

**APPROVED**  
**11.20.24**

Georgia Committee for Trauma Excellence (GCTE)

August 1, 2024

2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

[Trauma.ga.gov meeting link](https://trauma.ga.gov/meeting-link)

Tracy Johns, Atrium Health Navicent

GCTE Chair

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS PRESENT	REPRESENTING
Tracy Johns, <i>Chair</i>	Atrium Health Navicent
Kyndra Holm, <i>Education</i>	Wellstar MCG Children's Hospital of Georgia
Susanne Edwards, <i>Pediatric</i>	Children's Healthcare of Atlanta
Kristal Smith/Karrie Page, <i>Injury Prevention and Outreach</i>	Atrium Health Navicent/ Memorial Health Meadows Hospital
Rayma Stephens/Ashley Bullington, <i>Performance Improvement</i>	Northside Gwinnett Hospital/Crisp Regional Hospital
Colleen Horne, <i>Registry</i>	Northside Gwinnett Hospital
Jesse Gibson <i>Chair, former</i>	Northeast Georgia Medical Center

ATTENDEES		
FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	ORGANIZATION
Suzanne	Gardner	AdventHealth Redmond
Cindy	Hoggard	AdventHealth Redmond
Nicole	Sundholm	AdventHealth Redmond
Monica	Trotter	AdventHealth Redmond
Katie	Hasty	Atrium Health Floyd
Melissa	Parris	Atrium Health Floyd
Crystal	Wynn	Atrium Health Floyd
Robyn	Axlund	Atrium Health Navicent
Angela	Barton	Atrium Health Navicent
Josephine	Fabico-Dulin	Atrium Health Navicent
Joanna	Goss	Atrium Health Navicent
Tracy	Johns	Atrium Health Navicent
Brenna	McClure	Atrium Health Navicent

ATTENDEES		
Kesha	Patel	Atrium Health Navicent
Kristal	Smith	Atrium Health Navicent
Alicia	Cochran	Children's Healthcare of Atlanta
Susanne	Edwards	Children's Healthcare of Atlanta
Karen	Hill	Children's Healthcare of Atlanta
Rebecca	Butler	Coffee Regional Medical Center
Ashley	Bullington	Crisp Regional Hospital
April	Dukes	Crisp Regional Hospital
Charly	Ussery	Crisp Regional Hospital
Laura	Lunsford	Doctors Hospital Of Augusta
Danlin	Luo	DPH OEMST
Marie	Probst	DPH OEMST
Stacee	Smith	DPH OEMST
Olalekan	Akinyokunbo	Emanuel Medical Center
Gail	Thornton	Emanuel Medical Center
Jessica	Astrella	Grady
Lawrence	Blair	Grady
Samantha	Buchanan	Grady
Regina	Cannon	Grady
Andrea	Costanzo	Grady
Teri	Craig	Grady
Joy	Eleby	Grady
Steve	Elmgren	Grady
Jennifer	Freeman	Grady
Sharona	Griffkn	Grady
Amy Annia	Jeune	Grady
Leigh	Pack	Grady
Emily	Page	Grady
Rocky	Rothenberg	Grady
Emily	Russell	Grady
Angela	Sanabria	Grady
Stacey	Shiple	Grady
Roger	Smith	Grady
Alan	So	Grady

ATTENDEES		
Barbara	Thomas	Grady
Alana	Valadez	Grady
Pamela	Vanderberg	Grady
Kim	Brown	Hamilton Medical Center
Lauren	Zavala	Hamilton Medical Center
Kathryn	Eberly	HCA
Farrah	Parker	JMS Burn Center at Doctors Hospital
Jessica	Davis	John D. Archbold Memorial Hospital
Mary Beth	Goodwin	John D. Archbold Memorial Hospital
Tammie	Russell	Liberty Regional Medical Center
Kim	Kottemann	LifeLink of Georgia
Karrie	Page	Memorial Health Meadows Hospital
Whitney	Williamson	Memorial Health University Medical Center
Thara	Dukes	Memorial Satilla Health
susan	Jackson	Morgan Medical Center
Christie	Mathis	Morgan Medical Center
Jesse	Gibson	Northeast Georgia Medical Center
Linda	Greene	Northeast Georgia Medical Center
Blanca	Hinojosa	Northeast Georgia Medical Center
Carol	Gerrin	Northeast Georgia Health System
Jenna	Howell	Northeast Georgia Medical Center
Morgan	Krause	Northeast Georgia Medical Center
Jessica	Mantooth	Northeast Georgia Medical Center
Nadirah	Burgess	Northside Hospital Gwinnett
Dana	Davis	Northside Hospital Gwinnett
Tracy	Harris	Northside Hospital Gwinnett
Colleen	Horne	Northside Hospital Gwinnett
Kim	Smith	Northside Hospital Gwinnett
Rayma	Stephens	Northside Hospital Gwinnett
Becky	Weidler	Northside Hospital Gwinnett
Deborah	Anderson	Parallon
Jennifer	Talkington	Phoebe Putney
Nicole	Hestee	Piedmont Athens Regional
Heather	Morgan	Piedmont Athens Regional

ATTENDEES		
Stephanie	Stribling	Piedmont Athens Regional
Shannon	Thomas	Piedmont Athens Regional
Brad	Cothran	Piedmont Cartersville Medical Center
Kristen	Gentry	Piedmont Cartersville Medical Center
Amy	Stephens	Piedmont Cartersville Medical Center
Caitlin	Dejesus-Rodrigo	Piedmont Columbus Regional
Marilyn	Dunlap	Piedmont Columbus Regional
Kelly	Gasser	Piedmont Columbus Regional
Tamara	Patterson	Piedmont Columbus Regional
Shalonda	Wright	Piedmont Columbus Regional
Jay	Connelly	Piedmont Henry Hospital
Justin	Keeton	Piedmont Henry Hospital
Marylynn	Sullivan	Piedmont Henry Hospital
James	Polston	Piedmont Walton Hospital
Kmberly	Reusmann	Piedmont Walton Hospital
Lisa	Weitzman	Piedmont Walton Hospital
Chelsea	Carter	South Georgia Medical Center
Tetra	Jenkins	Washington County Regional Medical Center
Stephanie	Greenstein	Wellstar
Alyssa	Monda	WellStar Cobb
Cristina	Soto-Olvera	WellStar Cobb
Adalynn	Rath	Wellstar Douglas
Dana	Bouse	Wellstar Kennestone
Danielle	Johnson	Wellstar Kennestone
Grace	Mills	Wellstar Kennestone
Jamie	Van Ness	Wellstar Kennestone
Taitiana	Woods	Wellstar Kennestone
Brian	Bays	Wellstar MCG
Raqeal	Beard	Wellstar MCG
Ashley	Faircloth	Wellstar MCG
Dawn	Faircloth	Wellstar MCG
Regina	Medeiros	Wellstar MCG
Patricia	Smith	Wellstar MCG
Kyndra	Holm	Wellstar MCG/Children's Hospital of GA

ATTENDEES		
Elizabeth	Folse	Wellstar North Fulton Hospital
Rhonda	Jones	Wellstar North Fulton Hospital
Jason	Lanyon	Wellstar North Fulton Hospital
Kerry	Carter	Wellstar Paulding
Andrea	McCarson	Wellstar Paulding
Vaughn	Tejedor	Wellstar Spalding Medical Center
Rachel	Hand	Wellstar West Georgia Medical Center

TOPIC	DISCUSSION
Call to Order/Approval Mins Intro of New Members	<p>Tracy Johns, Committee Chair, called the meeting of the Georgia Committee for Trauma Excellence (GCTE), a committee of the Georgia Trauma Commission (GTC), to order at 2:00 pm.</p> <p>After the roll call, Tracy requested a motion to approve the May 20<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes:</p> <p><b><u>MOTION GCTE 2024-08-01:</u></b>  <b>Motion to approve May 20, 2024, meeting minutes.</b>  <b>MOTION:</b> Ashley Bullington  <b>SECOND:</b> Susanne Edwards  <b>DISCUSSION:</b> None  <b>ACTION:</b> The motion <b><i>PASSED</i></b> with no objections nor abstentions</p> <p>After minutes approval, Tracy asked new committee members to introduce themselves.</p>
Georgia Trauma Commission (GTC) Update	<p>Liz Atkins provided the following updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FY 2024 amendments and FY 2025 renewals have been distributed to contracted trauma centers. Please let us know if you encounter any barriers when processing these contracts.</li> <li>• Super speeder revenues have increased by \$1.2 million compared to FY 2023. The additional revenue will be included in the 2025 legislative budget recommendations.</li> <li>• The funding formula for trauma centers has been revamped, particularly benefiting Levels III and IV. Now, readiness funding is based on specific cost results, with Level IV centers receiving a significant increase in funding despite their low readiness cost data. We are continuing to fund Level III and IV registry actual costs.</li> <li>• The criteria for Performance-Based Pay (PBP) are under review, with plans to implement a tiered system for meeting attendance to ensure fairness and encourage participation.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding has been approved for a virtual AIS 15 update course. Based on demand, a full course may be offered in the future.</li> <li>• We working to see what IRR program we can stand up for Level IV centers. It would have to be done on a reimbursement basis-more information is forthcoming.</li> <li>• A TCAA Finance Team webinar is scheduled for August 19<sup>th</sup>, with a high number of attendee registrations. The goal is to align different departments to speak the same financial language and address the complexities of trauma activation fees. The Trauma Administrators Committee meeting was cancelled for August 19<sup>th</sup> to allow them the opportunity to attend the webinar.</li> </ul>
Office of EMS & Trauma (OEMST) Update	<p>Marie Probst provided the following updates:</p> <p>We have presented to the GTC Trauma System Performance Committee and the GCTE Registrar Subcommittee a change to the Georgia 2025 Criteria for the trauma registry records. We want to align our Georgia registry criteria with the NTDS criteria. The purpose of this change is because our Georgia data quality processes and analysis, through your participation with Gina and GQIP, have matured our data system to the point that we need our criteria to align with the national criteria. There won't be any more guessing year to year about what the state criteria include or don't include. The 2025 year is a good mid-decade year to align for research purposes, and we know there's a clean break in the data there. When looking at your reports, your GQIP and TQIP data would be more comparable to apples to apples instead of apples to oranges. We are open to comments and your feedback. That data dictionary criteria will be adopted once we reach the September 1st date. We had a quick call this morning with ESO at our monthly state-level call. Danielle wanted everybody to know that the ICD 10 code updates for V5 users will be released in a few weeks, but I would anticipate it by the end of August. If you haven't received your update, please contact ESO's tech support. ACS has not released the 2025 into the data dictionary yet, meaning the vendors cannot prepare the schema for the following year until everybody gets that data dictionary. So, ESO is aware that the delay will affect their development schedules. They will work as diligently as they can. That also affects ImageTrend users because they will prepare the needed schema so that you can download it from your ESO system to the instrument registry.</p> <p>Stacey Smith provided the following updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Four Level IV consults have been completed to help facilities prepare for designation. Please contact Stacey if your facility is interested in schedule a consultation or interested in becoming designated.</li> <li>• Congratulations to Effingham on their Level IV redesignation.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kelly Joiner and Liz Atkins are working together to identify opportunities for air and ground locations across the State.</li> <li>• Richard and Heather are going on training courses.</li> </ul> <p>Tracy Johns encouraged members to request ACS survey dates well in advance as ACS is scheduling for September 2025 and beyond.</p>
Georgia Trauma Foundation Update	Deferred
Georgia Quality Improvement Program Update	<p>Gina Solomon provided the following updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thank you to all for the timely first-quarter downloads amidst the numerous updates and changes. The first quarter file was successfully submitted to ArborMetrix, with a pending upload soon.</li> <li>• A new process measure for VTE is being developed. The VTE workgroup has reviewed the first draft and is also working on a state-generic VTE protocol, similar to previous protocols for VAP and multimodal approaches.</li> <li>• A quarterly virtual call is scheduled for August 20th. An in-person fall meeting is scheduled for November 20<sup>th</sup> in Cordele, GA. This fall meeting will be more intimate and may set a precedent for future meetings, potentially transitioning to one large annual meeting and one smaller one. The tentative date and location of the Winter 2025 meeting will be shared soon.</li> </ul>
Subcommittee Reports	<p><b>Education:</b> Kyndra Holm provided the following updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The first draft of the Trauma Program Manager toolkit is complete and has been sent to stakeholders for initial review. Feedback from Stacey at DPH OEMST will be incorporated into the document. The workgroup and GCTE leadership will review the revised draft for final approval. The goal is to disseminate the toolkit by October 1<sup>st</sup>.</li> <li>• The Essential Trauma Nursing Skills project aims to guide and support nurses in non-trauma centers. Keith from Savannah is leading this effort, creating a poster and PowerPoint presentation. The content is designed to be concise and easily accessible for quick reference and minimal training. The expected completion and dissemination date is November 1<sup>st</sup>.</li> </ul> <p><b>Pediatric:</b> Susanne Edwards provided the following update on behalf of Kellie Rowker:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children's Healthcare is searching for a physician team lead as the current Trauma Medical Directors are adjusting to the new organization and the State of Georgia.</li> <li>• We are collaborating with various centers to provide additional information and resources on the Shock Index Pediatric Adjusted (SIPA) education, integrating it into EMS trauma symposium talks.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The pediatric transfer toolkit is under development. We are reviewing documents from various centers and combining the best elements. The first draft is expected in the upcoming months.</li> <li>• Children's will host a trauma bay equipment tour next week with Piedmont Henry. The new hospital, Arthur M. Blank, will open on September 29<sup>th</sup>, and future tours may include this campus.</li> <li>• Children's is participating in a multi-institutional study (MATIC 2) on using whole blood in pediatrics, with a go-live date of November. Key concerns include dosing, titers, and availability.</li> <li>• An internal quality project is examining how patients are restrained during EMS transport. To improve focused education, a QR code link has been distributed for staff to report restraint methods.</li> </ul> <p>Kristal Smith inquired about collaboration with the EMSC group and the Department of Public Health Injury Prevention Subcommittee. Suzanne confirmed Kelly is involved with the EMSC group, and they can distribute information more broadly. Tracy suggested forwarding the survey and other materials to Gabby to include in the meeting minutes.</p> <p><b>Performance Improvement:</b> Rayma Stephens provided updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are ongoing efforts to standardize the statewide time to definitive care. The previous May meeting focused on determining timeframes for emergent and urgent transfers. Various members provided input on their current processes, but no definitive decision was reached. Commission support might be necessary to finalize these timeframes. The homework assigned for the August 13<sup>th</sup> meeting is to define criteria for categorizing transfers as emergency, urgent, or non-urgent.</li> <li>• During the August meeting, we will also discuss input from the TMD group, insights from a visit to the local transfer center, and new initiatives beyond time to definitive care.</li> </ul> <p><b>Registry:</b> Colleen Horne provided the following updates on behalf of Kelli Vaughn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The AIS 15 update virtual course is underway with funding from the Commission. Liz Atkins confirmed the line items for the AIS 15 update and the need to establish a registration process.</li> <li>• The GTC required education for registrars includes the new TQIP module and 50% of TQIP monthly education experiences.</li> <li>• Registry Subcommittee PowerPoints are available on Basecamp. TPMs have access to consultative education visits.</li> </ul>

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	<p><b>Injury Prevention and Outreach:</b> Karrie Page provided an update on activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Georgia Trauma Systems National Stop the Bleed Day webinar on May 23<sup>rd</sup> was successful, with over 300 participants. We're in the middle of the back-to-school training blitz, which has over 1,584 registrations and 900 post session surveys to date. We have few instructor slots left if anyone is interested.</li> <li>• The Georgia Stay Safe program, focused on preventing pediatric firearm injuries, held a webinar with 40 attendees. The webinar was recorded and link the minutes on how to get the toolkits if needed.</li> <li>• Upcoming events include the National Night Out on August 6<sup>th</sup>, where communities get together to promote law enforcement and community partnerships.</li> <li>• Georgia Falls Free Fridays are underway for Fall Prevention month in September. The webinars will take place Fridays in September at 10:00 AM.</li> <li>• September 6<sup>th</sup>, Kristal Smith will be doing a Bingocize demonstration at the Middle Georgia Regional Commission, highlighting our trauma system partnership with the Georgia Area Agencies on Aging.</li> <li>• September 13<sup>th</sup>, Emily Brown from South Georgia Medical Center will be participating as a panelist in a discussion on EMS and Fire-based fall prevention initiatives.</li> <li>• Our next subcommittee meeting is scheduled for August 27<sup>th</sup>.</li> </ul>
<p>Nominations for GTCE Vice-Chair</p>	<p>Tracy Johns announced her term as chair would end this year, with Lynn Grant moving up to Chair position. The nomination for vice chair for 2025-2026 rotation was received for Jamie Van Ness. Jamie accepted the nomination. Voting for the vice chair will take place during the November meeting.</p>
<p>1.1 Administrative Commitment</p>	<p>Tracy reviewed the ACS standard 1.1 (<b>ATTACHMENT A</b>), which applies to Levels I, II, II, and pediatric Levels I and II. This standard emphasizes the necessity for trauma centers to demonstrate a strong commitment from the facility's governing body to adhere to the trauma standards. This includes having a letter of compliance from the governing body and medical executive committee, typically signed by the COO or CEO. Tracy highlighted that failing to meet this Type 1 standard could result in an automatic failure of the survey, as it is crucial for compliance.</p>
<p>4.31 Trauma Registry Staffing</p>	<p>Tracy also reviewed ACS standard 4.31 (<b>ATTACHMENT B</b>), which also applies to Levels I, II, II, and pediatric Levels I and II. It required at least a half an FTE dedicated to the trauma registry for every 200 to 300 annual patient entries. Tracy emphasized that, ideally, facilities should aim for a full FTE for 400 to 600 annual entries to avoid burnout and ensure proper data management. The discussion touched on the challenges of obtaining additional staffing and the importance of regularly reviewing staffing numbers in relation to patient volume. Ashley Bullington asked about staffing requirements if the annual entries fall between 300 to 400. Tracy advised ideally you would need a full</p>

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	<p>FTE but should work with your administrator to ensure you are following best practice. Liz Atkins suggested running historical data over the past five years to track growth trends, which could help in planning for future staffing needs and justifying requests for additional FTEs. This approach provides a data-driven rationale for staffing needs.</p> <p>Marie Probst highlighted the requirement references the count of entries is defined as all patient entries who meet NTDS inclusion criteria. She advised any records outside of NTDS criteria should be used for internal tracking purposes only. Tracy stressed the importance of adhering to NTDS criteria to ensure accurate state and verification reports.</p>
Shared Celebrations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ashley Bullington shared a success story about a Stop the Bleed class conducted at a local primary school. The class, attended by 125 staff members, included hands-on training and distribution of kits to the school.</li> <li>• Kristal Smith expressed gratitude to the faculty involved in the recent training blitz and encourage participation in upcoming sessions.</li> </ul> <p>Tracy praised the group for their collaborative efforts and dedication to improving trauma care across the state.</p>
Adjournment	<p>Before adjournment, Tracy Johns expressed appreciation for everyone's participation and contributions. The next meeting is scheduled for November 20th.</p> <p><i>Tracy Johns adjourned the meeting at 3:15 pm</i></p>