

## March 2021

### From the CEO: Weathering the Storm



Just when we all have learned how to get through a pandemic, a history-making winter storm cripples Texas. Our hearts and thoughts go out to all who have suffered losses. At the same time, we are humbled by so many of you who continue to respond to the needs of Texans, no matter what it takes. There have been countless stories of dedication, such as the [nurse involved in the Fort Worth pileup accident crawling out of her car's trunk and reporting to work](#), and [an Austin nurse walking to work in the snow](#). The trauma and emergency care arena is filled with passionate people and we thank you for the many sacrifices made every day and during the toughest of times.

The TETAF Board of Directors did hold its first quarterly meeting of the year virtually on February 16. In my years with TETAF, this is the first board meeting we have held during a major winter storm. That week was filled with changes and Winter Storm Uri led to delays of Senate and House committee meetings, most of which have been rescheduled. With the power outages across the state, there is now another key focus during the legislative session on the state's electrical grid. TETAF's Advocacy team continues to be focused on our Legislative Priorities and has already submitted testimony as part of those efforts.

Our survey service lines continue to stay busy with both on-site and hybrid surveys. We expect this pattern to continue as surveys that were rescheduled due to COVID-19 will occur.

We are grateful for all of you who continued to work during yet another challenging and historical time in our state.

Stay well,

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### TETAF Legislative Focus Week

TETAF has traditionally hosted a Day at the Capitol during the legislative session. However, due to COVID-19 and the current safety precautions in place at the Capitol, the TETAF Legislative Focus Week will take place **the week of March 22-26, 2021**. The week will kick off with a virtual event on **Monday, March 22 from 10:30 to 11:45 a.m.** with legislative guest speakers that include Representative Donna Howard (D-Austin) and Senator Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham).

More information will be shared soon so please check your email and the TETAF website for details.

### 87th Legislative Session

TETAF's Advocacy team is actively monitoring bills filed. The deadline is March 12. Currently, there are not bills filed that specifically focus on trauma, but TETAF is following bills focused on maternal care and helping mothers.

Additionally, the [House Appropriations Subcommittee on Article II](#) held a meeting on Wednesday, March 3 on the budget for the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS). The committee will accept testimony via Zoom and TETAF Board of Directors member Wanda Helgesen testified. The testimony can be viewed in the video below.



Additionally, TETAF submitted written testimony for the [Senate Finance Committee](#) meeting on Article II. The testimony TETAF is sharing focuses on the proposed 4.5% budget cuts to trauma hospitals, EMS, and Regional Advisory Councils (RACs).

We are continuing our Legislative Workgroup Meetings via Zoom every Friday from 10:00 to 10:30 a.m., with the exception of Good Friday and that meeting will be Thursday, April 1 at 10:00 a.m. If you are active in the trauma, emergency care, or perinatal areas you are invited to participate.

[Register for the TETAF Legislative Workgroup Meetings](#)

### GETAC Meeting to be Rescheduled

Due to technical difficulties, the Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council first quarter meeting on February 26 will be rescheduled. Please check the TETAF website and social media for updates.

The second quarter meeting will be virtual on June 25, 2021.

### Governor Abbott Reappoints Four to Council on Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke

Governor Abbott reappointed Stanley Duchman, M.D., Sherron Franks-Meeks, Ph.D., Shilpa Shamapant, and Marcia Gonzalez Wilson to the [Council on Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke](#) for terms set to expire on February 1, 2027. Additionally, the Governor named Suzanne Hildebrand chair of the council.

The council is charged with developing an effective and resource-efficient plan to reduce the morbidity, mortality and economic burden of cardiovascular disease and stroke in the State of Texas.



### In the Spotlight

Whether it is the Regional Advisory Councils (RACs) or our hospital partners, we are proud to see these organizations and individuals in the spotlight for their efforts in trauma care.

[Wayland Tops \\$40 Million Mark for Impact2020 Campaign](#) - myhighplains.com (Article mentions TETAF board member, Dr. Kenneth Mattox)



### Mark Your Calendar

- Brain Injury Awareness Month - March
- Certified Nurses Day - March 19
- TETAF Legislative Focus Week - March 22-26
- National Doctor's Day - March 30

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