Brief History of the Evolution of Medical Direction for Emergency Services in the City of Dallas

Presented by Paul E. Pepe, MD, MPH
EMS as we know it today….

…Created Because of Two Major Epidemics
Sudden Death Syndrome

...Overall Greatest Cause of Premature Death
Trauma (i.e., Severe Injury) ....

#1 Killer of Adults < 45 years old
....and, More Importantly ---

--- the #1 Killer of Children!
1960’s…

...Intrepid Cadre of Academic Doctors Ventured into the Streets to Save Lives
To Create Widespread Deployment, Care Transitioned to Medics…

But Physician Accountability Remained
Medical Direction

per Texas Statutes / Regulations ...

• EMS Personnel Are Not Independent Practitioners
• Expert Medical Direction Required
  …with Off-Line/On-Line/On-Scene Oversight
• Pre-Defined, Med. Dir.-Approved, Initial Training Required by State
• Also, Cont. Education Consistent with Medical Directors’ Protocols & QA
Medical Direction (cont.)

- Help to Develop...and Approve Specifications for Medical Equipment & Medications
- Medical Assessment, Disposition & Remediation for Complaints
- Generate Research and CQI
- On-Going Review of Community’s Emergency Health Care Needs
Based at Parkland Trauma Center...
Non-Proprietary County Govt. Agency

...Staffed By UT Southwestern Docs
Past 30 Years...

Intergovernmental Contract Between Dallas Area Cities and UT Southwestern (a State of Texas Institution)

Director of EMS Education

...and Medical Director from 1970’s to 2001

Dr. Jim Atkins
UT Southwestern Paramedic School

• **Highest Success Rates** on the Ntl. Registry Paramedic Exam

• **First Time Pass Rate** $> 90\%$

• **National Average** $= \sim 59\%$

• **Texas State Average** $\sim 59\%$

**Skewed Upward by UT SW !!**

*Source: Texas Dept of State Health Services*
1990’s Nunn-Luger-Domenici Legislation...

Weapons of Mass Effect

... Led to Expanded Medical Direction

Dr Kathy Rinnert
Year 2000...
Recruited to Become Professor & Chair of Emergency Medicine at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center and the Parkland Emergency Trauma Center

Also, To Head the Evolving Dallas Area Medical Direction Team … for the BioTel EMS System & Medical Homeland Security for other Dallas Co. Agencies
Sleepless in Seattle ... Assistant to EMS Medical Director, 1976 - 82
Director City of Houston EMS System and Houston Fire Dept (1982-1996)
Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge

I Wonder if Pepe Always Played “Shortstop”

A Bill Enacted
Chapter 43.11 section 2534

Emergency Medical Director for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (late 1990’s)
Hey, I am Standing Up, Wise Guy...
Pepe’s Never Been A Security Risk--

--- Just a Fashion Risk !!
In the Wake of 9-1-1...
Nationally, Asked to Develop Standardized All-Hazards Training Programs
Medical Training and Support for Tactical Ops...
Better Public Safety Coordination

During Medically-Related Emergencies
Regionally, Organizing the Media ...

... and Accurate Medical Info for the Public
Presence → de facto Advisor to City Managers & Councilmembers
Dr. Lynn Roppolo – Major Scientific Studies and Publications in the Dispatch Arena
Dr Fernando Benitez

Recruited in 2001

Expert on On-Scene Oversight
Most Award-Winning EMS Physician World-Wide
Recruited in 2002

Dr. Ray Fowler – Head of Dallas Area EMS System Medical Operations, including Administration and Data Collection / Analysis / Risk Management / and QA
Medical Leadership During Katrina

…Also, Day-to-Day Duties Backed-Up by UT-Parkland Colleagues
Good Feedback from the Public and Media....
The Emergency Medicine Program

EMS System-Based and GEMSS Operations

GEMSS Fellow (MD-10)

Nice Hair, Boss !!!
Quality Assurance (MD-7)
Now = Evolution of a *Dallas* EMS Physician Team

Proportionate FTE Salaries Provided to the City

*Now >$750K* (plus $290K more for non-MD’s)
This Does Include Disaster Services...

Which Also Meant Significant **Additional** Time Commitments & Other **Hidden Resource Allocations** (eg, Substitute MDs to cover Parkland)
Next Phase in Medical Direction of Emergency Services...
New City Manager…

An Early Priority…

*With Major Goals to Advance EMS & Public Safety in the City of Dallas*
City of Dallas Director,
Medical Emergency Services
for Public Safety,
Public Health,
Homeland Security
& Related Research
Evolving Services

- Medical Liaison with Federal Agencies and Their Training Centers/Activities
  - *e.g.*, Joint Fellowship with US Secret Service
- Networking with Media, County, Hospitals Medical Community and TX DSHS
- Recruitment of Related Medical Experts
- Funding from Alternative Sources
- Research & CPR Training Grants
Recruitment and New Assignments Continued...
Dr. John Carlo
Asst. Professor in Emergency Medicine at UT Southwestern

Dallas County Health Authority & Medical Director For Dallas County Health Department in 2006
Dr. Ira Nemeth
Asst. Professor in Emergency Medicine at UT Southwestern

Asst. Medical Director for the Dallas County Health Department for Public Health Emergency Coordination starting Summer 2007
Dr Marshal Isaacs  Professor, Emerg Med at UTSW

Medical Director for San Francisco for > 12 years

Now Appointed Medical Director for Dallas Fire Rescue as of Fall 2006
A cartoon shows a sign reading "Paramedic Counseling Services." A man stands in a queue, and beyond the queue, there is a window labeled "Next Window Please." The cartoon is by Margulies, as indicated in the bottom right corner.
Dr. Jeffery Metzger

Asst Professor in Emergency Medicine at UT Southwestern

... and now

MEDICAL DIRECTOR

for DPD
Grants and External Funding
Making Dallas the Safest to Be Resuscitated.....

and Advancing Care for the Nation
Now a 30 min CPR-AED Course...
Prospective, randomized trial of the effectiveness and retention of 30-min layperson training for cardiopulmonary resuscitation and automated external defibrillators: The American Airlines Study

Lynn P. Roppolo, Paul E. Pepe, Linda Campbell, Kimberly Ohman, Himani Kulkarni, Alison Idris, Lawrence Bean, Thomas N. Bettes, Ahamed H. Idris

a Department of Surgery/Division of Emergency Medicine, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, TX, USA
b Dallas Center for Resuscitation Research, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center.
Dallas Area BioTel System
(Metropolitan EMS System)

Is the Key to the Issue and its Success...
So Why is the BioTel System the Key?

Centralized Medical Direction

for Nearly a Quarter Million EMS Incidents,
2000 Cardiac Arrests & 15,000 Major Traumas
But Recent Shift in U.S. Philosophy

Makes Us Extremely Attractive…

...for Being Funded with NIH Resuscitation Research $$$
The U.S. National Institutes of Health Resuscitation Outcomes Consortium

National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute

National Institute for Neurological Disorders and Stroke

Canadian Institutes of Health Research

U.S. Department of Defense

Defence Research and Development Canada

American Heart Association

Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada
Among > 100 Highly Competitive City-University Partnerships that Applied…

- The Dallas Area BioTel System (Dallas & other member Cities) was 1 of only 7 Major U.S. Municipal Sites Chosen
- Each City Will Now Be Designated a Ctr. of Excellence for Resuscitation Medicine and Research
- Means Unique Federal Funding for Training, New Life-Saving Equipment, Data Collection and Additional Medical Oversight
- And Did I Mention --- That Life-Saving Effect!
Eagles 2006 Meeting
In Summary
Now = **Dallas EMS Physician Team**

...Now Providing Medical Emergency Services for Public Safety, Public Health, Disasters & Homeland Security
On the Road to the 22nd Century...
Make Life Better....

.....for Future Generations !!!
And Remember...

It’s Good Business Too...
Thank You!