

2008 National EMSC Heroes Awards Honors Six Remarkable Individuals/Teams

Since 1998, the EMSC National Heroes Award selection committee has solicited nominations from throughout the country to recognize and reward outstanding achievement in emergency medical services for children (EMSC). The individuals who are selected reflect the best of the best. They are compassionate, tireless advocates who have made a real difference within the pediatric health care community at the local, state, and national level.

On June 26, during the Annual EMSC Grantee Meeting in Washington, DC, five individuals and one project team received a 2008 EMSC National Heroes Award for their commitment, creativity, and resourcefulness in successfully addressing one or more challenging EMSC issues. They include:



George Foltin, MD, this year's recipient of the **EMSC Lifetime Achievement Award**. Dr. Foltin's entire career has been devoted to advocating for children and advancing pediatric

emergency care throughout the nation. His involvement with EMSC began in 1985 when he spearheaded the fight to change the way New York City delivered prehospital care to children. With funding from the very first EMSC grant, pediatric protocols were written and all paramedics within the city were trained in their use.

On a national level, Dr. Foltin has an extremely impressive record of dedicated service to enhancing pediatric medical care. For example, he has held a number of leadership positions in the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP), and the National Association of EMS Physicians. He is active in the American Heart Association, and for the last three years, he has served as a member of the Institute of Medicine's Main Committee and Pediatric Subcommittee of the Future of Emergency Care in the United States Health System.

In addition to his work within EMSC, he is the principal or co-principal investigator for a number of pediatric-related grants obtained through the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the Department of Homeland Security, and the National Association of EMS Physicians to name only a few.

Since 1987, he has been the director of the Bellevue Hospital Pediatric Emergency Service. During his tenure

there, he developed the first Pediatric Emergency Medicine Fellowship in the state of New York. Currently, he is also the director of the Center for Pediatric Emergency Medicine, an associate professor of pediatrics at New York University School of Medicine, chairperson of the New York City Task Force on Pediatric Terrorism and Disaster Preparedness, and a member of the New York State Department of Health's EMS Committee on Biological/Chemical Terrorism Preparedness.

Dr. Foltin is a primary author and editor of both versions of the Teaching Resource for Instructors in Prehospital Pediatrics or TRIPP, which has been adopted for use in 41 states in the U.S., and downloaded for free by representatives of 62 countries around the world. In addition to TRIPP, he has more than 80 abstracts, chapters, peer-reviewed publications, and textbooks to his credit.



Theresa Guins, MD, the recipient of the 2008 **EMSC Advisory Board Member Award**. This award recognizes an advisory council member who works collaboratively with

EMSC at the state level and has taken on a leadership role to improve pediatric emergency care in one or more states.

Please note: Each photo includes Dan Kavanaugh, program officer, EMSC Federal Program and the awardee. Several photos also include Tina Turgel, nurse consultant, EMSC Federal Program.

Dr. Guins' dedication and wealth of knowledge within EMSC are well-known throughout Virginia and the nation. She has served on the Virginia EMSC Committee since the early-1990s and has been the EMSC Committee chairperson since 2003. She is currently finishing her second three-year term as the Virginia Chapter of the AAP representative on the Virginia State EMS Advisory Board. She also serves as the medical director for the Virginia EMSC State Partnership grant and is an active leader within the Federal EMSC Program.

Throughout the years, Dr. Guins' support, guidance, and leadership have been instrumental in assisting Virginia's EMSC program in becoming what it is today. Her diligence and vision played an integral part in mandating an EMSC program within the Code of Virginia and in establishing dedicated funding for its support. Because of these efforts, EMSC is included as a player at all levels and in all areas of EMS in Virginia.

Dr. Guins also serves as a pediatric/EMSC representative on numerous other committees, subcommittees, and groups. These include: the Virginia EMS Medical Direction Committee; the Virginia EMS Finance, Legislation, and Planning Committee; the Trauma System Oversight Committee; and the Tidewater EMS for Children Subcommittee, among many others.

Currently, Dr. Guins practices as an attending physician in the Department of Pediatrics at Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters in Norfolk, VA. She is also an assistant professor of pediatrics at Eastern Virginia Medical School and an adjunct instructor at George Washington University in Washington, DC.



Nancy Kelly-Goodstein, EMT-P, of New Jersey, recipient of this year's EMSC Project Coordinator of Distinction Award for her comprehensive understanding of her state's pediatric emergency medical care issues and for successfully integrated EMSC into state EMS programs for the long term.

Mrs. Kelly-Goodstein served as New Jersey's EMSC program coordinator from 1997 to 2007. During these 10 years, and for the last year-and-a-half as a

program manager for the state's Office of EMS, EMSC activities within the state have skyrocketed. The success of the program, without doubt, is the result of Nancy's dedication and commitment to the children of New Jersey.

Mrs. Kelly-Goodstein has been involved in every component of EMSC from serving as an emergency medical technician (EMT) provider, to securing training and skills retention opportunities, to developing partnerships between various government departments and associations, to improving policy and challenging current regulations. Through persistence and collaboration with others, Nancy spearheaded many revisions to New Jersey's hospital regulations. In addition, all ambulances, mobile intensive care units, specialty care transport units, and air medical units are now required to have minimum pediatric equipment. And, for the first time ever, pediatric training is mandated for all paramedics.

Mrs. Kelly-Goodstein's extensive work with the New Jersey public school system further exemplifies her commitment to kids. When the legislature passed a law allowing students to carry their own epinephrine, Nancy offered to partner with the state's Department of Education to educate all school nurses regarding this mandate. Today, more than 2,000 school nurses have received the training. Based on the success of the epinephrine training, Nancy successfully embarked on school nurse training related to: diabetes; allergies; epilepsy; and JumpSTART, the pediatric version of the Simple Triage and Rapid Treatment program for emergency disaster preparedness. She also helped to create the School Emergency Kit, which has since been distributed to each school within the state.

Doris Foster, RN, EMT-P, of Virginia, recipient the 2008 EMSC Provider Leadership Award, which recognizes a clinically-based health profes-



sional who has dedicated his or her time, talent, and energy to achieve the highest level of care for children in the community.

For the past 32 years, Mrs. Foster has developed, promoted, and taught education courses for and about

children. In the 1980's, before EMSC became an established Federal program and prior to the existence of such popular courses as PEPP (Pediatric Education for Prehospital Professionals) and PALS (Pediatric Advance Life Support), Doris was implementing pediatric assessment workshops at the Virginia Beach Annual Cardiac Symposium. During these workshops, EMS providers were able to perform physical assessments on children to improve their ability to treat pediatric patients.

In 1994, Mrs. Foster created the Virginia Beach Camp 9-1-1. Open to children of rescue squad members, the camp teaches children about the work their parents do on behalf of the community. The camp includes training in safety, first aid, and CPR, as well as tours of local emergency departments (ED) and rescue stations.

In 2003, Doris started the Children's Tent at the Annual Tidewater EMS Regional Picnic. The tent is designed to combine EMS education and fun for EMS providers' children. These carefully planned activities keep children busy while their parents attend the celebratory event.

More recently, Mrs. Foster took on another very practical project: the creation of a family shelter for EMS families. The shelter provides EMS personnel in her agency a safe place to leave their children during hurricanes and other disasters. It serves to alleviate the concerns of many providers who were required or needed to work in the field for long periods of time. It also helped to calm the fears of children facing anxiety at having been separated from one, or sometimes both, parents during a disaster situation.

Mrs. Foster has been a member of the Virginia Beach Volunteer Rescue Squad since 1975, and currently serves as chief of training for the Virginia Beach Department of EMS.



This year's recipient of the **Outstanding EMSC Research Project Guidelines Project Steering Committee** for the study titled "Implementation and Evaluation of the Care of Children in the Emergency Department: Guidelines for Preparedness."

This award highlights an individual or team that has completed a significant EMSC-related research study that confirms current practice or has the potential to impact the provision of pediatric emergency care at a national or international level.

The ED Guidelines for Preparedness study is the first to survey directly all EDs in the United States regarding pediatric preparedness and to provide information on the awareness of hospital ED managers regarding the 2001 release of the AAP/ACEP Guidelines for Preparedness of Emergency Departments That Care for Children.

Study results, which provided the broadest picture of pediatric preparedness to date, showed enormous gaps. For example, only 6% of departments had all recommended pediatric equipment, and just over half were even aware of the AAP/ACEP guidelines. Encouragingly, better preparedness was associated with higher pediatric volumes, awareness of the guidelines, and presence of physician and nurse coordinators for pediatric care. Thus, the study not only revealed important deficits in the preparedness of EDs for pediatric care, but suggests targets for improving compliance with established recommendations.

According to AAP's Milton Tenenbein, MD, "This ground-breaking study reveals what amounts to an enormous public health problem relative to emergency care for children in the United States. The work is national in scope, and deals with the fundamentals of treating all of the 30 million children who visit an emergency department in the U.S. each year." The study appeared in the December 2007 issue of *Pediatrics*.

Steering Committee members include: Marianne Gausche-Hill, MD (Principal Investigator), *pictured*; Roger Lewis, MD, PhD (Co-Investigator); Charles Schmitz, MD (Project Assistant); Steven Krug, MD (Chair, Subcomm. on Self-Efficacy/Staff Satisfaction); Robert Wiebe, MD (Chair, Subcommittee on Quality Indicators); Deborah Henderson, PhD, RN (Research Nurse); Nancy McGrath, MN, RN (Research Nurse); and Sue Tellez (Project Director).

Kentucky EMSC Director Mary Fallat, MD, recipient of this year's **EMSC Policy Leader of Distinction Award** for her leadership in affecting policy change, for safeguarding the health and well-being of children, and for promoting an EMSC priority or pediatric emergency care issues within state government.

For the past 25 years, Dr. Fallat has worked tirelessly in the pursuit of the very best care possible for



the acutely injured children in Kentucky. She was one of the first appointed board members of the Kentucky EMS Board. She currently serves as

chair of the EMS for Children subcommittee, even though her term on the EMS Board has expired. Under her leadership, she succeeded in getting pediatric protocols approved, pediatric equipment and supplies standardized, and on-going pediatric education for prehospital providers authorized.

Additional legislative achievements include:

- helping to ensure that the EMSC project coordinator position was instituted into state law.
- playing an instrumental role in passing Senate Bill 60, which allows for the sale of commem-

orative birth certificates and marriage licenses. The proceeds from these sales fund initiatives of the Kentucky EMSC program.

- helping to implement the “Thomas J. Burch Safe Infants Act” that allows parents of an unwanted newborn to surrender the newborn to proper authorities without fear of prosecution.

No matter how busy her schedule gets, Dr. Fallat has always made time to meet with interested parties on current legislative issues, such as child car seat safety laws, booster seat legislation, mandatory helmet laws, and abandoned infants.

In addition to being chief of surgery for Kosair Children’s Hospital in Louisville, she is chair of the Kentucky Chapter of the American College of Surgeons’ Committee on Trauma; honorary chair of SafeKids Louisville and Jefferson County; a member of the State Bioterrorism Task Force; and a member of the American Heart Association’s National Subcommittee on Pediatric Resuscitation.

The EMSC National Resource Center (NRC), located just outside Washington, DC, was established in 1991 to help improve the pediatric emergency care infrastructure throughout all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the five U.S. territories. The NRC is housed within Children’s National Medical Center, one of America’s leading pediatric institutions serving sick and injured children and their families. In 2008, the NRC received its fourth (multi-year) funding award to provide support to the Federal EMSC Program.

The Federal EMSC Program is designed to ensure that all children and adolescents – no matter where they live, attend school, or travel – receive appropriate care in a health emergency. It is administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau. Since its establishment, the Federal EMSC Program has provided grant funding to all 50 states, five U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia.

The NRC oversees and coordinates the National EMSC Heroes Awards and the Annual EMSC Technical Assistance Meeting. For more information on either event, contact NRC staff at (202) 476-4927 or at emscinformation@cnmc.org. Additional information is also located on the web at: <http://www.childrensnational.org/emsc>.