



**Paul E. Pepe, MD, MPH** is a Professor of Emergency Medicine, Internal Medicine, Surgery, Pediatrics, Public Health and the Riggs Family Chair in Emergency Medicine (EM) at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, TX. He simultaneously serves the Emergency Medical Services/Public Safety Medical Director for *Dallas County* government and Medical Director for Research, Education & Special Operations for numerous south Florida agencies including Broward, Palm Beach and Polk counties, the municipalities of Palm Beach, West Palm Beach, Davie, Coral Springs and Parkland and also the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport (FLL) and Port Everglades seaport.

A protégé of Drs. Michael Copass and Leonard Cobb, the legendary medical directors of the renowned Seattle EMS system, he served in the 1970s as a “street doctor” for Seattle who was responsible evaluating the performance of those extremely advanced paramedics as an adjunct to his own primary role in creating innovative research in the realm of critical care medicine. Later, in the 1980s, he was recruited to the City of Houston to drive similar advances in out-of-hospital resuscitative care. Under his leadership, Houston EMS crews dramatically increased the survival rates for both cardiac arrest and critical trauma patients. This success was largely accomplished by stewarding and continually innovating care, starting with dispatch office functions and on-scene coordinated interventions to advanced intra-transport techniques and receiving facilities’ management of the most critically ill and injured patients.

An omnipresent responder on the streets of Houston over the next decade, he rapidly became a role model for the future *American Board of Medical Specialties* (ABMS) subspecialty of out-of-hospital emergency practice (EMS) for which he co-founded the *National Association of EMS Physicians* (NAEMSP), the subspecialty’s professional society today. Simultaneously, he also pioneered best practices for multi-casualty incident management, law enforcement tactical medicine concepts and mass gathering healthcare preparedness. Formally publishing the results of novel, scientifically-proven interventions and the associated increases in survival rates, he caught the attention of those responsible for care of high-level protectees including medical care for the President of the United States. Eventually designated as the Emergency Medicine and Trauma Consultant to the *White House Medical Unit* by successive physicians to the President, he was also sought by other nations for his expertise in out-of-hospital emergency care. In turn, he was recruited by leaders in other high-profile arenas including the *National Basketball Association* (NBA) trainers and the chief security officers for several major entertainment tours and other mass gathering events.

Recognizing the breadth and scope of special event and protective medicine activities, he later helped to coin the term, Event Medicine (EVM), and he has since championed an academic model for EVM (specialized research and formal training) and those healthcare providers participating in crowd medicine and mass gathering medical care as well as other high-risk/high-profile events. He has since teamed-up with other world leaders in the realm of global entertainment medicine. Dr. Pepe is helping to create a gold standard text regarding EVM on behalf of the *American College of Emergency Physicians* and his long-term vision is to create formal fellowship training programs and eventual establishment of EVM as a recognized specialty in the House of Medicine, just as he did for the discipline of EMS.

Today, as the national coordinator of the Metropolitan EMS (9-1-1 system) Medical Directors Coalition, he also leads a *de facto* physician alliance among these medical final decision-makers for medical preparedness, training and protocols among large city 9-1-1 system medical responders in the U.S. and their European metropolitan counterparts. With this, he has helped to establish local contacts and medical advance plans for major events and other special operations, but also he has thereby facilitated more rapid changes in best practices for stroke, cardiac and trauma resuscitation worldwide. Simultaneously, he has fostered the development of tactical medical response and even SWAT doctors being incorporated in law enforcement tactical response and the development of toxicological, environmental and travel medicine expertise for mass gathering care providers. With this recognized expertise and experience, he has been requested to be an imbedded physician for large entertainment tours (e.g., U2) and he has had key leadership support roles in major U.S. disasters including hurricane Katrina, the Dallas police ambush shootings and the Marjory Stoneman Douglas high school tragedy in Parkland, Florida, for which he serves as medical director for special operations for both the Broward Sheriff’s Office (SWAT) and the Coral Springs/Parkland Fire Rescue Department (EMS) components.

Beyond his out-of-hospital emergency care and disaster medicine activities, he is an extremely distinguished academician with over 400 full-length published scientific papers, including many landmark publications such as the original “Chain of Survival” treatise, the first description and measurement of Auto-PEEP, permissive hypotension in trauma, re-appraisal of mouth-to-mouth in CPR, the Chicago airport AED study and the first clinical translation of “heads-up CPR”. He is renowned for a grass-roots, street-wise style in planning, implementing and overseeing a systems approach to saving lives, both operationally and through well over two dozen successful clinical trials. In turn, his programs have consistently resulted in some of the highest cardiac arrest and trauma survival rates worldwide and he eventually became an inaugural steering committee member for the *National Institutes of Health* (NIH) PULSE initiative and the NIH’s subsequent Resuscitation Outcomes Consortium (ROC) that eventually produced dozens of major ground-breaking studies. Similarly, he co-chaired and wrote the executive summary for the NIH’s national stroke plan (*Ensuring the Chain of Recovery for Stroke*) and for the 1<sup>st</sup> World Congress on Drowning Task Force on Resuscitation. Dr. Pepe was the first nationally-elected President of NAEMSP and has founded numerous premier educational offerings that have now trained thousands of newly-appointed and future EMS medical directors.

Over the past several years, his vanguard research efforts in Florida have helped to introduce ground-breaking research that has helped to immediately double survival chances for out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (e.g., in Palm Beach County) and also helped to establish the highest reported survival rates for children with out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (e.g., in Polk County). Over the past 18 months, he presented two-dozen scientific papers reporting these and other successes based in Florida communities at major national and international conferences and he continues to be one of the most sought-after speakers on EMS worldwide.

Beyond being a veteran medical leader in multiple U.S. disasters and co-founder of the *National Disaster Life Support* (NDLS) family of courses, he has been cited for heroism in the U.S. Congressional Record and he has frequently received national and international awards and commendations from numerous professional organizations across a myriad of disciplines including the *Society for Academic Emergency Medicine* (Excellence in Research) and the *Society for Critical Care Medicine*. Designated as a Master of both the *American College of Critical Care Medicine* and the *American College of Physicians* (MCCM, MACP), he continues to lead many inter-disciplinary scientific panels for stroke, cardiac arrest, neuroprotection and EMS systems of care. When receiving an award for lifetime achievements from the *American College of Emergency Physicians*, presented in Washington, D.C. by then U.S. Surgeon General, Richard Carmona, Dr. Pepe was cited as the most accomplished emergency medical services physician of our generation.