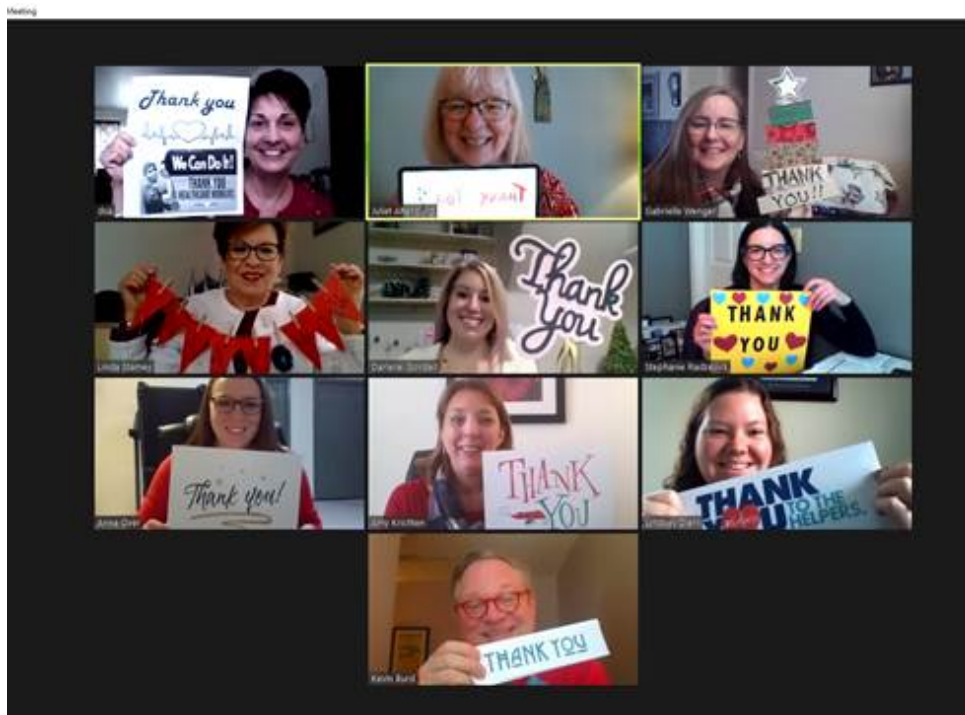


The following communication highlights recent approvals from the PTSF Board of Directors meeting on Friday, December 11, 2020. If you have questions related to the content of this update, please contact [Juliet Altenburg](#), MSN, RN—Executive Director.

A NEW YEAR, AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO THANK OUR HEROES

On behalf of the PTSF staff—for all that YOU do . . .



PA RESIDENT PAPER COMPETITION WINNER ADVANCES TO NATIONAL COMPETITION



Andrew-Paul Deeb, MD - PGY-5
 University of Pittsburgh Medical Center

Another step was successfully completed for Dr. Andrew-Paul Deeb, MD. His research study, “Finding Goldilocks: Optimal Prehospital Crystalloid Volume in Trauma Patients with Hemorrhagic Shock,” placed first during the ACS Region 3 Committee on Trauma Resident Trauma Paper Competition. In October 2020, Dr. Deeb won first place for this research study at the PTSF Fall Conference/Pa-COT Resident Trauma Paper Competition. Now, he advances to the national podium.

Dr. Deeb (PGY-5) works under the mentorship of Dr. Joshua Brown in the division of trauma surgery at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) Presbyterian. His primary research focus is prehospital resuscitation and trauma triage. PTSF congratulates Dr. Deeb for this accomplishment, and for using PTSF’s statewide data in support of our mission—optimal outcomes for every injured patient.

WELCOME! NEW PTSF BOARD MEMBERS

We are happy to welcome four new members to the PTSF Board of Directors effective January 1, 2021. PTSF Board members represent the organizations who have seats on the board, as established in legislation. The nominating organizations submit candidates for consideration by the PTSF Nominating Committee and are then approved by the Board of Directors.



Elizabeth W. Dunmore, MD serves as the Vice President of Medical Affairs for the Conemaugh Health System based in Johnstown, Pa. Dr. Dunmore is an Internal Medicine physician who has worked in Pennsylvania, Florida, and Virginia.

Dr. Dunmore serves on the board as a representative of the Hospital and Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania (HAP).



Patrick A. Kim, AB, MD is a Professor of Clinical Surgery at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. He also serves as an Attending Surgeon at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and Penn Presbyterian Medical Center, Philadelphia, Pa.

Additionally, he is Director of the Penn Trauma Network Quality Services, as well as Medical Director for the Penn Presbyterian Office of Medical Affairs Credential Verification Organization.

Dr. Kim serves on the board as a representative of the Pennsylvania Medical Society (PaMED).



John I. Lewis, MS serves as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Armstrong Center for Medicine and Health and its' subsidiary corporations including ACMH Hospital in Kittanning, Pa.

Mr. Lewis serves on the board as a representative of the Hospital and Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania (HAP).



Erin A Pica, MHA serves as the Vice President of the Geisinger Surgery Institute across the Geisinger Health System, as well as the Associate Vice President at the Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center in Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Ms. Pica serves on the board as a representative of the Hospital and Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania (HAP).

TRAUMA SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT IN PENNSYLVANIA

Congratulations is extended to the following hospitals on achieving a new level of trauma center accreditation as approved by the PTSF Board of Directors:



Level I Trauma Center Accreditation

December 14, 2021—Penn Medicine – Lancaster General Health, Lancaster General Hospital located in Lancaster, Pennsylvania was approved to elevate from Level 2 adult accreditation to Level 1 adult accreditation.

Photo credit: this photo was taken "pre-pandemic" celebrating the new residents.

Level IV Trauma Center Accreditation

January 1, 2021—Conemaugh Miners Medical Center, located in Hastings, Pennsylvania was granted Level 4, adult trauma accreditation. This trauma center is part of the Conemaugh Health System and is the third Critical Access Hospital in Pennsylvania to achieve this status.

Photo credit: Conemaugh Miners Memorial Medical Center



There are now 42 hospitals accredited as Trauma Centers in Pennsylvania. To see a comprehensive list of the Commonwealth's trauma centers, go to www.ptsf.org.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Welcome Anna Over, MSN, RN, EMT-I, TCRN



We are pleased to welcome Anna Over, MSN, RN, EMT-I, TCRN as the new Manager of Trauma Center Development. Prior to her arrival at PTSF, Anna was employed at the University of Maryland Medical Center, R. Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center since 2013 and worked in a variety of critical care units. She most recently served as a senior nurse in the Trauma Resuscitation Unit. Anna has a passion for education and has served in a variety of educational roles such as a nurse mentor, instructor for a TCRN review course, disaster preparedness training instructor, and as an EMS officer for a volunteer fire company. Anna joined PTSF on November 18, 2020 and can be reached at aover@ptsf.org.

OPERATIONS UPDATE

Submitted by [Kevin Burd](#), Director of Operations

Employment Opportunity

Manager of Trauma Performance Improvement—a revised employment ad is posted to this [LINK](#). Consider joining our Team.

PTSF Directory

PTSF maintains directories for both Accredited Trauma Centers and those pursuing accreditation. Names in the directory also placed within PTSF email groups that are used for PTSF communications. Please submit any changes for your hospital's directory page to PTSF Administrative assistant [Linda Stamey](#).

Annual PTSF Fees

The Board approved that all Fees for both accredited trauma centers and hospitals pursuing accreditation will remain the same through 2022. Also, be aware that all 2021 trauma fees were mailed electronically in November 2020. Those fees are due to PTSF no later than January 15, 2021. Late payments will result in additional fees. If you have any questions, contact PTSF Finance Specialist [Dor Adams](#).

Address Change

Please be advised that PTSF has a new mailing address, although the physical location has not changed. Please inform your accounting/billing departments. The new address is:

**Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation
275 Cumberland Parkway, #234
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055**

We still encourage to use of electronic correspondence (EMAIL) since all paper mail is scanned and stored electronically. The only communications that should be mailed through the postal service are hospital payments of trauma center fees.

Thank you for your attention as we attempt to **GO GREEN** when possible!

TECHNOLOGY & TRAUMA REGISTRY UPDATES

Submitted by [Lyndsey Diehl](#), Director of Trauma Data Quality

TECHNOLOGY UPDATES

Thank You, Trauma Registrars

To say the least, 2020 was an extremely challenging year. PTSF staff extends our thanks to all PA Trauma Registrars for your continued dedication and commitment to data quality abstraction, especially during these difficult times. In 2020, the PTOS statewide trauma registry reached its ONE MILLIONTH record! Behind every record in PTOS is a registrar who spent countless time entering accurate, quality data to be used to improve outcomes for all injured patients. Without PA trauma registrars, PTOS would not be considered one of the premier trauma databases in the country. While we have another tough year ahead, we are confident PA trauma registrars are up for the challenge! Thank you.

2021 PTOS Manual & Additional Resources

The 2021 PTOS Manual is posted to the PTSF website (<http://ptsf.org/registry/resources>). Additionally, the following updated 2021 resources have also been posted to the website:

- Change Document
- Facility Lists (acute care, personal care, psychiatric, rehabilitation, and skilled nursing)
- Pennsylvania EMS Agencies

Please watch for information from both ESO and PTSF regarding the distribution of the 2021 software package.

Reminder: Records with Identified Errors During Central Site Processing

During the quarterly processing at the central site, PTSF staff—Gabrielle or Stephanie—notify accredited centers via email of records that could not be processed at the central site due to errors within the record. For these records to be processed successfully into the PTOS database, all errors must be resolved, and the record must be resubmitted to the Foundation. The most common reason a record is withheld is due to a coding error. Remember, within the coding module, “Continue” does not mean resolved! Please read each error message and proceed accordingly. Clicking “Continue” simply moves you past the error(s) and does not resolve them.

At this time, please check your email inboxes for any messages you may have received regarding records requiring corrections. Any record requiring corrections with an admission date of January 1, 2019 and after must be corrected and resubmitted to PTSF as soon as possible. Any records with an admission date of December 31, 2018 and prior are no longer able to be corrected and resubmitted. These records have been corrected if possible and processed into PTOS by PTSF staff. Note, any record that was delayed and later processed into PTOS will be included within the quarterly report your facility receives for the quarter in which it was processed. For example, if trauma # 20180098 is corrected, resubmitted, and processed in December 2020, it will be included on your Q4 2020 quarterly report despite having an admission date in 2018.

If you need a list of trauma numbers requiring correction and resubmission, please contact [Gabrielle Wenger](#). PTSF staff are currently working to develop a more robust reconciliation process. Thank you for your cooperation as we ensure all trauma records are accurately added to PTOS!

Q3 2020 Quarterly Reports

2020 Quarter 3 Reports were distributed to each accredited trauma center. In addition to the quarterly reports, timeliness control charts and Outcomes Timeliness of Submission were also provided. Note, Policy T0-100 (Timeliness of Submission to the Outcomes Central Site) became effective January 1, 2021. Please contact [Stephanie Radzevick](#) with any questions or concerns.

2021 Registry Educational Visits

As we face another unprecedented year, the format of registry educational visits will need to be adjusted to maintain safety. PTSF aims to perform as many virtual educational visits as possible in 2021. We ask that all PA trauma centers begin discussing options for a virtual visit with your Information Technology (IT) Departments. If you need any guidance or have any questions, contact [Lyndsey Diehl](#). If you are due to have a registry educational visit performed in 2021, you will be contacted by Lyndsey or Gaby soon with further details and information. We appreciate your patience and flexibility as we shift from providing in-person education to providing quality, virtual education.

AAAM AIS 2015

AIS 2015 is not currently required for compliance and there are no current AIS 2015 compliance deadlines. PTSF will NOT implement AIS 2015 into the PTOS dataset without stakeholder coordination and advanced planning. Stay tuned for specific announcements related to implementation of AIS 2015 later in 2021.

Although the AAAM AIS 2015 Injury Scaling Course is available, PTSF recommends new registrars continue to participate in the AAAM AIS 2008 Injury Scaling Course. PTSF plans on offering the AIS 2015 course prior to implementation for PA Trauma Center staff. Please note that students who have recently taken the AIS 2005 Update 2008 course may qualify to take an AIS 2015 special course that focuses on the major updates only. PTSF is also planning on offering this abbreviated update course for those who qualify. For more information regarding AAAM AIS please visit <https://www.aaam.org/abbreviated-injury-scale-ais/>.

TRAUMA REGISTRY PROJECT UPDATES

COLLECTOR™ Transition to V5 Trauma Registry Software

The COLLECTOR™ transition to the V5 platform is in progress. The target date for rollout to begin is July 2021. Please watch for additional information, next steps, and educational opportunities throughout 2021.

Driller®

Have you utilized ESO's Driller® product?! This tool allows centers to efficiently "drill-down," or mine PTOS data in several ways. Driller specific accounts can be provided for members of your trauma center staff! Contact Lyndsey Diehl at ldiehl@ptsf.org for further information. If you have any requests for enhancements to the Driller® functionality, send them to Lyndsey!

Registry Educational Software

This software is a free tool for the PA trauma centers to use to perform interrater reliability effectively and consistently. The software reviews a select number of records and assesses data entry practices for each data element. This product will be updated for 2021 and included within the 2021 software package. Please contact Lyndsey Diehl (ldiehl@ptsf.org) or Gabrielle Wenger (gwenger@ptsf.org) for further information or training opportunities.

STANDARDS OF ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

Charles Barbara, MD—Committee Chair

[Darlene Gondell](#), MSN, RN, CCRN, CNRN, TCRN—Staff Liaison

The Board of Directors approved the following Standards of Accreditation changes/clarifications that the Standards of Accreditation Committee proposed during the December board meeting, including:

Standard 5: Registry

- Clarified that the Association for the Advancement of Automotive Medicine (AAAM) Abbreviated Injury Scale (AIS) coding course should be the AIS coding version utilized within the PTOS submission software. When a new AIS coding version is implemented in the PTOS submission software, a registrar will have one year to complete the updated AIS Coding Course. Currently, the PTOS submission software utilizes AIS08. PTSF expects to update to AIS15 following the update of Collector to version 5, approximately in January 2022.
 - For AIS15, the AAAM is offering an abbreviated, less expensive "update course" for registrars who have taken the AIS08 course within the last five years.
- Clarified for registries abstracting for multiple trauma centers that the trauma registry staffing plan must include a workload analysis for all trauma programs supported that defines the personnel needs necessary to comply with PTOS data submission requirements.

Standard 10: Physicians

- Clarified that level 1, 2 and 3 trauma centers must have Emergency Department (ED) staffing by a minimum of two physicians within the ED during daily periods of peak utilization. The trauma program must define peak hours, supported by data.

Standard 13: Nursing

- Added CPN (Certified Pediatric Nurse) to the list of approved trauma advanced certifications.

Standard 22: Laboratory & Blood Bank

- Added the recommendation for trauma programs, in collaboration with the blood bank, to consider utilization of Whole Blood.
 - This is optional and not a requirement.

The revised Standards of Accreditation are available on the PTSF web site (dated 01.01.2021) with additional details. Please submit any requests for Standards Committee topic discussion (for example, suggested new standard or clarification of current standard) anytime to [Darlene Gondell](#). The next Standards Committee meeting occurs in February. Any requests for subject discussion must be submitted by January 25, 2021. Thank you to the members of the 2020 Standards Committee for your dedication to trauma care.

TRAUMA REGISTRY COMMITTEE UPDATE

Deborah Chappel, MSN, RN, CCRN-K—Committee Vice Chair
[Lyndsey Diehl](#), RHIA, CHDA, CSTR—PTSF Staff Liaison

The Trauma Registry Committee and PTSF Board of Directors approved the following changes to PTOS/Collector. These changes are effective January 1, 2021 and will be reflected in the 2021 PTOS Manual and 2021 Collector software.

1. The Trauma Registry Committee is recommending adjustments to the previously approved (September 2020) prehospital antibiotic therapy elements in PTOS.
2. The Registry Committee is recommending the data element “Sex” be renamed to “Gender.”

During the 2020 Fall Conference, a detailed review of all changes to PTOS/Collector for 2021 admissions was presented. Handouts and an audio recording from this session are available on the PTSF website.

The next Trauma Registry Committee meeting will be held in February/March 2021. Please send any requests for discussion to [Lyndsey Diehl](#).

PA-TQIP COLLABORATIVE UPDATE

Donna Titus, MSN, RN; Denise Torres, MD, FACS; Jill Volgraf, BA, RN—Collaborative Leadership Team
[Gabrielle Wenger](#), RHIT, CPC, CAISS, CSTR—PTSF Staff Liaison

The last scheduled meeting in 2020 for the PA TQIP Collaborative was postponed. Keep an eye on your email for further information and scheduling. Congratulations to those who presented at the 10th Annual TQIP Conference in December.

PIPS COMMITTEE UPDATE

Richard Lopez, DO—Committee Chair

[Gabrielle Wenger](#), RHIT, CPC, CAISS, CSTR—PTSF Staff Liaison

Membership finalization and scheduling for the 2021 PIPS Committee will be communicated this month. Thank you to all who have expressed interest in serving.

The geriatric focus workgroups for Outcomes, Functional Status at Discharge, and Under-triage will continue their work in 2021. If you have geriatric-specific tools or protocols to share with these groups, please contact [Gaby Wenger](#). A new workgroup will be forming in 2021 to review Audit filters (4a, 4b, 5) for hourly vital sign and neurological documentation compliance.

The 2021 Outcomes Manual was reviewed and will be posted later this month; an email will be sent out to let you know when and where to find it. This manual will be reviewed and updated each year, much like the process utilized for the PTOS Operations Manual.

The Committee plans to develop future education on Hospital Events using a similar format as the VAP education presented at the PTSF Fall Conference. If you have suggestions for proposed topics or contributions for presentation, please contact [Gabrielle Wenger](#).

OUTCOMES COMMITTEE UPDATE

Denise Torres, MD, FACS—Committee Chair

[Gabrielle Wenger](#), RHIT, CPC, CAISS, CSTR—PTSF Staff Liaison

Membership finalization and scheduling for 2021 Outcomes Committee will be sent out later this month. Thank you to all who have expressed interest in serving.

The PI Primer was revised and updated and will be posted later this month; an email will be sent out to let you know when and where to find it. The intent is for the primer to be a living document reflecting best practice and processes for performance improvement.

A new workgroup will be created in 2021 to review the use of taxonomy; this committee will potentially draw from both this committee and the PIPS committee membership. Other future projects will be determined by the committee after review of the Fall 2020 PA TQIP Collaborative Benchmark report.

INVITATION TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK IN 2021 FIELD TRIAGE GUIDELINES REVISION

The following information was emailed to Trauma Program Managers/Coordinators and Trauma Program Medical Directors on January 5, 2021. The deadline to respond is January 15, 2021.

Dear Colleague:

The American College of Surgeons, with support from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, is leading the revision of the 2011 Field Triage Guidelines. As a part of the revision process, we are seeking input on the current guidelines from a broad group of EMS stakeholders, at all levels and in all roles. To obtain insight into current use and

perceived strengths and challenges of the current guidelines, we have developed an EMS Stakeholder Feedback Tool.

We are requesting that leadership from key partner organizations, not only use the link to provide feedback, but also forward this tool link onto your membership.

To participate, please go to https://bisfacs.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1GqyCXIxTHc2JrD.

Deadline: January 15, 2021

Your input is invaluable to this effort, and we sincerely thank you for your time. If you experience any technical difficulties while completing the EMS Stakeholder Feedback Tool, please reach out to traumasystems@facs.org.

Respectfully,

Eileen M. Bulger, MD, FACS—Chair, Committee on Trauma, American College of Surgeons (ACS-COT)

Mark Gestrung, MD, FACS—Immediate Past Chair, EMS Committee, ACS-COT

Peter Fischer, MD, MS, NREMT-P, FACS, Chair, EMS Committee, ACS-COT

OUR STAKEHOLDERS . . . SUPPORTING OUR MISSION & VISION

The following information was emailed statewide to PTSF emails groups on December 17, 2021.



The American Trauma Society, Pennsylvania Division (ATSPA) held their 2020 Recognition Awards Presentation on December 17, 2020. Each year, ATSPA recognizes physicians, nurses, EMTs, first responders and civilians who demonstrate a commitment to excellence in the trauma prevention and treatment field. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the presentation was held virtually.

“These awardees sacrifice so much for their communities and deserve to be recognized for their efforts,” said Krista Brands, ATSPA CEO. “ATSPA would like to thank not only our award recipients, but all healthcare workers and first responders for their bravery, support and continued pledge to make Pennsylvania safer.”

The Trauma Prevention Recognition Award is given to an individual or community group who goes above and beyond in committing to trauma prevention programming. The 2020 recipients are Tom Causer, RN, BSN, RRT, HP, from Conemaugh Memorial Medical Center in Johnstown, Cambria County; Richard Garland, MSW, from the University of Pittsburgh, GRIPS in Pittsburgh, Allegheny County; Beverly Shirk, BSN, RN, from Penn State Children’s Hospital, in Hershey, Dauphin County; and Chestnut Ridge Ambulance Association, in Alum Bank, Bedford County.

The First Responder Call to Action Award is given annually to recognize the efforts of first responders in their commitment to trauma prevention and care. The 2020 recipient is Sergeant Darren Cotton from the Derry Township Police Department, in Hershey, Dauphin County. Sgt. Cotton was recognized for his partnership with both the Pediatric

and Adult Trauma Programs at Penn State Hershey Medical Center.

The Civilian Savior and Survivor Award is presented to one who takes it upon him/herself to offer a helping hand to a fellow citizen during a period of adversity or personal danger, and/or one who withstands peril and dangerous conditions and demonstrates a determined will to survive. The 2020 recipient is Matthew Charles, from Mountville, Lancaster County.

The Barbara Esposito Excellence in Trauma Nursing Award is given annually to a trauma staff nurse who has displayed excellence in any one of the following areas: clinical expertise, leadership, research, education, prevention, outreach, and patient advocacy. The 2020 recipient is Shannon Wittenberg, from Jefferson Torresdale Hospital in Philadelphia.

The Dr. John M. Templeton, Jr. Physician Award for the Commitment to Excellence in Trauma Care is given to a physician who has displayed a commitment to excellence in trauma care in the following areas: clinical expertise, philanthropy, leadership, trauma-related research and trauma prevention and education. The 2020 recipient is Russell Dumire, MD, FACS, from Conemaugh Memorial Medical Center, in Johnstown, Cambria County.

The Julia Cox, RN Distinguished Service Award is presented to one who demonstrates a continued commitment to trauma prevention, through his/her support of ATSPA. The 2020 recipient is Michael J. Reihart, DO, FACEP, FAEMS, from Penn Medicine Lancaster General Health, in Lancaster.

PTSF 2020 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSIONS AVAILABLE ON-DEMAND

Conference videos are posted to the PTSF website. Link(s) are provided for each day and we invite you to view these sessions. Contact [Linda Stamey](#) with any questions related to the videos and/or continuing education opportunities.

STATE, NATIONAL, AND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES/MEETINGS

Save the Date . . . for upcoming events. If you have events that you would like to advertise on the PTSF calendar, contact [Linda Stamey](#). Remember to check these organizations websites, dates are subject to change based on the latest COVID-19 guidance.

Virtual meetings scheduled January through April 2021 include:

- January 13-14, 2021— [Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma 34th Annual Scientific Assembly](#)
- January 31-February 12, 2021— [50th Annual Critical Care Congress \(SCCM\)](#)
- February 28, 2021— [Western Trauma Association 51st Annual Meeting](#)
- March 5, 2021— [John M. Templeton Jr. Pediatric Trauma Symposium](#)
- March 26-27, 2021— [Society of Trauma Nurses, TraumaCon 2021](#)
- April 7-9, 2021— [American Burn Association 53rd Annual Meeting](#)
- April 26-28, 2021— [Lifesavers National Conference on Highway Safety Priorities](#)
- Spring 2021—ESO Training Academy “WAVE 2021” Annual Conference will become a series of online events.

In-Person meetings scheduled January through April include:

- April 11, 2021—Medical Disaster Response, Las Vegas, NV
- April 12-14, 2021—Trauma, Critical Care & Acute Care Surgery, Las Vegas, NV
- April 26-27, 2021—PHIMA Annual Conference, Lancaster Wyndham Resort, Lancaster, PA