

**AAST 2024 Annual Meeting  
Pre, Lunch, and Add-On Session Descriptions**

**Pre-sessions Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup> 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM**

**The 2024 AAST Neurocritical Care Update and Board Review Course**

This session will be a high-level review of modern neurocritical care concepts and practice, as well as a board exam preparation course. Neurocritical care has traditionally been a major component of both medical and surgical critical care practice but has lacked a formal subspecialty certification process that is readily open to surgical intensivists. In 2021, the American Board of Surgery announced a newly established subspecialty certification in Neurocritical Care that is a collaborative effort with the American Board of Anesthesiology and the American Board of Neurology and Psychiatry. The first exam was offered in October of 2021 and followed a very successful AAST Neurocritical Care Board Review Course that was conducted at the 2021 AAST Annual Meeting. This review course has been offered yearly due to the level of demand. The exam will be held again in October of 2024, positioning us well to continue to offer this unique prep course ahead of the exam. Preparation for this exam requires not only familiarization with standard neurotrauma management, but also knowledge in non-surgical areas of neurocritical care such as acute stroke and other neurologic emergencies, neuroanatomy and MRI interpretation, and neuropharmacology. This session will provide an intense focused review covering the core topics and focus areas that will be covered on the Neurocritical Care Exam. The format will involve short didactic lectures on high-yield topics as well as case examples with sample question and answer reviews. In addition to the syllabus materials, attendees will also receive a copy of "The Pocket Guide to Neurocritical Care" which would be included in the registration fee. We believe there is also an opportunity to either offer this course to virtual attendees and/or record the course and make it available for purchase through the AAST.

**Moderators:** Deborah M. Stein, MD, MPH; Matthew Martin, MD; Purvi Patel, MD; Tanya Egodage, MD  
**Speakers:** Tanya Egodage, MD; Bellal Joseph, MD; Deborah M. Stein, MD, MPH;  
Samuel Tisherman, MD; Anaar Siletz, MD; Robert Riggio, MD; Kelsey Ensor, MD; Jay Doucet, MD;  
Krista Kaups, MD, MSc; Salina Wydo, MD; Joel Elterman, MD; Matthew Martin, MD;  
Purvi Patel, MD; Michael Anstadt, MD

**Hands-on Laparoscopic Common Bile Duct Exploration Seminar**

The participants of this course will review the indications and technique of transcystic common bile duct exploration. In addition to the didactic component, we will also have participants practice on simulators and equipment used commonly at centers.

**Faculty:** Marc de Moya, MD; Patrick Murphy, MD; Jackie Blank, MD; C. Patrick Shahan, MD

**Integrating Advanced Practice Providers in Acute Care Surgery: Considerations, Solutions, and Fresh Perspectives**

Advanced practice providers (APPs) have become increasingly integral in how acute care surgeons deliver care nationally. There is a wide array of roles that these providers can play in addition to providing clinical care. The objective of this session is to explore the integration of APPs in acute care surgery, to discuss challenges divisions may encounter in APP utilization, and to provide potential solutions and unique perspectives. Additional topics will include billing and coding, how APPs can enhance process improvement and research endeavors, and assume leadership roles with meaningful impact.

Topics to include:

1. Incorporating APPs into Practice APPs in EGS, in the ICU, On A Trauma Service, and in the Outpatient Setting
2. Billing and Coding Initiating: An APP Program and Establishing One Within A Residency Program
3. Autonomy Retention Process Improvement Research and Clinical Trial Development  
Administrative Roles/Leadership

**Moderators:** Navpreet K. Dhillon, MD; Audrey L. Spencer, MD; Alaina M. Lasinski, MD

**Speakers:** Jasmine Garces-King, DNP, MHA, CCRN, TCRN, ACNP-BC; Lindsay O'Meara, CRNP, RNFA; Caroline Banes, DNP, APRN, ACNP-BC; Jeffrey A. Claridge, MD; Amy Borth, ACNP; Benjamin R. Reynolds, MSPAS, PA-C, DFAAPA; Joe Forrester, MD, MSc; Alaina M. Lasinski, MD; Jonathan Messing, DNP, MBA, ACNP-BC; Michelle Adelstein, ACNP; Colleen Trevino, NP, PhD; Tiffany Kuebler, PA-C

## **Lunch Sessions, Wednesday September 11<sup>th</sup> 1:15 PM - 2:30 PM**

### **Educational Evolution – The Integration of New Surgical Educational Platforms**

Technology has significantly changed the paradigm and expectations of current surgical educational experiences. This session will provide an overview of the evolving educational opportunities and platforms frequently utilized in ongoing surgical education. Attendees will learn how to incorporate these new, but ever-increasing, educational opportunities into formal and informal surgical education. Additionally, strategies for developing and implementing similar educational avenues will be discussed by leading experts in each respective field.

1. Development and implementation of EPAs in surgical critical care education - Dr. Kaups
2. Developing and Integrating Online and App-Based Surgical Educational Videos - Dr. Georgoff
3. Developing and Integrating an Educational Podcast into National Surgical Education - Dr. Coleman
4. Implementing Video Review and Artificial Intelligence into Surgery Educational Opportunities - Dr. Holena
5. Implementation of Online-Based Educational Modules for Surgical Critical Care Education - Dr. Narayan

This will be co-sponsored by the Education Committee, Associate Member Council, and the Associate Member Education Committee.

**Moderators:** Tanya Egodage, MD; Alex Schwed, MD; Erika Bisgaard, MD

**Speakers:** Jamie Coleman, MD; Patrick Georgoff, MD; Amelia Maiga, MD, MPH; Krista Kaups, MD, MSc; Mayur Narayan, MD, MPH, MBA, MD

### **Optimizing Your Output - Advanced Medical Billing and Coding**

Designed for the TACS surgeon already equipped with the basic skills of surgical billing, this session will review advanced topics in medical coding to help providers optimize their reimbursement. Understanding the requirements for these more involved coding circumstances will allow physicians to tailor their documentation to capture the complexity of the work they are already performing. A continuation of content from the ABCs of CPTs, this panel will review topics including split share billing, billing modifiers, procedural/operative charge capture optimization and how to bill when working with students, residents, and APPs.

The AAST Associate Members have partnered with the AAST Military Liaison Committee and the Healthcare Economics committee to create a longitudinal series of lunch sessions addressing the unique professional development needs of Acute Care Surgeons across a variety of career stages and clinical settings. We have previously held successful lunch sessions on the value of mentorship as well as managing career transitions.

This represents the second part of the third installation in the series.

- a. Welcome and Introduction (5 min)
- b. Panelist 1 (18 min) - Billing when working trainees, and APPs- review of documentation requirements when working with students and residents, split share billing with APPs, and billing for procedures when working with trainees
- c. Panelist 2 (18 min) - Advanced procedural billing- review of common TACS procedures such as ultrasound, ICU procedures, conscious sedation and required documentation with a review of tips and tricks to bill at the top of your level

- d. Panelist 3 (18- min) - Modifiers/Special Cases- a review of the most common modifiers, how they should be applied and other special billing situations (increased complexity/telemedicine encounters)
- e.

**Moderators:** Kaitlin Ritter, MD

**Speakers:** Stephanie Bonne, MD; Lisa Marie Knowlton, MD, MPH

### **Palliative Care for the Acute Care Surgery: What You Need to Know**

Acute Care Surgeons, whether they are on trauma call, EGS, or in the ICU, will find themselves having difficult end-of-life discussions with patients and families. Most of us have learned how to approach the sick and dying patient from our training and through the course of years of experience. Some of us do it well while others have a difficult time even beginning to have the discussion. We have worked so hard to help the patient survive that even realizing the end is near or that the patient/family has decided on comfort care, can make one feel defeated. Today's acute care surgeon needs a framework to approach this process and have the right perspective on just what is palliative care.

1. What is Palliative Care in Acute Care Surgery? Provide an explanation and structure for palliative care today. What are the essential services provided by the service and what does this mean for your patient? What does the acute care surgeon need to have the discussion with the patient when the palliative service is not around? – Speaker Zara Cooper (15 min)
2. What is in the Acute Care Surgery Toolbox for Palliative Care Discussion? Recognizing that our surgical discipline is a 24/7 service, the acute care surgeon is the one who initiates many of the end-of-life discussions. Having a set of tools will help better prepare the surgeon for these critical discussions – Speaker Raeanna Adams (15 min)
3. Managing the Middle of the Night Palliative Care Discussion in the Acute Trauma Patient: What are the topics that need to be discussed, who needs to be present, and on-the-spot preparation for the palliative care discussion – speaker Kathleen O'Connell (15 min)

After each discussion a 5-minute Q&A, and an end-of-session Q&A with the panel.

**Moderators:** Jose Diaz, MD

**Speakers:** Zara Cooper, MD, MS; Reanna Adams, MD; Kathleen O'Connell, MD

### **Trauma Surgeons Embracing Pediatric Challenges in Global Resource-Limited Settings**

The annual pediatric educational session for 2024 will align with the theme of global trauma care. The session will focus on two primary areas of interest in pediatric trauma care in resource limited settings: Macro and Micro. The macro discussion will focus on the successes and challenges encountered with development of trauma systems and education programs. Core to this discussion are elements of cultural context, understanding regional and country needs, and successful engagement that supports sustainable programs.

The Micro discussion will focus on individual surgeon preparation and experience related to pediatric trauma care in resource limited settings. The scope of the micro discussion includes:

1. Training Recommendations
2. Ideal Experience
3. Peds "Tips" or Clinical Guidelines

#### 4. What to Bring, and What to Expect

The micro discussion is envisioned to provide practical information to adult trauma surgeons in remote areas, domestically or internationally.

Moderator: Christopher Newton, MD

Speakers: Phyllis Kisa, MD; Jacob Stephenson, MD

#### **Trauma Survivors Network (TSN) – How Does It Really Work?**

The Trauma Survivors Network was established in 2008 by the American Trauma Society but is not a well-known service in hospitals. When an individual suffers a traumatic episode, it brings a deluge of convoluted processes that need to be navigated by the patient and their family. This session will highlight details of what the TSN offers by busting the myth of ‘family information starvation,’ provide a survivor’s intimate perspective, how to implement the TSN in your hospital, why it is important for the TSN to work in concert with palliative care teams, and injury prevention updates from the ATLS 11th edition course, in progress.

**Moderators:** Glen Tinkoff, MD; Thomas Duncan, DO

**Speakers:** Thomas Duncan, DO; Katherine Joseph, MD; Anastasia Kunac, MD; Anna Newcomb, PhD

#### **Add-On Sessions, Thursday, September 12th 12:00 PM – 1:15 PM**

#### **A Comprehensive Approach to Making the Transition to Independent Investigator**

This session is part of a three-part series that aims to immerse early career surgeon scientists with the knowledge and skills to begin taking the next steps in becoming independent investigators. Attendees will learn about fundamental concepts regarding research and how to launch studies, including prospective studies and randomized controlled trials. Additionally, there will be a focused discussion with young investigators who have led or are leading meaningful research projects. Attendees will be able to present research proposals and receive real-time feedback.

Topics:

1. Is My Question Worth Answering?
2. National Trauma Research Action Plan
3. How Can CNTR Help Me?
4. Doing a Literature Search Generating a Hypothesis And Specific Aims
5. Designing A Prospective Study
6. Designing A Randomized Controlled Trial
7. “How I Did It” Panel Shark Tank

**Moderators:** Navpreet K. Dhillon, MD; Brittany K. Bankhead, MD, MS; Jonathan P. Meizoso, MD, MSPH; Rachel L. Choron, MD

**Speakers:** Deborah M. Stein, MD, MPH; Todd W. Costantini, MD; Ben Zarzaur, MD, MPH; Jason L. Sperry, MD, MPH; Rachel L. Choron, MD; Julia R. Coleman, MD, MPH; Melike N. Harfouche, MD, MPH; Elliott Haut, MD, PhD; Rosemary A. Kozar, MD, PhD; Joseph J. DuBose, MD; Jared Wohlgemut, MBChB

### **Hospital Disaster Preparedness: A Recipe for Success**

In this half-day session, participants will learn about the importance of individual hospitals and regional, system-wide disaster preparedness. In recent years, the Joint Commission, the American College of Surgeons and the American Burn Association have enhanced their certification/verification processes with updated requirements focused on increasing disaster preparedness in regional and community hospitals, children's hospitals, burn centers and trauma centers. Speakers in this session will focus on the following topics:

1. Essential Roles and Responsibilities in Hospital System Preparedness:
  - Best practices in preparedness for community and regional hospitals
  - The role of hospital disaster preparedness committees
  - New requirements for verification process from multiple organizations
  - The importance of participating in the pediatric disaster preparedness initiatives
  - Best practices in planning for mental health support for survivors, their families, responders, and health care workers
2. Preparing Your Facility
  - Essentials of operating room preparedness
  - Critical elements of trauma center preparedness for a mass casualty incident
  - Planning for all-hazards including burn and vulnerable and disparate patients
  - Participation in Regional Medical Operations Coordination Centers (RMOCC)
  - The role of military treatment facilities and military/civilian partnerships in disaster readiness
3. Key Resources to Support Hospital and System Preparedness:
  - Helpful tips and resources for designing a meaningful tabletop exercise
  - Guidance for writing and implementing effective after action reports
  - Federal perspectives and military perspectives on disaster preparedness
  - Helpful AAST, ACS and other preparedness resources

At the end of this session, participants will be equipped with resources, lessons learned from real-world events, as well as a framework for successful implementation of disaster preparedness requirements for their hospital facilities and systems.

**Moderators:** Deborah A. Kuhls, MD; Adam Fox, DO

**Speakers:** Alexander Eastman, MD MPH; Jane Keating, MD; Jeannette Capella, MD; Susan Briggs, MD; Mark Gestring, MD; Tori Begay, MPH, MS; Misty Richardson; Irene Navis, AICP; Joanelle Bailey, MD; Eileen Bulger, MD; Mary Fallat, MD; Valerie G. Sams, MD

### **The AAST 2024 Continuous Certification Course**

The AAST Continuous Certification Course is an engaging and interactive session spanning acute care surgery topics. The 2024 offering will expand on its proven high-yield format with the inclusion of active audience participation. Real-time polling and questions will maximize engagement and allow education focused on needs and practice patterns. The course will be broken down into three sessions:

1. Hot Off the Press! Practice-changing papers from the past year - This session will focus on in-depth review of six recent landmark papers published within the past year, along with

commentary and discussion of how they can be incorporated into bedside practice: three papers will be selected from surgical critical care topics and three from trauma related topics.

2. **Critical Debates in Emergency General Surgery: Associates vs Fellows** This session will feature debates on hot topics and controversial areas of patient care in emergency general surgery. Each debate will pit an AAST associate member versus an AAST fellow. Winners will be selected by audience response and voting. Topics to include:
  - a. I Robot! The Role of Robotics in Acute Care Surgery Training and Practice
  - b. Jack of All Trades or Master of None: Call a Specialist or Go at It Alone?
  - c. It's Appendicitis! Let's Operate, Not Wait! – No! Let's Treat It with Antibiotics!
  - d. The Tic'ing Clock: Lap Lavage versus Resection for Complicated Diverticulitis
3. **Challenging Injuries, Complex Cases and How-to Video Presentations**
  - a. Reclaim the Duct! Lap Common Bile Duct Exploration for the Acute Care Surgeon
  - b. Pack Like a Pro: Preperitoneal Packing & Control of Pelvic FX-Associated Hemorrhage
  - c. Let's Go to the Tape! Running a Trauma Video Review Program
  - d. Clean Out That Chest: How to VATS Like a Pro

**Moderators:** Ryan Dumas, MD; Shannon Foster, MD; Matthew Martin, MD; Nicole Stassen, MD; Tanya Egodage, MD; Rita Brintzenhoff, MD; Natasha Keric, MD

**Speakers:** Jonathan P. Meizoso, MD, MSPH; Dane Scantling, DO; Stephanie Bonne, MD; Alicia Mohr, MD; Brittany K. Bankhead, MD, MS; Tejal Brahmabhatt, MD; Navpreet Dhillon, MD; Tareq Kheirbek, MD; Katherine Kelley, MD; Sabrina Sanchez, MD, MPH; Kimberly Hendershot, MD; Michael Vella, MD, MBA; Paula Ferrada, MD; Clay Cothren Burlew, MD; Rachel Appelbaum, MD

## **Lunch Sessions, Friday, September 13<sup>th</sup> 12:00 – 1:15 PM**

### **Case Studies on Publishing and Reviewing for JTACS**

Present and discuss with audience real-life examples of what to do and what not to do when writing and reviewing a manuscript.

Topics to be covered:

1. Real-life examples of flaws caught by reviewers
2. Real-life examples of what not to do when writing and submitting a manuscript
3. Multivariate Analysis: Types of MA. When to use them? How should it be reported in the manuscript regarding the model used? Common flaws
4. Propensity Scoring: Types of PS. When to use them? How should it be reported in the manuscript

**Moderators:** Walt Biffl, MD

**Speakers:** Kenji Inaba, MD; David Morris, MD; Bishoy Zakhary, MD, MPH

### **Directorships, Leadership Roles, and Taking the Lead: Everything I Wish I Knew**

This session will be a "fireside conversation" in an intimate setting with 2-3 trauma leaders who have assumed new roles under challenging circumstances. Speakers will share candid stories of both successes and challenges. Additionally, they will provide tips and tricks on how to best prepare for a new role. The target audience includes individuals in leadership positions or those aspiring to attain such roles. This session is proposed following the AAST SRI's identification of a need for mentoring and networking within our organization.

**Moderators:** Ryan Dumas, MD; Rochelle Dicker, MD; Rosemary A. Kozar, MD, PhD; Angela Ingraham, MD, MSc; Joseph DuBose, MD; Kevin Schuster, MD, MPH

**Speakers:** Karen Brasel, MD, MPH; Deborah Stein, MD, MPH; Jason Smith, MD, PhD

### **Geriatric Trauma: Models of Care**

The 2022 Resources for the Optimal Care of the Injured Patient and the Best Practice Guidelines for Geriatric Trauma Management are now being utilized for verification of ACS trauma centers. How do we best prepare for the new guidelines? Is there a best practice model? Are there any benefits to using one over another? Do I need additional resources and how do I recruit physicians or advanced practice providers for this new "trauma program"?

1. Models of Care: Is There a Best Practice, or Should There Be Only One Model? - Bellal Joseph (15 mins)
2. What Are the Key Aspects You Need in Your New "Geriatric Trauma Program"? Going Down the List of Additional Resources the Geriatric Program Needs - Vanessa Ho (15 mins)
3. How Do I Recruit Faculty and APP into My New Geriatric Program? How Do I Make This Interesting to Someone Who Just Wants to Operate and Take Care of Sick Trauma/EGS Patients – Martin Zielinski (15 mins)
4. End of Session - 15 min Q&A to gather insight and provide feedback to members

**Moderators:** Jose Diaz, MD; Bellal Joseph, MD

**Speakers:** Bellal Joseph, MD; Vanessa Ho, MD, MPH, PhD; Martin Zielinski, MD



### **Introducing Robotics to the Acute Care Surgery Setting - A Benefit to Patients or Just a Shiny New Toy?**

An assessment of the application of robotics and new technology into the spheres of trauma and acute care surgery.

1. Application of Robotics to Acute Care Surgery: Determining the Benefits of Robotic Surgery in the Acute Care Surgery Setting with an Examination of Hernia Repair
2. Application of Robotics to Acute Care Surgery: Determining the Benefits of Robotic Surgery in the Acute Care Surgery Setting with an Examination of Colon Surgery
3. Application of Robotics to Acute Care Surgery: Determining the Benefits of Robotic Surgery in the Acute Care Surgery Setting with an Examination of Appendiceal and Gallbladder Surgery
4. Application of Robotics to Trauma Surgery: Determining the Benefits and Challenges of Robotic Surgery in the Trauma Surgery Setting with an Examination of Exploration and Injury Determination
5. A Contrarian Opinion of Robotics in the Emergent/Urgent Surgical Space
6. An Examination of Pitfalls and Challenges to Incorporating Robotic Surgery into the Hospital Setting

**Moderators:** Michael Cripps MD, MSCS; Suresh Agarwal, MD

**Speakers:** Bruce Crookes, MD; Leah Tatebe, MD; Aziz Merchant, MD; Matthew Martin, MD; Steve Satterly, MD;

Michael Cripps MD, MSCS; Michael Nabozny, MD; Heather Evans, MD; Lewis Kaplan, MD

### **Leading a Successful Multi-Institutional Trial From A to Z**

The AAST allows members to design and conduct multi-institutional trials. While many trials have been successful, this success may be variable. Additionally, many new and mid-career faculty may encounter challenges while designing a trial and as the trial is progressing. We aim to explore issues that are commonly encountered and how to best reconcile them. Topics will include how to generate an idea, how to utilize the National Trauma Research Repository, biostatistical considerations, legal issues, and generating subsequent studies and post-hoc analyses.

**Moderators:** Navpreet K. Dhillon, MD; Joseph DuBose, MD

**Speakers:** Melike N. Harfouche, MD, MPH; Monica Phillips, MSN, MBA; Jeff Choi, MD, MS; Caitlin Fitzgerald, MD; Rachel L. Choron, MD; Mira H. Ghneim, MD; Ryan Dumas, MD

### **Navigating the Unforeseen: Trauma System Preparedness**

The escalating global armed conflicts and natural disasters pose significant challenges to trauma systems worldwide. Many countries and regions remain unprepared and ill-equipped to handle these crises effectively. In our session, we aim to bring together experts from diverse backgrounds to explore this critical issue. They will provide valuable insights and practical guidance on preparing trauma systems to respond adeptly to unexpected situations, ensuring resilience and adaptability in the face of evolving threats.

Topics to include:

1. Gearing Up for Acute Response in Danger Zones (GUARD) protocol - Aaron Epstein, MD  
President, Global Surgical and Medical Support Group (GSMSG); Recipient, Citizen Honors

Award by the Congressional Medal of Honor Society; Clinical fellow, Ryder Trauma Center, Jackson Memorial, Miami, FL

2. Military Trauma Care and Zero Preventable Deaths: Lessons Learned, Challenges, and the Future Jay A. Yelon, D.O., FACS, FCCM Commander, United States Navy Professor of Surgery, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences
3. Boots on the Ground: Lessons Learned from the 2022 Ukraine-Russia Conflict, 2023 Israel-Gaza Conflict, and the 2010/2021 Haitian Earthquake Disasters - Enrique Ginzburg, MD Professor of Surgery University of Miami Miller School of Medicine Trauma Medical Director Ryder Trauma Center at Jackson South Medical Center Chair of Surgery Jackson South Medical Center Chief of Staff Jackson South Medical Center
4. Health Systems in Conflict: Diverse Actors and Roles - Kent Garber, MD, MPH Assistant Professor Trauma, Acute Care Surgery, and Surgical Critical Care; University of California, San Francisco/San Francisco General Hospital

**Moderator:** W. Alan Guo, MD, PhD; Christine Gaarder, MD, PhD

**Speakers:** Aaron Epstein, MD; Jay A. Yelon, DO; Enrique Ginzburg, MD; Kent Garber, MD, MPH

***The Physical, Emotional, and Mental Toll of Academic Surgery: Actionable Steps to Protect Your Health and Rekindle Your Spark***

More than a quick fix or just a buzzword, wellness for academic surgeons is an ongoing challenge that requires intentional effort. The goal of this session is to recognize the daily challenges that surgeons are faced with daily, and provide tangible, actionable methods of improving ones overall emotional and physical wellbeing. Attendees will learn to identify, and address burn out and use a mindfulness approach to medicine, focus on ergonomics and prevention of injuries and learn nutritional strategies for health improvement.

**Moderators:** Julia R. Coleman, MD, MPH; Simin Golestani, MD

**Speakers:** Paula Ferrada MD; Chrissy Guidry, DO; Barry Platnick, MD; Michael Vella, MD, MBA