

NOVA SCOTIA HEALTH TRAUMA PROGRAM

Newsletter Summer 2021 | Issue 1

Leadership Message

What a year it has been. COVID-19 has required us to plan, act, and change directions quickly while continuing to care for those who need it most. While many programs saw a reduction in patients presenting for care, Nova Scotia trauma cases continue to challenge us. Despite the obstacles, we have remained focused on our mission to provide highly efficient, effective and integrated trauma care.

The Nova Scotia Health Trauma Program has had to re-think the care that we provide and how we deliver education throughout the province. In April 2020, we looked forward to hosting leaders in trauma care from around the world at the Trauma Association of Canada Annual Conference. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, our planning committee needed to pivot rapidly to enable a successful virtual conference. COVID-19 restrictions have also affected our ability to offer many educational activities, including ATLS and RTTDC, which have been widely anticipated in part due to the hands-on procedure practice and simulation.

Our program remains provincial in scope, with a vision to be a nationally recognized leader in integrated trauma care, incorporating patient-centred clinical excellence, innovative trauma education, practice-changing research, and reflective health care policy. We are focused on standing up a provincial trauma advisory group within Nova Scotia Health, restarting our education program, and creating a dedicated in-patient trauma service to support excellence in patient care for all.

We are, like many, looking forward in anticipation to a COVID-19 free Nova Scotia, and thankfully, it appears a new normal is on the horizon.

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

TRAUMA TEAM ACTIVATION: 1-800-743-1334

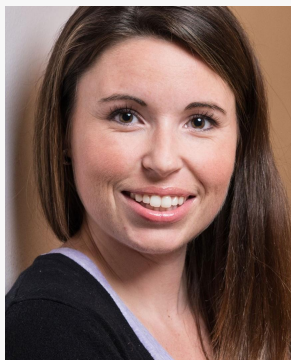
Trauma Program

Welcome

We want to welcome Louise Gorman to the NS Health Trauma Program. Louise brings a wealth of experience as our new administrative assistant. Having worked in various senior administrative roles within Nova Scotia Health, Louise



has proved to be a quick study, making an immediate impact on our trauma program. Welcome, Louise!



We also want to welcome our new manager, Krista Golden. Krista comes to our program from the Western Zone, where she most recently worked as the COVID Response Manager. She has a background in Trauma and Urgent Care and over 15 years of experience as an ER RN, educator, trauma clinician, head nurse and clinical project manager. Krista has already jumped straight into our trauma work and has demonstrated an impressive ability to accomplish key work in a short period.

Goodbye

Sadly, we must say goodbye to two valued members of our team.

Laura Thomas joined us as our Educational Coordinator for a 6-month term. During her time with the program, Laura was able to restart our ATLS program and provided an education framework for moving forward. In April, Laura returned to Dalhousie University as the Clinical Skills Educator. We want to thank her for all her work with the NS Health Trauma Program.



Lewis Bedford, our Program Director for 5 years, has been recognized for his work both in Trauma and Urgent Care and has moved into the newly created role of Director of Clinical Network. Lewis's guidance and dedicated service to our program goals have been exceptional, and his work will be fundamental as we move forward. We cannot thank Lewis enough for his work with the NS Health Trauma Program.



Trauma Education

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

These programs provide a communication network within the province that strengthens the trauma system and addresses best practices in trauma care.

Upcoming Education Opportunities



2021 Student Course

July 14-16, 2021 (Full)
October 28-29, 2021 (Full)

2022 - Dates TBD

Look for dates beginning
January 2022

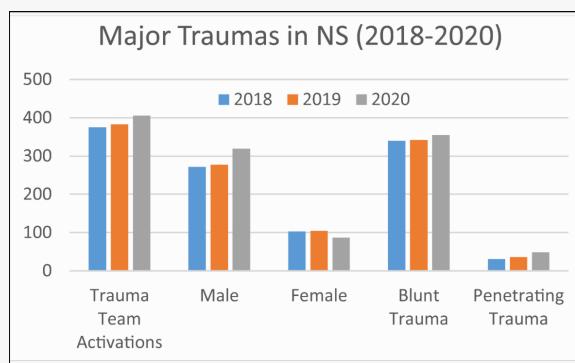
Look for dates beginning
September 2021

For any inquiries regarding trauma education, please contact Krista Golden at:
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. The information gathered in the registry is used 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:

Researchers at NS Health linked data from the NSTR with the MyNephrology database to investigate outcomes of patients with chronic kidney disease (CKD) or receiving dialysis who suffer major traumatic injury. The study found that risk of in-hospital mortality is significantly higher in trauma patients on dialysis or with CKD. Led by Dr. Ryan Pratt and Dr. Karthik Tennankore from the Division of Nephrology at Dalhousie, the study has been published in [Trauma Surgery & Acute Care Open](#).

A new study has found an increasing trend in major traumatic brain injury (TBI) in Nova Scotia between 2002 and 2018, with the rate of fall-related TBI more than doubling during this time. Led by Dr. Nelofar Kureshi and Dr. David Clarke from the Division of Neurosurgery at Dalhousie, the study has been published in the [Journal of Community Health](#).

NS Health Trauma Program collaborated with Dr. Sean Hurley from the Department of Emergency Medicine, along with Dr. Patrick Casey and Dr. Matthew Smith from the Division of Vascular Surgery and Dr. Nelofar Kureshi from the Division of Neurosurgery to examine use of resuscitative endovascular balloon occlusion of the aorta (REBOA) in major trauma patients in Nova Scotia. The study was published in the [Canadian Journal of Emergency Medicine](#).

Heal-NS Research Program

NS Health Trauma Program is collaborating with Research and Innovation at NS Health to lead the Heal-NS Program, a research collaborative developed in response to the April 2020 mass shooting in NS with the aim of supporting research into topics determined to be important to residents and health care workers in the Portapique region.

Nova Scotia Health Trauma Program

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