

23RD Annual Gus Eckhardt **TRAUMA SYMPOSIUM**

"A Legacy of Trauma Care in the Concho Valley"

FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2026

McNease Convention Center

501 Rio Concho Dr. | San Angelo, Texas 76903

SYMPOSIUM AGENDA

0800-0830	Registration
0830-0840	Welcome and Introduction Becky Fuentes, DNP RN NE – BC Chief Nursing Officer
0840-0940	Pit Viper Envenomation Management Jenna Kesity, APRN Managing Director, Clinical Research Institute, Office of Research and Innovation, TTUHSC
0940-1040	Managing School Bus Crashes Ken Bouvier Fire Chief - Executive Chief Officer - Paramedic
1040-1055	Break
1055-1155	Texas' Approach to Addressing Child Sex Trafficking and Exploitation Janet Michalik, LBSW Administrator, Child Sex Trafficking Team Public Safety Office, Office of the Texas Governor
1155-1215	Lunch
1215-1330	"Family Perspectives in Trauma; The Moments that Matter" Troy DeJoode
1330-1345	Break
1345-1445	"The Forensic Pathology of Gunshot Wounds" Thomas R. Parsons, M.D., FASCP, D-ABP(AP/CP, FP) Forensic Pathologist
1445-1545	"All My Exes Fall in Texas: Geriatric Trauma Prevention and Management" Wendy Hyatt, RN, BSN, CEN, TCRN Manager of Trauma Services at Highlands Ranch Hospital
1545-1555	Break
1600-1700	Non-Accidental Trauma in Infants and Toddlers: What you need to know Thivakorn "Tiva" Kasemsir, M.D., M.S. Associate Professor & Division Chief, PCCM Department of Pediatrics, SOM, TTUHSC
1700-1715	Collection of Evaluations and Farewell

SYMPOSIUM FACULTY

Jenna Kesity, APRN

Jenny is a research professional dedicated to the science of discovery, education, and the care of the injured patient. As managing director of the Clinical Research Institute, she supports, promotes, coordinates, and assists with research endeavors for all faculty, trainees, and students across the 6 schools of the TTUHSC system. She has also been a nurse practitioner for the Timothy J Harnar Burn Center for the last 16 years, providing care for critically injured patients with burns, wounds, soft tissue infections, envenomation, skin sloughing illnesses, and pressure-related injuries. Additionally, she is passionate about advancing technology to influence and improve healthcare for nurses and other healthcare practitioners. All these experiences have shaped her healthcare philosophy to merge the education of future professionals, the science and discovery of healthcare innovations, and excellence in clinical practice.

Ken Bouvier

Ken serves as the Fire Chief at the Westwego, Louisiana Fire Department. He is an Executive Chief Officer, Paramedic and Professional Speaker known both nationally and internationally. Chief Bouvier began his Fire / EMS career in 1975 as a volunteer firefighter who advanced through the ranks to become the Fire Chief for Monsanto where he served 37 years. Coincidentally, he worked for New Orleans EMS for 33 years and retired as the Deputy Chief of Operations. While working at New Orleans EMS he commanded most major New Orleans events including Mardi Gras, 2 Super Bowls, Hurricane Katrina and managed the crews and appeared on the A&E Television Show NIGHTWATCH.

Westwego Fire Department is a Class 2 Combination Fire Department located directly across the Mississippi River from the City of New Orleans.

Janet Michalik, LBSW

Janet leads the Governor's Child Sex Trafficking Team to implement statewide strategies in Texas to Prevent and Recognize the commercial sexual exploitation of children/youth and to coordinate systems and resources to Recover, Support Healing and Bring Justice for children and youth experiencing commercial sexual exploitation.

Previously, Janet directed a drop-in center for transition age youth experiencing homelessness, served as the social services director of an emergency shelter for adults and families, a conservatorship worker for Child Protective Services, and a crisis rehab counselor in a psychiatric emergency treatment center.

Janet graduated from the University of Houston-Downtown with a bachelor's degree in social work and is a graduate student at the University of Houston where she is pursuing a Master of Social Work.

Troy DeJoode

Troy is President of the Carson & Claire Forever Foundation. Troy has a BS in Electrical Engineering from Iowa State University, and a law degree from the University of Iowa. He is licensed to practice law in Iowa and Florida. He speaks frequently about resilience, family experiences in healthcare during trauma, the miracle of organ donation, and the importance of living in the moment. Troy lives in Nevada, Iowa, with his wife Michelle and six dogs; Kota, Briggs, Lilly, Coal, Ava and Sunny. He is Executive Director of the Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities, and a recovering lawyer.

Thomas R. Parsons, MD, FASCP, D-ABP (AP/CP, FP)

Dr. Parsons grew up in Northern New Mexico and graduated from the UNM School of Medicine. He attended residency at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center and fellowship at Emory University. He is board certified in Anatomic, Clinical and Forensic Pathology and has 37 years of experience.

Wendy Hyatt, RN, BSN, CEN, TCRN

Wendy serves as the Manager of Trauma Services at Highlands Ranch Hospital, where she leads program development, clinical coordination, and quality improvement efforts across the trauma continuum. With extensive experience in trauma and emergency nursing, she is committed to advancing evidence based practice and strengthening system reliability to enhance outcomes for injured patients.

She is recognized for her collaborative leadership style and her commitment to building strong partnerships across teams. Wendy is known among her colleagues as a passionate advocate for trauma patients and a dedicated mentor to nursing and clinical teams. She brings a patient centered lens to trauma program leadership and strives to ensure that every patient receives coordinated, compassionate, and high quality care.

Thivakorn "Tiva" Kasemsir, M.D., M.S.

Dr. Kasemsri is a Pediatric Critical Care Medicine specialist with over 35 years of experience and currently practices at University Medical Center in Lubbock, TX. He is board certified by the American Board of Pediatrics and graduated from Medical University of South Carolina College of Medicine. He completed his residency at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and completed a Pediatric Critical Care Medicine Fellowship at Georgetown University.



For more information, call 325-747-8372.

Shannon Medical Center is approved as a provider of nursing continuing professional development by New Mexico Nurses Association, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.