provided to citizens of Nova Scotia, as well as some patients from Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick. Thank you to our nurses, paramedics, respiratory therapists, social workers, clerical staff, housekeeping staff, resident physicians, and attending physicians; your work does not go unnoticed! Your dedication to providing essential services during these challenging times continues to amaze me.

Sincerely,

Dr. Robert Green,
Senior Medical Director
NS Health Trauma Program

TRAUMA TEAM ACTIVATION: 1-800-743-1334

Trauma Program

Welcome



We want to welcome Andrea Bond as our new Education Coordinator. Andrea has over 20 years of experience as a respiratory therapist, working in both community and acute care, and most recently, as the Resource Respiratory Therapist for NS Health Central Zone. Andrea brings with her a wealth of experience providing adult education with a focus on best practices. We are excited to have Andrea join the team.



We would also like to welcome Abbey Sarty who has joined the team as a Trauma Registry Informatics Specialists. Abbey comes to us from the Western Zone where she previously worked as a Health Record Technician.

Goodbye

We must say goodbye to a valued member of our team. One of our Trauma Registry Informatics Specialists, Crystal Kearley, has accepted a new position as a Faculty Instructor of Health Information Management at NSCC.



Trauma Education

NSH Trauma Program provides educational opportunities to health care professionals in Nova Scotia and various opportunities in Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick.

We are happy to announce we have started planning trauma education opportunities for 2022!

Upcoming Education Opportunities



2022 Course Dates

Advance Trauma Life Support (ATLS®) teaches participants the basic skills necessary for timely management of traumatic injury.

Dates:

RTTDC is a simulation-based course where providers work in mixed-profession teams to provide care in simulated scenarios.

Look for dates beginning in March

2021-2022 Trauma Webinars

Trauma Webinars are CME accredited presentations for multidisciplinary groups involved in the care of the trauma patient.

Dates:

February 4-5, 2022 *Full
 May 6-7, 2022
 September 30-October 1, 2022

October 26, 2021
 November 30, 2021
 January 25, 2022
 April 26, 2022
 June 28, 2022

2023 - Dates TBD

To register or add your name to the waitlist, please follow the link below:

[ATLS Registration](#)

Where:
 Currently offered via GoToWebinar

To register please contact [Andrea Bond](#).

Additional dates and topics will be posted on the [NSH Trauma Program Website](#).

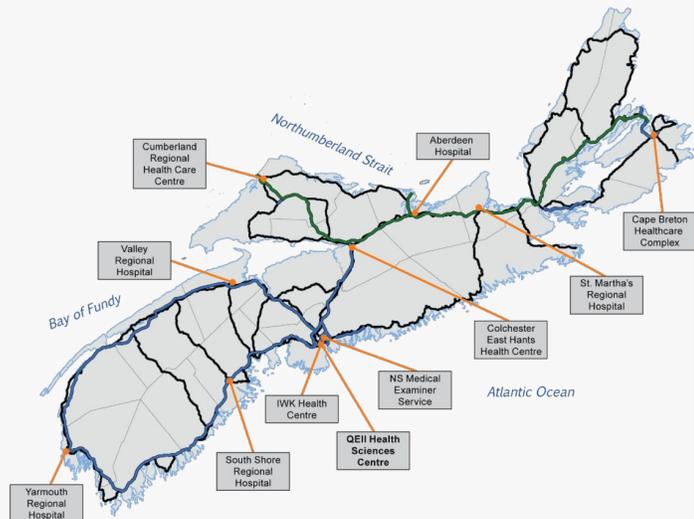
For any inquiries regarding trauma education, please contact Andrea Bond at:
Andrea.Bond@nshealth.ca

Nova Scotia Trauma Registry

Our Nova Scotia Trauma Registry (NSTR) captures data on all major traumas from hospitals across the province and from the NS Medical Examiner Service.

The information gathered in the registry is used to perform research and to improve the quality of patient care.

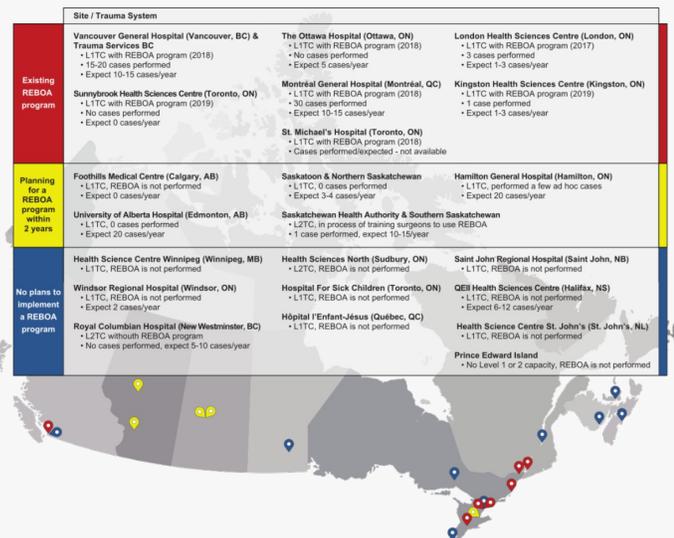
For more information or to submit a data request, contact NSTR Coordinator Karen Ssebazza at nstrauma@nshealth.ca



Highlights Trauma Research

Recent Publications:

A survey of Canadian level 1 and level 2 trauma centers found that 22% (7/32) have an existing resuscitative endovascular balloon occlusion of the aorta (REBOA) program. The presence of physician champions and a patient population with sufficient REBOA candidates were important factors for successful program implementation. The study was led by Dr. Sean Hurley (Dept. of Emergency Medicine, Dalhousie University) and performed in collaboration with Dr. Jacinthe Lampron from the University of Ottawa and was published in the [Canadian Journal of Emergency Medicine](#).



Another survey of burn centers across North America examined the use of extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) in the management and care of burn patients. Among the 39 burn centers included in the analysis, 79% (31/39) were using ECMO in any capacity, and 51% (20/39) were using ECMO in burn patients with Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS) or respiratory failure. Led by Dr. Jack Rasmussen (Dept. of Critical Care, Dalhousie University) and Dr. Sebastien Hebert (Dalhousie University Medical School, RIM Program), the study has been published in the [Journal of Burn Care & Research](#).

The NSH Trauma Program also recently collaborated with researchers from Dalhousie University, the IWK Health Centre, and Alberta Trauma Services to publish a new study on Injury Prevention Priority Scores (IPPS) for traumatic injury in Canada. Researchers developed objective, evidence-based IPPS to identify mechanisms of injury with the highest injury burden and found that falls, if prevented, would provide the most benefit to the largest proportion of the Canadian population and should be prioritized in injury prevention policy and research. Led by Dr. Sam Jessula (while General Surgery Resident at Dalhousie University, currently practicing in Boston), the study is accepted for publication in the Canadian Journal of Surgery.

Heal-NS Research Program

Heal-NS is conducting a survey to determine the effect of the Nova Scotia attacks on the mental health of fire-responders and healthcare workers in the Northern Zone of NS Health. The survey will evaluate the emotional and psychological effects of the shootings on workers and whether they sought out and used mental health resources offered by the province. The survey will also ask workers to identify questions or topics related to firearm misuse that they believe warrant further research.

Highlights

Trauma Spotlight



"I wake up every day thankful I'm still alive".

Early December 2020, Mitchell Murray's life – and that of his family – changed when his car left the road.

Thanks to the care Mitchell received by the first responders and the QEII Trauma, ICU, and IMCU teams, today, Mitchell is doing well.

To hear more about Mitchell's story, as featured in the QEII Foundation's Fall 2021 QEII Times newspaper, please follow the links below:

[QEII Times Newspaper](#)

[CTV News Story](#)

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www.trauma-ns.com

