

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Opportunities for Interaction and Education



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The overall aim of TraumaCare International (ITACCS) is to facilitate trauma education and thereby improve trauma management at all levels and by all disciplines. The international membership of the society provides a unique resource with first-

hand insight and experience in the global management of trauma. Increasingly we recognize we all share the same issues in trauma management but local factors of resource, education, and experience dictate what is achievable.

This issue of the journal *TraumaCare* provides a peer-reviewed resource to aid this education process. Svensen from Galveston, Texas, USA, provides us with a concise review of the history, effects, and adverse effects of hypertonic solutions used for resuscitation. The role of these solutions in fluid management of trauma victims continues to be defined. Their effects are diverse and incompletely understood but it appears that for many countries they have established roles in trauma management. However, their true role will be clearly defined only by appropriate clinical trials. A randomised prehospital trial of the use of hypertonic saline is due for completion later this year in Melbourne, Australia, and, it is hoped, will clarify the role.

Also in this issue are two case reports — the first from Yumul and colleagues from Los Angeles, California, USA, and the second from Takeda and colleagues in Okinawa, Japan — which demonstrate what a well-resourced trauma service can provide in developed nations. In contrast, Mehrotra and Mehrotra provide us with an article that demonstrates the reality of providing a trauma service in a developing nation in the difficult environment of far north India. We can certainly learn from each other and assist others in the development of their trauma systems. With the anniversary of September the 11th just passing, it is appropriate to reflect on how we can share our knowledge on a global scale.

The management of trauma is a rapidly changing field of medical practice, and the Internet provides many attractive opportunities for interaction and education. A leading resource in this goal is the Trauma-List mailing list and discussion group based at www.trauma.org, which carries a link to the ITACCS Web site and which regularly receives input from TraumaCare International (ITACCS) members from around the world. With increasing globalisation and ease of access to electronic media, the Internet provides a great opportunity to share trauma knowledge throughout the world. TraumaCare International (ITACCS) will be

collaborating widely and expanding its own Web-based resources to achieve our goals. As a society we are open to membership from all disciplines involved in trauma care and we are always happy to hear from individuals with ideas on how to achieve our goals. The annual TraumaCare meetings provide an ideal forum for national and international collaboration. The planning for TraumaCare 2003 in Dallas and TraumaCare 2004 in Sydney is now in advanced stages of preparation.

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Educational Objectives

This activity is designed to provide trauma care professionals interested in the treatment of critically ill trauma patients with a regular overview and critical analysis of the most current, clinically useful information available, covering strategies and advances in the diagnosis of traumatic injuries and the treatment of trauma patients. Controversies, advantages, and disadvantages of diagnosis and treatment plans are emphasized. There are no prerequisites for participation in this activity.

After reading each issue, participants should have a working familiarity with the most significant information and perspectives presented and apply what they have learned promptly in clinical practice. Specific learning objectives are printed at the opening of each article.