

# NOVA SCOTIA HEALTH TRAUMA PROGRAM

Newsletter Autumn 2022 | Issue 3

## **Leadership Message**

Summer tends to be the busiest season for the Nova Scotia Health Trauma Program (aka Trauma Nova Scotia) and that trend certainly continued in 2022.

A large amount of the work we've been focused on this summer included planning for our new Inpatient Trauma Consult Service (TC Service) which will be starting this fall at the QEII. We have been hiring physicians and RNs to work as Trauma Consultants (TCs) and Trauma Resource nurses, developing documentation and forms for the team to use, and meeting with stakeholders on inpatient units to introduce the concept of the team. We are very excited that the start date for the TC service is so close, and cannot wait to see the positive impact that this new service will have on inpatient trauma care. We will be closely tracking trauma patient outcomes and regularly sharing with stakeholders to ensure everyone is up to date on our progress.

Our Trauma Program Webinar Series will be starting up again in September after a summer layoff with Dr. Peter Brindley (University of Alberta) presenting on practical crisis management in trauma. Our program continues to provide outstanding education to physicians and interdisciplinary teams through our Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) Courses, with more courses coming this fall and winter. We will also be hiring a new Education Consultant (now Trauma Clinical Leader) within the coming months, and we are working to further develop our Rural Trauma Team Development Courses (RTTDC) which will be offered provincially in 2023.

Building on our Nova Scotia Trauma Advisory Committee (NSTAC) work, we are also very excited to be arranging site visits throughout the province to gain a more frontline perspective on trauma resuscitation and post-resuscitative care at regional and community sites. It is essential that we have a clear picture of the present state of trauma care in Nova Scotia before we can start to improve it. We anticipate there will be many opportunities to standardize and improve care in all centers and we look forward to hearing from local experts.

There will be a lot of work ahead for our teams, and we're very grateful to be able to work with all trauma clinicians and professionals in Nova Scotia and across the Maritimes who continue to impress with their dedication to trauma care.

Sincerely,

Dan Cashen, Director/Co-Lead  
Robert Green, Senior Medical Director  
NS Health Trauma Program

## Trauma Program

### Welcome



We welcome Erica Spinney to the NSH Trauma Program as our new Administrative Assistant. Erica has worked for NSH for the past five years, most recently supporting the Department of Critical Care. We are excited to have Erica join our team.



We want to welcome Chantel King, who has joined the team as a Trauma Registry Informatics Specialist. Chantel recently completed the Health Information Management Program at NSCC, and we were fortunate to have her work with us for her final practicum. We are happy to have Chantel join us once again.

### Goodbye

We must say goodbye to a valued member of our team. Our Education Coordinator, Andrea Bond, has accepted a new role as the Health Services Manager, Respiratory Therapy. Although Andrea was with the program for a short time, she positively impacted trauma education delivery to QEII ED staff, residents and physicians through simulation-based education and by organizing several successful ATLS courses. We are grateful to Andrea for all her work with the trauma program.



We also need to say goodbye to Louise Gorman who has been our Administrative Assistant over the past 1.5 years. Louise has been a tremendous asset to our team with her warm presence and hard work. We wish Louise all the best in her new role as an Administrative Assistant with Clinical Services Networks.



## Trauma Team Leaders

### Welcome to New TTLs

- Mary-Lynn Watson: Dr. Watson has been an emergency medicine (EM) physician in Halifax for over 30 years, and has witnessed the evolution of our trauma system and patient care first hand. Dr. Watson embraces change (often a leader), and is excited to be a TTL.
- Sean Hurley: Dr. Hurley has experience in trauma care in multiple locations across Canada as part of his trauma fellowship with Trauma Nova Scotia (TNS). He is passionate about inpatient trauma care, and has been a lead contributor to multiple trauma care protocols in Nova Scotia. Dr. Hurley will be joining the trauma program as a TC and a TTL.
- Adam Harris: Dr. Harris completed a trauma fellowship with TNS as part of his EM. He joins the trauma program as a TC and TTL, and looks forward to building on the previous success of the RTTDC with educational outreach initiatives for interdisciplinary health teams across the province.
- James Goud: Dr. Gould brings expertise and formal training in resuscitation, and is joining the trauma program as a TC and TTL. During his 2 years since completing his EM training, Dr. Gould has focused on improving resuscitations in the QEII ED, and will be a key resource in our program.

### Special Thanks to Outgoing TTLs

- Dave Petrie: Dr. Petrie has been a TTL and early system leader in Nova Scotia for over 20 years, while balancing his clinical activities in the QEII ED and as Department Head, Dalhousie Emergency Medicine. His expertise and important research in system design has been integral in positing our trauma system for the success that we have achieved.
- Sam Campbell: Dr. Campbell joined our trauma program in 2001, and has been a pillar of exemplary care. As a leader in the QEII ED, he has fostered the QEII ED Critical Care Paramedic Program, and partnerships between surgical services, the ED and EHS.
- Sean Christie: Dr. Christie has represented the Division of Neurosurgery as a TTL, and has been instrumental in the creation of the QEII C-spine clearance pathway. His leadership and advocacy for neurosurgical trauma care has benefitted many patients across NS and the Maritime provinces.

## 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 continue to plan trauma education opportunities for 2022 and have started planning for 2023!

## Upcoming Education Opportunities



### 2022 Course Dates

Advance Trauma Life Support



### Coming in 2023

RTTDC is a simulation-based course where providers work in mixed-



### 2021-2022 Trauma Webinars

Trauma Webinars are CME accredited presentations for

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

**Dates:**

October 14-15, 2022 \*Full

2023 - Dates TBD

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

[ATLS Registration](#)

profession teams to provide care in simulated scenarios.

We are working on restructuring the RTTDC course and hope to relaunch the program in 2023.

multidisciplinary groups involved in the care of the trauma patient.

**Dates:**

[September 27, 2022](#)

October 25, 2022

November 29, 2022

January 31, 2023

**Where:**

Currently offered via GoToWebinar.

To register please contact [Krista Golden](#).

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

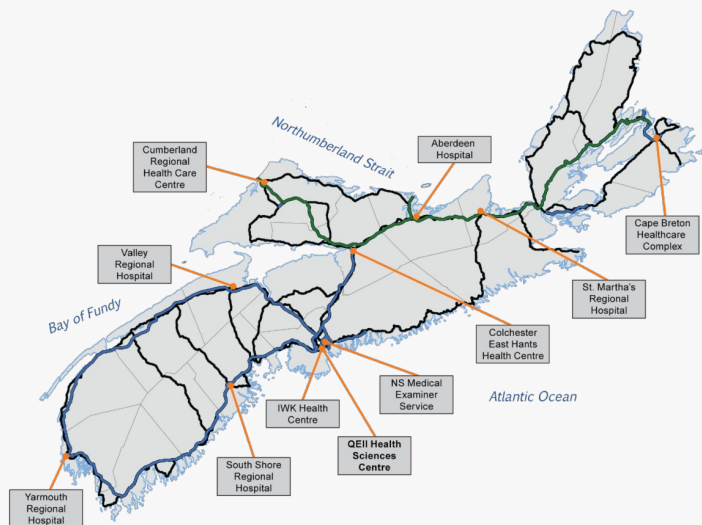
For any inquiries regarding trauma education, please contact Krista Golden at: [Krista.Golden@nshealth.ca](mailto:Krista.Golden@nshealth.ca)

### 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.

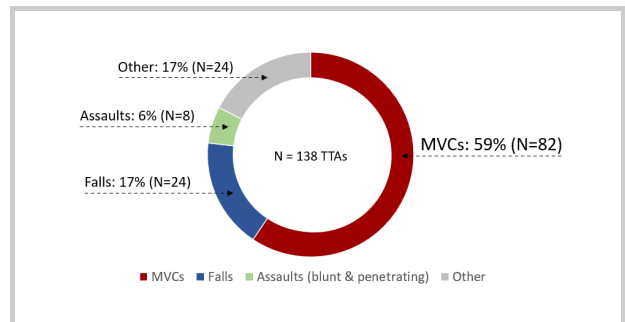
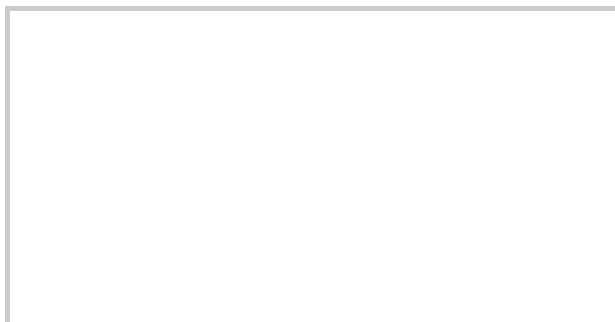
The information gathered in the registry is used for surveillance, research, and to improve the quality of patient care.

For more information or to submit a data request, contact NSTR Coordinator Karen Ssebazza at [nstrauma@nshealth.ca](mailto:nstrauma@nshealth.ca)



### Trauma Team Activations - Summer 2022

Criteria for Trauma Team Activation (TTA) include physiologic, anatomic, mechanistic, and logistic considerations. Patients who meet TTA criteria are managed by a multidisciplinary team led by a Trauma Team Leader (TTL) and Resident TTL (rTTL). Separate trauma teams manage adult (age 17+) and pediatric trauma patients at the QEII HSC and the IWK Health Centre, respectively.







and were more likely to survive their injuries. The study has been accepted for publication in [Injury](#).

Later this year, Heal-NS is planning to survey paramedics, nurses, physicians and other healthcare professionals across Nova Scotia regarding their opinions and personal experiences with workplace violence in the healthcare setting.

## Trauma Spotlight - Program Updates

### Nova Scotia Trauma Advisory Committee (NSTAC)

The Nova Scotia Trauma Advisory Committee (NSTAC) has been established with the approval of the Vice President of Medicine, Nova Scotia Health & Vice President of Operations, Central Zone. The NSTAC is responsible for providing oversight in developing, implementing, and monitoring trauma activities in Nova Scotia in collaboration with other Maritime trauma programs. In addition, the NSTAC offers a forum for programmatic and agency leaders to review, discuss, and improve care at the provincial level for major trauma patients.

Since its reinvigoration, we have held 3 meetings which have included representation from all zones and services involved in the provision of trauma care.

Through NSTAC, we are pleased to welcome our first Patient/Family Advisor to our program, Bob Murray. Bob's son Mitchell acquired a traumatic brain injury in 2020. Bob has considerable experience as the family member of a patient in our trauma system and we look forward to learning from his experiences. Bob has agreed to join NSTAC for two years and to provide this important perspective to our work.



### Inpatient Trauma Consult Service

We are excited to announce that our new Inpatient Trauma Consult Service (TC Service) will start on **October 17, 2022**.

The TC Service will provide daily physician consultation and nursing expertise for all trauma patients admitted to the QEII. We are so pleased to have a group of experienced TTLs and RNs who will collaborate with other services throughout the hospital to provide the best possible care for trauma patients.

For additional information – please click on the Frequently Asked Questions button below.

#### **Trauma Consultants**

Dr. Robert Green

#### **Trauma Resource Nurses**

Brad Dreimanis RN

Dr. Danny French  
Dr. James Gould  
Dr. Adam Harris  
Dr. Sean Hurley  
Dr. Graeme McBride  
Dr. Nick Sowers

Sarah Sturge RN  
Ryan Mitchell RN

## Frequently Asked Questions

### New/Revised Documentation

- \*New\* [Trauma Tertiary Survey \(NS TTS\)](#)
- \*Revised\* [Trauma Team Activation Assessment \(CD0234MR\)](#)

### Nova Scotia Health Trauma Program

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