



## EMS Personnel Honored at EMSI Annual Meeting

**E**MS personnel are a special breed of people who dedicate their lives to helping others. At the EMSI annual meeting in October, the 17th annual EMS Recognition Awards were presented to several individuals who have excelled in the field over the years.

Bill Groft, president of the Board of Directors, presented the following awards to these individuals:

### Responsible Citizen Award

#### **David Ferry**

*Woodland Hills and Forest Hills/Chalfont Rescue 8 EMS Services*

David was recognized for his work as the chief financial officer of the Woodland Hills EMS. During his tenure, the service transitioned from an all-volunteer to a paid service and David assumed responsibility for payroll, insurance and workman's compensation. Doug Garretson presented the award to Ferry, noting, "We talk about reimbursement and paying for EMS; here is one person who has actually combined patient care and financial security at Woodland Hills EMS."

### Dispatcher Award

#### **James Jochem, Air Medical Communication Specialist**

*LifeFlight*

Jim was recognized for his job as the conduit between the trauma team at Allegheny General Hospital and LifeFlight. Of specific note, he was honored for his dedication in the Emergency Operations

*continued on page 2*

## INSIDE

EMSI Update.....	4
Medical Command Forms Due .....	6
Board Members Named .....	10

Center on the day that tornadoes hit Pittsburgh in 1995. When presenting the award to Jim, Cathy Fackovec stated, "Jim has a vast knowledge of the communication network in the EMSI region. He is able to quickly interface with referring EMS agencies, obtain the information needed, and relay the information to the appropriate party. His calm, professional demeanor on the radio and telephone is welcomed by the LifeFlight team members."



*L to R: B.J. Pino; Phil Stoner, EMSI executive director; Jim Sadler; Dr. Jim Dickson, Emergency Physician Award winner; and Danny Sacco*

#### EMT Award

##### **Gary Ciampanelli, Chief**

##### *Crafton Volunteer Fire Department*

Gary was recognized for his years of service as both an EMT and a firefighter, as well as his career as a safety coordinator at Allegheny General Hospital. Gary is also a member and safety officer for Pennsylvania's DMAT-1 team and was deployed to Salt Lake City for the 2002 Olympics. In addition to these positions, Gary has been an instructor and evaluator for fire and

EMT, was involved with the EMSI evaluator team, and is a member of the National Ski Patrol. Cathy Fackovec stated "Always the professional and always the mentor, Gary is truly deserving of the award."

#### Paramedic Award

##### **Mary Popovich,**

##### **Director**

##### *Perryopolis Ambulance Service*

Mary was recognized for her 30 years of EMS service in which she started as a volunteer and has remained active on the trucks. Mary teaches at California



*L to R: William Groft; Phil Stoner; and Mary Popovich, Paramedic Award winner*

University and in the community, including at local mining agencies. She is also an EMSI evaluator and was named 2002 Pennsylvania Instructor of the Year by PEHSC. Doug Garretson complimented Mary on her role in "turning the service around, and implementing positive changes, including billing management, electronic data collection, and even buying a new truck."

#### Emergency Physician Award

##### **James Dickson, MD, Medical Director**

##### *Citizens' Ambulance Service*

Jim was recognized for the instrumental role he has played in developing and maintaining an efficient rural EMS system in Indiana County. A paramedic who continued in EMS after receiving his medical degree, Jim is an emergency physician at Punxsutawney Hospital, and medical director for the Special Medical Response Team that responded to the September 11 tragedies and the Quecreek Mine rescue. He is an instructor for the Indiana University of Pennsylvania EMS program and serves as its EMS program medical director. Danny Sacco, B.J. Pino and Jim Sadler summed it up best when they presented the award to Jim by stating, "Every once in awhile you come across a guy who just truly loves his job. His dedication to excellence...is second to none."

#### Board Recognition Awards

##### **Scott Garing Sr.**

##### **Scott Garing Jr.**

##### **Lieutenant Carl Harrison Jr.**

The Garing father-son team was honored for their quick, life-saving response to an automobile accident that occurred outside their house involving a teen who was thrown from a car. For their efforts in saving the teen's life, the Garing's have received commendations



*L to R: Phil Stoner; Carl Harrison Jr., Board Recognition Award winner; William Groft; and Dr. Paul Paris*

from the Pennsylvania Senate, as well as the township and school district. Scott senior, who is a flight nurse for LifeFlight, also received the Prehospital RN of the Year award at the PEHSC conference in August. Scott junior is an EMT for Harmony EMS. When presenting the award to Scott senior (Scott junior was overseas with the military at the time of the dinner), Dr. Paul Paris commented that, "There are some good genes in the Garing family: dedication and service. The entire Garing family should be proud of these two members; the entire EMS community should be proud of the Garing family."

Lieutenant Carl Harrison Jr. of the Pennsylvania State Police was honored for his heroic efforts to save seven passengers trapped in a burning minivan on I-81 near Harrisburg in October 2001. Shortly after he freed the last trapped passenger, the minivan exploded. For his efforts, he was honored by the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission. The EMSI Board of Directors commended him because, according to presenter Dr. Paul Paris, "He exemplified the spirit of the typical public safety official. Someone needed help and he was there to do what he could."

#### **EMSI Lifetime Achievement Award *Billie Jane Morris, Owner Ambulance and Chair***

Billie Jane Morris was recognized for her 40-plus years of service to EMS. She started her career in 1962 when she was hired as the manager of an ambulance service created by funeral directors in Washington County. She was instrumental in sponsoring many innovative programs in the area: the first EMT training program to be certified by the PA Department of Health; one of the first paramedic training programs in the Commonwealth; the first Quick Response Services (QRS); and one of the first uses of AED's in the state. At the annual meeting, Billie Jane enjoyed a surprise video of family members in

Richmond and Italy congratulating her on receipt of the award. Jerry Esposito, after whom the award was named and last year's recipient, presented the award to Billie Jane. He recalled how Billie Jane grew up through the ranks of EMS and affectionately called her one of "my girls" as he proudly told of the dedication she has given to the EMS field in this area over the years.

More than 200 individuals attended the annual meeting and awards ceremony. At the meeting, Ed Heltman, president of the Ambulance Association of Pennsylvania (AAP), was the keynote speaker. He spoke about the various efforts of the AAP, including lobbying legislators for changes in reimbursements, building coalitions for increased funding for ambulance services, and researching recruitment and retention topics. He encouraged attendees to get involved with organizations like EMSI and AAP in order to speak as one voice about issues facing EMS.

*L to R: Phil Stoner; Dr. William Pearson; Jerry Esposito; Billie Jane Morris, EMSI Lifetime Achievement Award winner; and William Groft*



# EMS UPDATE 2003

## **March 27 – 29, 2003** **Preconference Classes, March 25 and 26** **Seven Springs Mountain Resort**

**Mark your calendar now for three days of educational sessions, training and fun for the whole family at the EMS Update 2003 from March 27-29. As in past years, Seven Springs Mountain Resort will be the host site for this must-attend conference.**

*Join EMSI for the following opportunities at the conference:*

### **Seminars and Training**

#### *Pre-Conference Sessions:*

#### **Tuesday, March 25 and Wednesday, March 26**

Sessions include a Tactical LifeSaver Course for Police and EMS Providers, Drugs of Abuse Seminar, and Comprehensive Crisis Management session.

#### *March 27 Sessions:*

Deaf Patients, Domestic Violence, Geriatric Illnesses, EMS Research, Overweight Patients, EMS Education Tools, Pediatric Emergencies, Terrorism Overview, BVR Patients, Incident Command Table Top.

#### *March 28 Sessions:*

EMS Humor, EMS Stress, Report from Afghanistan, High Altitude Illness, Patient Restraints, Lessons from Quecreek, Pediatric Shock, Tachycardia, Grants, HIPAA, Rural EMS, Crime Scenes, and EMS and Sports Medicine.

AIRWAY Cam: A free session on March 28.

#### *March 29 Sessions:*

Field Training Secrets, Aircraft Rescue, Death of a Child, Pediatric Burns, Body Piercings, Explosives, Seizures, Heroin and Ecstasy, Dealing with Media, Legal Liability and EMS Survival.

### **Three Day Sessions**

#### *March 27, 28, and 29:*

EMS Operations for Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD): A Federal Department of Justice class managed by Texas A&M University.

### **Three Day Sessions (continued)**

EMT-Paramedic Refresher Course (Part 1): For those needing continuing education credits for the National Registry, this course will cover the first 24-hour portion. The second part will be offered in 2004.

Most classes count toward continuing education requirements for first responders, EMTs, EMT-paramedics and health professionals as defined by the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Emergency Medical Services office. Continuing education credits also may be applied to EMS certifications from other states.

### **Exhibit Hall**

An expanded exhibition area will be open to conference attendees and the general public on Friday and Saturday, March 28 and 29, at no additional cost.

### **Family Fun**

Kids of all ages will enjoy a weekend full of fun and entertaining events. New this year is Free Family Fun with Dale K, comedy hypnotist on Friday. Saturday morning offers a three hour class geared to kids age 8-15 to learn CPR, first aid, earn a merit badge, and have lots of fun.

### **Adult Fun**

Glow in the Dark Party and the infamous Saturday Night Social Event will provide thrills and excitement for the over-21 crowd.

A brochure listing activities and costs will be available in mid January. Registration begins January 6. In the meantime, check out <http://www.emsupdate.com> or call EMSI at (412) 242-7322 or 1-866-827-EMSI for more information.



**D**riving an ambulance is a dangerous job as evidenced by the number of accidents that occur each year. Consider a study by Medical Priority Consultants in Salt Lake City, NV, that reveals that there are approximately 12,000 ambulance-related crashes every year in the United States. Of those, it is estimated there is about one fatality for every 100 crashes.

While the Pennsylvania Department of Health does not require that a form be completed for every ambulance accident that occurs, it does strongly recommend that all accidents be reported. By keeping records, the Department can keep an eye on trends and problems in this vital area of EMS management.

## The Dangers of Driving an Ambulance



A recent article in

*Emergency Medical Services, the Journal of Emergency Care, Rescue and Transportation*, notes that EMS providers are at a 50 percent greater risk of being involved in an accident while on duty compared with the average automobile driver. Some of these accidents are a result of other drivers not heeding warning devices by pulling to the right lane of traffic and stopping. Other accidents occur inside the ambulance itself due to loose items not being securely stored or crews being jostled about in the compartment during a rough ride.

According to the article, while most states have traffic laws that allow special privileges for vehicles involved in an emergency response, it is the responsibility of the ambulance driver to ensure that the vehicle is operated in a safe and controlled manner. This includes keeping in mind the safety of others on the road, including motorists and pedestrians. Operators must drive with "due regard" for the safety of all persons, which means driving in a "safe manner" considering all of the possibilities that

may be encountered." This puts a great burden and responsibility on those who drive emergency vehicles every day.

What can EMS providers do to reduce the likelihood of accidents? Providers should consider the following for the safety of the public and their EMS crews.

- Consider buying rigs that have a lower center of gravity to prevent the likelihood of rollover. Top heavy trucks tend to be more difficult to

corner at moderate speed. Size and weight considerations also play a role in stopping time.

- Review the interior set up of the ambulance and consider buying one that does not have cabinets above the bench seat, which can be hazardous to the crew. Also, place latching hardware in an easy to access location that is low in profile so that objects cannot fall out and strike the crew or patient.
- Assess the set up of current rigs in use and store safely any unsecured equipment or supplies. Counter tops, crew benches or the floors of the ambulance should be free from clutter. Secure heavy items, such as oxygen cylinders, cardiac monitors, suction machines, drug bags and jump kits. Close and latch all doors and maintain stretcher mounting brackets adequately. Keep up to date on routine maintenance or repairs.
- Educate ambulance drivers on accident prevention and safe driving. Consider programs that combine classroom and practical skills driving.

- When on the road, flash lights in an irregular pattern and in alternate colors, if possible. Use reflective tape to help other motorists discern vehicle shape, size and improve visibility. Use audible devices in a variety of different tones. All of these signals can help the public

respond appropriately when an EMS vehicle is approaching in an emergency.

- Provide adequate educational opportunities to the public to teach them what to do when they hear or see an ambulance approaching. Also, provide information on how to pass a stopped vehicle at the scene, as well as not parking or standing in fire lanes.
- Be extra diligent in best conditions. A study in New York state concluded that the majority of accidents occurred during daylight hours, on straight and level roadways, in dry conditions, and during clear weather. While most ambulance operators would expect the numbers to be highest when drivers are tired or during bad weather conditions, it appears that in reality drivers may be more cautious during these times. A false sense of security in good conditions may lead to more accidents.

For more information on recommendations for reporting ambulance accidents, contact EMSI at (412) 242-7322.

# Medical Command Authorization Forms Due

**T**he Pennsylvania Department of Health recently updated its Medical Command Authorization Form. Revised applications have been sent to all ambulance services and medical command facilities in the region. This new form must be completed for all medical authorization requests for the 2003 calendar year.

The new form was developed with input from regions and regional EMS medical directors. Changes and revisions in the form and reporting include the following:

- ✓ The practitioner's name, affiliate number, and calendar year are prominently labeled for quick reference. A separate Medical Command Authorization Form must be completed for each service with which an ALS practitioner desires medical command authorization.
- ✓ There is no requirement for a Health Professional Physician to obtain medical command authorization, but ALS services or regions may want to use this form to identify all individuals within an ALS service that may be performing ALS treatment in the field. The form contains a check box to identify HP Physicians.
- ✓ Each practitioner is required to identify all services that have granted the practitioner medical command authorization within the preceding five years.
- ✓ Restrictions to medical command authorization have been split into two categories: restricted for preceptoring and restricted for other reason. The restriction for preceptoring may only be used for the initial

preceptoring with a service. Once an ALS practitioner has been granted unrestricted medical command authorization with a service, any additional restrictions must use the "restricted for other" reason option.

- ✓ The Medical Command Authorization Form must be completed by the ALS practitioner and approved by the ALS service medical director before any practitioner may provide any care within the scope of practice of an ALS practitioner, unless the individual is a student in a recognized EMT-paramedic or PHRN class and is completing fieldwork under the auspices of the ALS training institute as a formal part of the training program.
- ✓ The ALS practitioner now gives the ALS service and its medical director permission to investigate answers provided on the form and permits third parties to release information related to the individual's professional competence to the ALS service medical director.
- ✓ The simplified form only requires the name and signature of the ALS service medical director in one place when approving medical command authorization.
- ✓ A page is available to complete if medical command authorization is denied, restricted, withdrawn, or requires completion of additional continuing education to address an identified deficiency in competence. In these cases, the ALS service medical director must document the reason(s) for such a decision. A copy of this page must be provided

to the individual who sought medical command authorization.

All completed Medical Command Authorization Forms must be received in the EMSI office by 4 p.m. on December 31, 2002 for calendar year 2003. To receive a copy of the form, contact EMSI at (412) 242-7322.

## Remember New Medical/Trauma Con-Ed Requirements

**A**s the new year approaches, all emergency medical service personnel are reminded of the following continuing education requirements for medical/trauma categories:

- EMTs must complete at least 12 CEU's over three years in the Medical/Trauma category with an expiration date of January 1, 2004 or later.
- First Responders must complete at least 8 CEU's over three years in the Medical/ Trauma category with an expiration date of January 1, 2004 or later.
- Paramedics/HP's must complete in each calendar year at least 9 CEU's in the Medical/Trauma category starting in 2002.

Additional information on these changes and the scheduled con-ed classes is available on the Pennsylvania state web site at [www.state.pa.us](http://www.state.pa.us).





*LifeFlight and the Allegheny General Hospital  
Emergency Department wish you joy and health  
through the holidays and the new year.*



# QUICK MED-CLAIMS

Ambulance Billing Service



**Don't Hesitate to Call!**

Let QUICK-MED-CLAIMS get results for your service. We have a proven track record. Our experienced staff provides complete billing services, including the processing of primary and secondary insurances, follow-up patient billing and the preparation of accounts for collection, following the guidelines of our compliance program. Claims are submitted electronically to Medicare and Medicaid.

**QUICK-MED-CLAIMS** *does the billing for you!*

**QUICK-MED-CLAIMS — 1-800-901-1155 or (412) 655-8950**  
PO Box 18210, Pittsburgh, PA 15236



## Development of DNR Act in the Works

The Pennsylvania Department of Health has issued a draft of amendments for Act 59, which is the Advance Directive for Health Care Act, and establishment of the Do-Not-Resuscitate Act. Currently, agencies and stakeholders are commenting on the amendment draft; revisions are expected to be made and the Act implemented in the coming weeks.

The amendments to the Advance Directive Act provide revised requirements for when emergency medical services (EMS) personnel are to implement a patient's advance declaration directing that the patient not be resuscitated. The DNR Act establishes standards for and procedures by which a patient's attending physician may provide a patient with an out-of-hospital do not resuscitate (DNR) order, bracelet or necklace that EMS personnel are to honor.

Act 59 was signed into law on June 19, 2002, and went into effect on August 18, 2002. Implementation of Act 59 was to be completed by December 16, 2002 after public hearings were completed.

For an update on the current status of Act 59 or to receive copy of the proposed amendment, contact EMSI at (412) 242-7322 or visit the web site at [www.emsi04.org](http://www.emsi04.org).

## Learning More About Listeria

The threat of *Listeria Monocytogenes* came to the forefront in the past few months when an outbreak at a meat plant in Philadelphia resulted in a nationwide recall of meats. *Listeria* is a bacterial infection that occurs when people eat contaminated food.

According to the Pennsylvania Department of Health, 20 cases of *Listeria* have been reported in Pennsylvania. Seven of those cases occurred in Philadelphia, with two deaths reported. Nationally, an estimated 2,500 people become seriously ill with *Listeria* each year. Reporting of *Listeria* cases became mandatory in Pennsylvania this year, so the numbers of reported cases will most likely increase in future years.

For most people, *Listeria* is not dangerous. Those who are exposed may experience minor symptoms. However, pregnant women are at a higher risk of premature delivery or spreading the infection to their newborns, who can experience severe symptoms, such as meningitis. Also, individuals with weakened immune systems due to AIDS, cancer, diabetes or kidney disease; those who take glucocorticosteroid medications; and the elderly also are susceptible to severe *Listeria* infections.

*Listeria* is found most often in soil and water, although vegetables that have not been properly washed can contain the

bacteria. It can also be found in some raw foods, such as uncooked meats and vegetables, as well as in processed foods that become contaminated after processing, such as soft cheeses and cold cuts at the deli counter. Unpasteurized milk or foods made from unpasteurized milk also may contain the bacterium.

Because it is easily transmitted in food, there are simple ways to prevent the spread of the bacteria. This includes washing and cooking food thoroughly; keeping uncooked food separate from cooked foods; and washing hands, knives and other food preparation items.

Symptoms of *Listeria* can include fever, muscle aches and gastrointestinal problems, such as nausea or diarrhea. If infection spreads to the nervous system, headache, stiff neck, confusion, loss of balance, or convulsions can occur. Symptoms can surface anywhere from a few days to more than two months after a person eats contaminated food. However, most people who eat foods containing *Listeria* bacteria do not become ill.

Anyone who experiences symptoms of the disease should contact their family physician at once.

For additional information about *Listeria* infection or for other health information, visit the PA PowerPort at [www.state.pa.us](http://www.state.pa.us), PA Keyword: "Health."

*Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health*

# Board Members Named at Annual Meeting

The EMSI Executive Committee and Board of Directors named the following slate of officers for the upcoming year during the Annual Meeting held in October:

*President:* William Groft  
*Vice President:* Michael Coleman, DO  
*Treasurer:* Mary Ann Scott  
*Secretary:* Douglas Garretson

New members named to the Board for the term are:

Harry Meredith  
Brian Kircher

The EMSI Executive Committee and Board of Directors also named the following individuals to the roles of director-at-large and alternates:

## *Director-at-Large*

Richard Fuller  
Richard Huff  
Brian Kircher  
Harry Meredith  
Bradley Penrod  
B.J. Pino  
Mary Ann Scott  
Patrick M. Sherin  
Ed Stevenson  
Daniel Swayze

## *Alternates*

Dan Fitzhenry  
Richard Buzzard, DO  
Greg Porter  
TBA  
Kurt Sopp  
Randy Thomas  
John Bower  
J. Mark Giannetti  
Richard Lenk, Jr.  
Myron Rickens

For a full listing of the EMSI Board of Directors, please see the listing on page 15.

# Area Hospitals Granted Trauma Center Accreditation Status

The Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation (PTSF) has announced that several area hospitals have been granted trauma center accreditation status as of October 1, 2002. Of the 26 Pennsylvania hospitals that received word of this status, the following are from this region:

## **REGIONAL RESOURCE TRAUMA CENTERS**

Conemaugh Memorial Medical Center, Johnstown  
Allegheny General Hospital, Pittsburgh  
The Mercy Hospital of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh  
UPMC Presbyterian, Pittsburgh

## **PEDIATRIC REGIONAL RESOURCE TRAUMA CENTER**

The Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh

## **REGIONAL TRAUMA CENTERS**

Altoona Hospital, Altoona  
Hamot Medical Center, Erie

According to the PTSF, trauma centers are hospitals with resources immediately available to provide efficient surgical intervention to reduce the likelihood of death or permanent disability. Accredited trauma centers must be continuously prepared to treat the most serious life-threatening and disabling injuries.



All accredited trauma centers must meet a stringent set of requirements. In addition, Regional Resource Trauma Centers are required to maintain capabilities for clinical research and educational programs in trauma.



Emergency Medicine/EMS:

## THE TOOLS & THE TALENT

Sheraton Hotel, Station Square, Pittsburgh, PA

Pre-Conference for Managers & Supervisors: Feb 6, 2003

Main Conference: Feb 7, 2003

Emergency Medicine/EMS: The Tools & The Talent is designed to enhance the knowledge of paramedics, emergency medical technicians and emergency and critical care nurses. The latest information and current trends in emergency medicine are presented in three tracks with general sessions in the morning. The tracks are Advanced Life Support, Basic Life Support, Emergency/Critical Care Nursing. Continuing education credits are available.

**412/647-5300**

Watch our website for faculty, course information and registration form.

[www.centerem.com](http://www.centerem.com)



Center for Emergency Medicine  
OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA



# BILLING

## Ambulance Billing Specialists



***We Handle Every Detail!***

- ❖ Medicare signature authorizations
- ❖ Medical necessity documentation
- ❖ Patient insurance information
- ❖ Calls to patients, hospitals, and insurance carriers
- ❖ Joint ALS/BLS billing
- ❖ Electronic claims submission
- ❖ Electronic funds transfer



***Superior service at competitive rates***



**Cornerstone**  
**ADMINISYSTEMS**

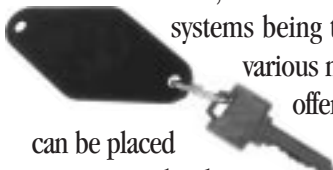
**Call toll free: 877-214-7224 ❖ [info@casys.com](mailto:info@casys.com)**



## New ID Storage Systems Available on the Market

In something that is straight out of a futuristic movie, individuals with health needs in the community can now provide on-line emergency medical information on wallet cards, key tags and stickers. With such revolutionary new storage and retrieval systems, emergency personnel can have vital information about chronic conditions and medications at their finger tips any time and anywhere.

Access to key medical information can help reduce medication errors as personnel have instant knowledge of allergic reactions, incompatible drug prescriptions, and timely information needed to begin proper care for emergency patients.



The new, smaller identification systems being touted by various manufacturers offer keytags that can be placed on zippers, shoelaces or fastened to a key chain; stickers that can be placed in car windows, homes, boats or sports equipment; and cards that can be placed in wallets, purses or pockets.

In addition to emergency medical information, these small computer ID systems can include information about patient emergency contacts, floor plans of homes, pets, vehicles and more – all based on what the patient feels is vital in the event of an emergency.

Look for more details in the marketplace for these and other types of tools that can be helpful in the care and treatment of emergency patients.

## Don't Forget the 04

When accessing the EMSI web site, don't forget the 04. The web address is [www.emsi04.org](http://www.emsi04.org). Since EMSI is no longer affiliated with CAPA.net, the emsi4.org address is no longer valid. Using the 04 ensures you have access to the most up to date information on classes, conferences and other news from EMSI.



### National Registry Exam Dates Set

*EMSI will be administering the National Registry Paramedic exam on the following dates:*

**Written exam:** Thursday, January 23  
2 p.m.  
Center for Emergency Medicine  
Application deadline: Thursday, December 12

Thursday, April 3  
2 p.m.  
Center for Emergency Medicine  
Applications accepted from Wednesday, January 29  
until Thursday, February 20

**Practical exam:** Friday, January 24  
8:30 a.m.  
Center for Emergency Medicine  
Deadline: Must contact EMSI by phone by Tuesday, December 17

Friday, April 4  
8:30 a.m.  
Center for Emergency Medicine  
Deadline: Must contact EMSI by phone between  
Wednesday, January 29 and Monday, March 3

For more information on the testing dates or to check for available testing slots, contact EMSI at (412) 242-7322.



# 2003 Class Registrations By Specific Dates

Start Date	Time	Class Number	Course Name	1st Resp	Hours EMT	Med PHRN	Class Location	Contact	Phone
<b>2003</b>									
1/6	9:00	030039	Bloodborne Pathogens (West Penn)	2.50	2.50	2.50	Expo Mart	Rob Lanious	(412) 856-5400
1/7	8:00	030040	NSC-Automated External Defibrill	4.00	4.00	4.00	Expo Mart	Rob Lanious	(412) 856-5400
1/8	18:30	030152	Obstetrics & Gynecology	2.00	2.00	2.00	Ross West View EMS	Ed Davies	(412) 931-8200
1/9	12:30	030028	Diabetes/Altered Mental Status	2.00	2.00	2.00	Hamer Hall	Barbara Webb	(724) 938-5956
1/9	9:00	030027	Respiratory Emergencies	2.00	2.50	2.50	Hamer Hall	Barbara Webb	(724) 938-5956
1/9	14:30	030029	Scene Size Up & Initial Assessment	1.50	1.50	1.50	Hamer Hall	Barbara Webb	(724) 938-5956
1/14	8:00	030042	ACLS - R	0.00	0.00	8.00	Forbes Regional	Michael Gannon	(412) 359-3923
1/15	18:30	030119	AED	4.00	4.00	4.00	CCAC	CCAC	(412) 237-2500
1/15	8:00	030139	ACLS - R	0.00	0.00	8.00	Medical Rescue Team South	Adella Mueller	(724) 356-7381
1/16	18:00	030025	AED	4.00	4.00	4.00	West Alexander VFD	CCAC	(412) 237-2500
1/18	8:00	030128	Hazardous Materials R & I	4.00	4.00	4.00	CCAC	CCAC	(412) 237-2500
1/22	19:00	030148	Obstetrics & Gynecology	2.00	2.00	2.00	CCAC	CCAC	(412) 237-2500
1/22	8:00	030043	ACLS - R	0.00	0.00	8.00	Allegheny General	Michael Gannon	(412) 359-3923
1/23	18:00	030150	Cardiac Emergencies	2.50	3.00	3.00	Butler Co. Comm. College	Brian Check	(724) 287-8711
1/23	9:00	030030	Detailed Physical Exam	1.00	1.00	1.00	Hamer Hall	Barbara Webb	(724) 938-5956
1/23	13:00	030032	Cardiac Emergencies	2.50	3.00	3.00	Hamer Hall	Barabara Webb	(724) 938-5956
1/23	10:00	030031	Brain Attack Program	2.00	2.00	2.00	Hamer Hall	Barabara Webb	(724) 938-5956
1/24	18:00	030138	ALS ASSISTANT COURSE	0.00	13.50	0.00	Richland EMS	William Wise	(724) 443-3030
1/30	8:00	030044	PALS - R	0.00	0.00	8.00	Allegheny General	Michael Gannon	(412) 359-3923
2/4	18:30	030129	HazMat Resp. for EMS Personnel	16.00	16.00	16.00	CCAC	CCAC	(412) 237-2500
2/4	18:00	030026	Hazardous Materials R & I	4.00	4.00	4.00	West Alexander VFD	CCAC	(412) 235-2500
2/5	8:00	030045	ACLS - R	0.00	0.00	8.00	Allegheny General	Michael Gannon	(412) 359-3923
2/7	8:00	030046	PALS - R	0.00	0.00	8.00	Alle Kiski Center	Michael Gannon	(412) 359-3923
2/8	8:00	030120	ACLS	0.00	0.00	16.00	CCAC	CCAC	(412) 237-2500
2/9	8:00	030121	ACLS - R	0.00	0.00	8.00	CCAC	CCAC	(412) 237-2500
2/12	8:00	030143	PALS - R	0.00	0.00	8.00	Medical Rescue Team South	Adella Mueller	(724) 356-7381
2/15	8:00	030047	PHTLS - R	0.00	8.00	8.00	Allegheny General	Michael Gannon	(412) 359-3923
2/18	8:00	030048	ACLS - R	0.00	0.00	8.00	West Penn Hospital	Michael Gannon	(412) 359-3923
2/19	8:00	030049	ACLS	0.00	0.00	16.00	Allegheny General	Michael Gannon	(412) 359-3923
2/20	9:00	030033	Intro to Emergency Medical Care	1.50	1.50	1.50	Hamer Hall	Barbara Webb	(724) 938-5956
2/22	8:00	030130	Vehicle Resc RefresherTech VRTU	8.50	8.50	8.50	CCAC	CCAC	(412) 237-2500
2/26	8:00	030050	ACLS	0.00	0.00	16.00	Alle Kiski Center	Michael Gannon	(412) 359-3923
2/27	9:00	030034	Patient Assessment/Transition Cours	10.00	10.00	10.00	Hamer Hall	Barbara Webb	(724) 938-5956
3/6	9:00	030035	Interventions - Transition Course	0.00	11.00	11.00	Hamer Hall	Barbara Webb	(724) 938-5956
3/6	8:00	030107	ACLS - R	0.00	0.00	8.00	Canonsburg Hospital	Michael Gannon	(412) 359-3923
3/8	8:00	030051	BTLS	16.00	16.00	16.00	Alle Kiski Center	Michael Gannon	(412) 359-3923
3/10	8:00	030052	PALS - R	0.00	0.00	8.00	Forbes Regional	Michael Gannon	(412) 359-3923
3/11	18:30	030001	Basic Vehicle Resc Tech-DOH (DHVRT)	7.00	7.00	7.00	Peebles VFD	CCAC	(412) 237-2500
3/12	18:00	030149	Airway Management Update (4 hr)	4.00	4.00	4.00	CCAC	CCAC	(412) 237-2500
3/12	8:00	030053	ACLS - R	0.00	0.00	8.00	Allegheny General	Michael Gannon	(413) 359-3923
3/14	8:00	030114	PALS - R	0.00	0.00	8.00	Westmoreland Hospital	Michael Gannon	(412) 359-3923
3/15	9:00	030122	AED	4.00	4.00	4.00	Downtown	CCAC	(412) 237-2500
3/18	8:00	030054	ACLS - R	0.00	0.00	8.00	Alle Kiski Center	Michael Gannon	(412) 359-3923
3/19	8:00	030055	PALS	0.00	0.00	16.00	Allegheny General	Michael Gannon	(412) 359-3923
3/20	9:00	030036	Infants & Children/Transition Cours	3.00	3.00	3.00	Hamer Hall	Barbara Webb	(724) 938-5956
3/22	8:00	030131	Special Vehicle Rescue	7.50	7.50	7.50	CCAC	CCAC	(412) 237-2500
3/24	18:30	030132	Bas. Vehicle Resc Aware-DOH DHVRA	10.00	10.00	10.00	Monroeville #4	CCAC	(412) 237-2500
3/26	8:00	030056	ACLS - R	0.00	0.00	8.00	Allegheny General	Michael Gannon	(412) 359-3923



## Annual Report Now Available

**T**he EMSI Annual Report is now available. The report contains statistics on training, medical direction, quality assurance, communications, provider equipment and licensures for the past year. There is also a financial statement, overview of program activities, and a full list of EMSI board members and staff.

Anyone wishing to obtain a copy should contact the EMSI offices at (412) 242-7322.

## Chem-Bio Handbook Released

**T**he Pennsylvania Department of Health recently released "Jane's Chem-Bio Handbook" as a reference guide for terrorism.

Medical command centers and ambulance services received a copy of the handbook in the fall. Every ambulance in the region will receive a copy in the near future. Emergency personnel should review the handbook closely upon receipt and use it as a ready reference for emergency preparedness planning and response.

For copies of the guide or for more information on its contents and use, call EMSI at (412) 242-7322.

## Paramedic Input Sought

**P**aramedics in the region should have received a copy of a survey distributed by the Pennsylvania Department of Health in December. This survey is seeking pertinent information on recruitment and retention problems with paramedics in the area.

EMSI encourages all paramedics who receive the survey to take the time to complete the questionnaire in an honest and forthright manner. The results from the survey will be used to assess current problems in the system so solutions for the future can be discussed and implemented.

For more information on the survey, contact EMSI at (412) 242-7322.

## MDC Meetings Scheduled

EMSI's Regional Medical Direction Committee (MDC) has set the following meeting schedule for 2003:

**Friday, March 7**

Location TBA

**Friday, June 13**

Location TBA

**Wednesday, September 10**

Location TBA

**Friday, December 5**

Westmoreland Regional Hospital

Meetings begin at noon and include lunch. Meetings are open to all ALS service medical directors, medical command facility medical directors, emergency department medical directors, and trauma center medical directors in the EMSI region.

Anyone interested in having their facility host a meeting should contact Joseph Ponko, EMSI medical specialist, at (412) 242-7322 or [jponko@emsi04.org](mailto:jponko@emsi04.org).

## EMSI Board of Directors • 2002 - 2003

### Officers

- William E. Groft, EMT-P, President
- Michael Coleman, DO, Vice President
- Mary Ann Scott, RN, BSN, Treasurer
- Douglas Garretson, BA, NREMT-P, Secretary
- Richard F. Kunkle, MD, FACEP, Past President

### EMS Council Representatives

- Russell Chiodo, Beaver
- Mike Coleman, DO, Butler
- Cataldo Corrado, MD, Fayette
- Rick Huff, Washington
- George Laskey, Westmoreland
- Jim Sadler, Indiana
- Mary Ann Scott, Allegheny
- Brian Shaw, Lawrence
- Doug Young, Greene

### County Government Representatives

- Chief Bob Full, Allegheny
- Rod Groomes, MD, Armstrong
- Bernie Smith, Indiana
- Sandra Smythe, Westmoreland
- Walt Vincinelly, Fayette
- Thomas White, Lawrence
- Linda Zidek, RN, Washington

### Directors at-Large

- Joseph Akif
- Richard G. Fuller, MEd, EMT-P
- Doug Garretson, NREMT-P
- William E. Groft, EMT-P
- Ed Heltman
- Brian Kircher
- Harry Meredith
- Bradley D. Penrod, AAE
- B.J. Pino
- Rodney Rohrer
- Ron Roth, MD
- Patrick M. Sherin
- Edward Stevenson
- Don Swayze
- Paul Wain
- Jim Withee

• Indicates Executive Committee

## EMSI Staff E-Mail Addresses

Gloria Arrington, Accountant  
[garrington@emsi04.org](mailto:garrington@emsi04.org)

Scott Crawford, Regional Training Coordinator  
[scrawford@emsi04.org](mailto:scrawford@emsi04.org)

Pam Dixon, Data Processor  
[pdixon@emsi04.org](mailto:pdixon@emsi04.org)

Kurt Henkel, Regional Training Coordinator  
[khenkel@emsi04.org](mailto:khenkel@emsi04.org)

Linda Kovac, Con-Ed/Training Program Specialist  
[lkovac@emsi04.org](mailto:lkovac@emsi04.org)

Louise Myers, Data Processor  
[lmyers@emsi04.org](mailto:lmyers@emsi04.org)

Carolyn Palmer, Secretary  
[cpalmer@emsi04.org](mailto:cpalmer@emsi04.org)

Joe Ponko, Medical Specialist  
[jponko@emsi04.org](mailto:jponko@emsi04.org)

Bruce Sivak, Prehospital Service Specialist  
[bsivak@emsi04.org](mailto:bsivak@emsi04.org)

Philip Stoner, Executive Director  
[pstoner@emsi04.org](mailto:pstoner@emsi04.org)

Nancy Theilacker, Secretary  
[ntheilacker@emsi04.org](mailto:ntheilacker@emsi04.org)

[www.emsi04.org](http://www.emsi04.org)

## EMSI Intercom



*EMSI Intercom* is published quarterly as a service of Emergency Medical Service Institute. EMSI is a regional non-profit agency coordinating emergency medical resources in ten counties of southwestern Pennsylvania.

Philip Stoner .....Executive Director  
Camille Downing.....Editor  
Drawing Conclusions.....Designer  
Reed & Witting .....Printer

# Report on Ambulance Licensure

**D**uring the period of June 2002 to November 2002, EMSI's field staff conducted ambulance licensure and relicensure inspections on the following EMS providers in the region. All providers met the requirements established by the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

*Regular licenses were issued to the following services:*

**BEAVER COUNTY**

Prestige Ambulance

**BUTLER COUNTY**

Cranberry Vol. Ambulance Corps.

Petrolia VFD Ambulance

**LAWRENCE COUNTY**

Noga Ambulance Svc.

*Provisional licenses were issued to the following services:*

**BUTLER COUNTY**

E. Butler VFD Ambulance

**LAWRENCE COUNTY**

Pulaski Township Fire and EMS

*A temporary license was issued to the following service:*

**BUTLER COUNTY**

N. Washington VFD ALS Rescue Squad

*In addition to ambulance licensures, the following unit received QRS recognition by the Pennsylvania Department of Health in the last quarter:*

**BEAVER COUNTY**

Independence Fire Company



**E**MSI is always looking for ways to improve EMS services in the area. With this in mind, the Board is making grant monies available to fund research or other projects that can improve the services to EMS providers and the community. For a copy of guidelines and a grant application, contact EMSI at (412) 242-7322.

**EMSI now has a toll-free number: 1-866-827-EMSI • Note: all other 412 numbers will remain the same**



**Emergency Medical Service Institute**

**221 Penn Avenue**

**Suite 2500**

**Pittsburgh, PA 15221**

**(412) 242-7322**

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Pittsburgh, PA  
Permit #2304