Message From the President

Happy 2020! As we lean into the new year, we are starting with much momentum. As an organization we are going to continue our drive for education, advocacy, and safety, working to bring light to the issues that hinder our profession’s development and provide solutions on a path forward.

Specifically, we are excited to support the national conferences that we historically have and will be taking a closer look at the state-run events available for us to show support for. We continue to support our colleagues all over the world specifically in the Indo-Pacific and South American geographies. We are aggressively conducting discovery on future education offerings that will not only support your current critical care skills but reinforce your ideas of safety and leadership. We have grown our delegate program to representation in over 30 states. An incredible effort by Cory Oaks and his team of delegates. We will continue to promote opportunities for further member engagement, as it’s critical to the IAFCCP’s success.

Over the past years we have experienced success in our organization’s ability to engage national HEMS stakeholders. We hope that 2020 continues to build on these years of momentum, strengthening our organization. We will continue to support the stand behind the idea of degree requirements for paramedics and work through strategic relationships to execute opportunities for our Members.

My ask of you: Be engaged, use your voice, tell us what you need, and when the opportunity presents itself, use your power to vote. You are important to your communities, your patients, your family and friends. You are important to us.

I look forward to seeing you on the flight line.

Ryan Walter, President
rwalter@iafccp.org
IAFCCP Welcomes Dr. Taylor K. Ratcliff as Medical Adviser

Taylor K. Ratcliff, MD, FACEP, FAEMS, FF/EMT-P
Assistant Medical Director
Baylor Scott & White Health System
EMS Medical Director
Division Director, Prehospital Medicine
Department of Emergency Medicine, Texas A&M School of Medicine

Dr. Ratcliff was recently appointed to the position of medical adviser to the IAFCCP Board of Directors replacing Dr. Pete Tilney of Life Flight of Maine, who served as co-medical adviser since 2013. Dr. Tilney was a tremendous resource to our organization, overseeing content development of the Association’s educational resources. We are grateful to Dr. Tilney for his dedication and contributions to the paramedic profession and wish him much success in his future endeavors.

Dr. Ratcliff will join Terri Hoffman, MD, Medical Director for Flight For Life, as co-medical advisor to the IAFCCP Board. Dr. Hoffman has served as medical adviser since 2005. Medical advisers oversee the development and execution of IAFCCP education programs, position papers, and clinical research.

Dr. Ratcliff started his career in EMS attending EMT school in Lubbock, Texas in 1995. He later completed his Paramedic training at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in 1999 and worked for Lubbock EMS, the Lubbock Fire Department and Aerocare until leaving full time prehospital care to start medical school at the Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Medicine. Following medical school, he started residency training in 2009, with the Scott & White, Texas A&M Emergency Medicine Residency Program in Temple, Texas where he continues to work as an Assistant Clinical Professor of Emergency Medicine.

Currently, Dr. Ratcliff is the division director of prehospital medicine for the Baylor Scott & White Central Texas division and is the medical director for Baylor Scott & White Emergency Management System. An Assistant Medical Director for PHI Texas, he also provides medical direction for the Temple College Health Professions EMS program and Bell and McLennan county emergency medical dispatch programs. Ratcliff serves as the physician medical director for the Texas Emergency Medical Task Force, region 7 team that encompasses the Central Texas area, and serves on the Texas Governor’s Emergency and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC) as the EMS education member and is a site visitor for CoAEMSP. He is the current president of the Texas Chapter of the National Association of EMS Physicians.

In addition to spending time with his wonderful family, he continues to enjoy volunteering as a Firefighter/Paramedic with the Morgan’s Point Resort Fire Department.

March 2 - 6, 2020
Tampa Convention Center
Tampa, FL
www.EMSToday.com
State Delegate Update

You should all have been receiving emails over the last year regarding the Delegate Program. Those of you following our Facebook page have noticed our delegate introductions as we add representation to the states. But how many of you are familiar with the delegate role and know who is representing you?

The Delegate Program is designed to give the membership a point of contact within each state. They are members working within the industry who have agreed to volunteer their time and abilities to represent you, your state and the many programs within it. In this pivotal time in the air medical industry it is important for us to be able to stand together, have a unified voice as advanced practice and specialty care paramedics help drive the change. The IAFCCP is committed to the advancement of paramedics and paramedicine and need the support of the membership.

Not sure who your delegate is? Check out our website www.iafccp.org and find our program under the Association tab. There you will find a State listing with the associated delegate and their email contact. Seeing an in need next to your state? Want to be involved? Submit an application to become your states representative and you may see yourself on our social media page as the next delegate spotlight. We are currently looking for driven and motivated members to represent our membership in Kentucky, Maryland and Idaho. We are also looking for members to represent our international areas.

Feel like this may be a good fit for you? Email our delegate program coordinator Cory Oaks with any questions. He can be reached at coaks@iafccp.org

International Delegates Wanted

Passionate About Your Career?
Want To Be More Involved In The IAFCCP?

Become Part Of Our Delegate Program
We Currently Have Vacancies In:
AL, AR, CT, GA, HI, ID, IN, KS, LA, ME, MD, MA, MI, MS, MO, MT, NH, NJ, NM, ND, RI, SD, VA, WA, WV, WI, PR

Delegates Needed – Contact Cory Oaks at coaks@iafccp.org
The IAFCCP GLAC is closely monitoring the efforts in Congress to address and resolve Surprise Medical Billing (SMB). To date, four bills have emerged:

- H.R. 3630, the No Surprises Act, was passed out of the House Energy & Commerce Committee in June 2019, with bipartisan, unanimous support of an amendment from Rep. Lujan of NM that would require specific data collection from air ambulance services.

- H.R. 5800, the Ban Surprise Billing Act, was passed out of the House Education & Labor Committee on February 11, 2020. This bill bans balance billing and requires air ambulances to accept the median of the in-network rates (to be determined on a geographical basis), and only allows arbitration for air ambulances if the payment from an insurer is greater than $25,000. Payments less than $25,000 may not be brought for arbitration. The bill seeks to use Jan 2019 as a guardrail to prevent an artificial lowering of the median, but this provision is not without controversy.

- H.R. 5826, the Consumer Protections Against Surprise Medical Bills Act of 2020, was passed out of the House Ways & Means Committee on February 12, 2020. This bill requires expanded data collection from both air ambulance services and health insurance payers, as well as a report on these data from the Secretaries of Health & Human Services and Labor. It also requires a GAO report on “Air Ambulance Quality & Patient Safety.”

- S. 1895, the Lowe Health Care Costs Act, was passed out of the Senate Health, Education, Labor & Pensions (HELP) Committee in June 2019. This bill bans balance billing and requires air ambulances to accept the median of the in-network rates (to be determined on a geographical basis. This bill contains no arbitration parameters for air ambulances.

These bills are the work of four Congressional committees and will be reviewed (at least) by two additional committees: The Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation (CST) Committee and the House Transportation & Infrastructure (T&I) Committee. Additional review could come from House and/or Senate Rules Committees and Senate Finance Committee. Compromise will have to be reached, if SMB legislation is expected to pass ahead of a May 22, 2020 deadline for must-pass legislation to extend specific healthcare spending.

The IAFCCP is supportive of finding resolution for SMB in a manner that ensures patients are protected and that our members are protected in their ability to carry out their chosen profession to serve their communities to improve and save lives.

Christopher D. Hall, IAFCCP GLAC Chairman
GLAC@iafccp.org
You are invited to contribute to Air Medical Journal!

*Air Medical Journal* is the official journal of the five leading air medical transport associations in the United States. *AMJ* is the premier provider of information for the medical transport industry, addressing the unique concerns of medical transport physicians, nurses, pilots, paramedics, emergency medical technicians, communication specialists, and program administrators. The journal contains peer-reviewed practical and clinical articles, case studies, and original research covering all aspects of the critical care transport profession.

Submit your original articles today at [www.editorialmanager.com/airmedj](http://www.editorialmanager.com/airmedj)!

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The International Board of Specialty Certification (IBSC), Celebrates Twenty Years of Offering Specialty Certification

The creation of the original specialty certification process was under the Board for Critical Care Transport Paramedic Certification (BCCTPC) which offered the first official examination at the Air Medical Transport Conference (AMTC) in October of 2000. Under the leadership of Graham Pierce as Chairman of the Board, paramedic specialty certification flourished because of the vision and tireless commitment of a small group of paramedic champions. Some of that group from 20 years ago included David O. Bump, John R. Clark, Dr. John Cole, Dr. Robert Donovan, Chris Giller, Lisa Gilmore, Jonathan Gryniuk; Bob Hesse, TJ Kennedy, Brian Schaeffer, and Jackie Stocking. Without their tenacity, paramedic specialty certification would not be celebrating this milestone.

The IBSC is a functional specialty board with a mission to support paramedicine specialties anywhere in the world. Rather than State or local Regions creating a unique and disparate scheme to address practice in specialty areas, the IBSC is the preferred single standardized approach to competency validation that relies on a single, independent, profession-based and collaborative Board from the paramedic community. This approach serves to ensure public protection while advancing the quality of paramedic provided care while enhancing their status amongst their healthcare colleagues. Certification is key to assuring the public that the specialty paramedic is competent and current and of the highest quality.

Congratulations IBSC!
28th Annual
CRITICAL CARE TRANSPORT MEDICINE CONFERENCE

APRIL 20-22, 2020
HOTEL ALBUQUERQUE AT OLD TOWN
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

- Eighth Annual Running with an Angel 5K
- Ultrasound Workshop
- 19th Annual Scientific Forum
- IAFCCP Tim Hynes Foundation Seventh Annual Silent Auction

Conference Schedule
Conference Registration
Exhibit/Sponsorship Opportunities

REGISTER AT WWW.CCTMC.NET

Presented by
Seventh Annual Silent Auction

Don’t miss out on this great opportunity to demonstrate support of the Paramedic profession!

Donate items to help raise awareness and funds to support the SMTA scholarship and activities of the Tim Hynes Foundation.

The THF Fundraiser is held in conjunction with the Critical Care Transport Medicine Conference in Albuquerque, NM April 20 - 22 at the Hotel Albuquerque, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Ship your donation to the IAFCCP office on or before April 1, or deliver your donation to the IAFCCP booth by April 20, at the CCTMC.
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Medical Adviser / PHI Air Medical

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Air Medical Journal

Air Medical Journal, the official journal of five leading air medical transport associations in the United States, is the premier provider of information for the medical transport industry. The Journal addresses the unique concerns of medical transport physicians, nurses, pilots, paramedics, emergency medical technicians, communication specialists and program administrators.

Each issue includes evidence-based, peer-reviewed research, how-to articles, case studies, and more. Air Medical Journal accepts clinical articles, management articles, original research, and education articles covering all aspects of the medical transport profession.

Access the Journal at www.airmedicaljournal.com

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For information on submitting an article for publication in Air Medical Journal, visit the online submission system at http://ees.elsevier.com/ami/ or contact Managing Editor, Dawn Drennan Nahlen at d.drennan@elsevier.com.
The mission of the IAFCCP is to provide advocacy, leadership, professional development and education opportunities for specialty care paramedics.

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Advertising is per issue and is priced as follows: Full page $400; Half page $250; Quarter page $175; A 10% discount applies to the purchase of any four ads (size can be mixed and matched, but must appear in four consecutive issues). Contact Monica at (770) 979-6372.