

**MELISSA SMITH, MSN, RN
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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

2002 - Present

Trauma Program Manager- Division of Trauma, October 2012- Present

- Maintains the American College of Surgeons-Level I Trauma Center Verification by coordinating, organizing, assembling, and maintaining required standards of Level I Trauma Center.
- Has an active role in the following; clinical activities, education, research, performance improvement, trauma registry management, and acting as a consultant/liaison to outside regional and state agencies.
- Develop guidelines based on current literature, best practice, and information from patient care evaluations.
- Implements and coordinates trauma related performance improvement activities. These activities include outcome and cost analysis, preparing benchmark data reports, hospital trauma registry system reports and Level I Trauma Center specific clinical indicators as recommended by the ACS.
- Represents the trauma program on various hospital, community, state, and national committees to enhance and foster optimal trauma care management.

Nurse Educator – Trauma ICU, Aug 2009 – October 2012

- Develops, implements, evaluates, and revises programs of orientation, inservice-training, and continuing education for the Trauma Intensive Care Unit.
- Resource to the Vanderbilt community by serving on hospital wide committees and task forces.
- Provides leadership to ensure quality, safe, patient-centered care using evidenced based tactics.
- Conducts learning needs and assesses individuals to implement and execute programs that will promote a safe and therapeutic environment.

Registered Nurse – Trauma ICU, 2003 – 2009

- One of the few professionals to be selected by management to assume the duties of Charge Nurse on Middle Tennessee's busiest and most intense critical care trauma unit.
- Actively involved as a senior nurse preceptor responsible for educating and training nurse professionals whom are either new to the nursing profession or new to the Vanderbilt Trauma Intensive Care Unit.
- Provide hands on critical care to patients with injuries ranging from neurological, orthopedic, cardiovascular, plastics, vascular and traumatic.
- Utilize critical thinking to quickly assess patient conditions whom are transported to the Trauma unit from the ER and OR and proceed with establishing a course of action that is in the best interest of patient care.

Registered Nurse - Cardiology, 2002 – 2003

- Used professional knowledge of nursing theory and clinical assessment skills to identify the patient's current health related problems and prepare a plan of care accordingly.
- Identified problems from the patient's plan of care and communicated these findings to other professional members of the health care team.
- Educated the patient and family on problems identified from the plan of care.
- Applied the nursing process in order to properly manage the patient and their family care.

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Master of Science in Nursing

Field of Study: Nursing Education

Concentration: Family Nurse Practitioner

Tennessee State University, May 2009

Bachelor of Science in Nursing
Tennessee State University, May 2002

CERTIFICATIONS/SPECIAL SKILLS

- Registered Nurse (License# 137131)
- BLS Certified
- ACLS Certified

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Society of Trauma Nurses
- American Trauma Society
- Trauma Center Association of America
- American Academy of Critical Care Nurses

July 2012-Present
June 2013-Present
March 2020-Present
January 2010-2016

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Trauma Care Advisory Committee (TN)
- TN EMS Clinical Issues Committee-Board Member
- TN Trauma System Development Committee
- Society of Trauma Nurses Membership & Engagement Committee
- Society of Trauma Nurses Director-at-Large
- Society of Trauma Nurses Executive Committee
- Society of Trauma Nurses Finance Committee
- Society of Trauma Nurses Leadership Development Committee
- TCAA Membership Services Committee
- Society of Trauma Nurses Treasurer

January 2013-Present
May 2014-June 2022
February 2014-Present
January 2018-April 2023
April 2019-April 2022
April 2020-Present
April 2024-Present
April 2023-Present
April 2022-Present
April 2024-Present

EDITORIAL ACTIVITIES

- Journal of Trauma Nursing-Reviewer

July 2019-Present

OTHER

- State of Tennessee Trauma Site Visit Auditor
- American College of Surgeons VRC Nurse Reviewer
- OPTIMAL Trauma Center Organization & Management Course Instructor

September 2012-Present
November 2022-Present
April 2024- Present

AWARDS

- STN Service Award-Director-at-Large
- Vanderbilt Five Pillar Leader Award

April 2022
November 2024

PRESENTATIONS

Emergency Nurses Association Annual Conference
September 2013-Nashville, TN
Speaker Presentation
“Massive Transfusion: State-of-the-art Trauma Care Using Blood Component Therapy”

Society of Trauma Nurses Annual Conference
April 2013-Las Vegas, NV
Poster Presentation
“A Stressful Work Environment Causes Distress on the Trauma Team”

Society of Trauma Nurses Annual Conference
April 2016-Anaheim, CA
Poster Presentation
“Recapturing the Golden Hour: Rural Trauma Team Development Course Improves Timeliness of Transfers in Trauma Patients”

Montana Trauma Systems Conference

September 2017-Kalispell, MO

Speaker Presentation

“The Ins and Outs of Outcomes”

Trauma Quality Improvement Program (TQIP) Conference

November 2017-Chicago, IL

Speaker Presentation

“Evaluation of Trauma Team Performance during Initial Resuscitation Utilizing Video”

Trauma Quality Improvement Program (TQIP) Conference

November 2018-Anaheim, CA

Speaker Presentation

“Event Reporting and Accuracy: The TPM’s Role”

Emergency Nurses Association Scientific Assembly (Virtual)

September 2020

Poster Presentation

“Evaluation of Trauma Team Performance during Initial Resuscitation Utilizing Video Review”

Society of Critical Care Medicine

February 2022- San Juan, PR

Research Snapshot Presentation (Co-author)

“Characteristics of Nonsurvivors Following Pentobarbital for Severe Traumatic Brain Injury”

World Trauma Congress

September 2024- Las Vegas, NV

Speaker Presentation

“Cyber-attacks: How to Prepare Your Program”

World Trauma Congress

September 2024- Las Vegas, NV

Speaker Presentation

“Interesting Trauma Cases: Adult Patient - Impaled Unexploded Ordnance”

American Association for the Surgery of Trauma (AAST)

September 2024- Las Vegas, NV

Poster Presentation (Co-Author)

“Physiology Over Pharmacology: Effect of Anticoagulation on Nonoperative Management of Solid Organ Injuries”

Trauma Quality Improvement Program (TQIP) Conference

November 2024- Denver, CO

Speaker Presentation

“The Sound of Silence: Effective EMS Handoff”

Trauma Quality Improvement Program (TQIP) Conference

November 2025- Chicago, IL

Poster Presentation

“Enhancing Trauma Program Efficiency Utilizing Microsoft Teams: Sharing the PI “Performance Improvement”

Trauma Quality Improvement Program (TQIP) Conference

November 2025- Chicago, IL

Speaker

“PI – Bring Your Biggest PI Challenge”

PUBLICATIONS

1. Dennis, Bradley M.; Vella, Michael A.; Gunter, Oliver L.; **Smith, Melissa D.**; Wilson, Catherine S.; Patel, Mayur B.; Nunez, Timothy C.; Guillamondegui, Oscar D. Rural Trauma Team Development Course decreases time to transfer for trauma patients. *Journal of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery*. 2016 Oct; 81(4): 632-637 PMID: 27438684
2. David P. Stonko, MS1*; Dillon C. O'Neill1*; Bradley M. Dennis, MD, FACS2; **Melissa Smith, MSN, RN2**; Jeffrey Gray, MA, EMT3; Oscar D. Guillamondegui, MD, MPH, FACS2. Trauma Quality Improvement: Reducing Triage Errors by Automating the Level Assignment Process. *Journal of Surgical Education*. 2018 April; PMID: 29656835
3. Elizabeth S. Compton; Benjamin A. Smallheer; Nicholas R. Thomason; Michael S. Norris, Mina F. Nordness, **Melissa D. Smith**, Mayur B. Patel. Minimal-Risk Traumatic Brain Injury Management Without Neurosurgical Consultation. *Journal of Neurocritical Care*. 2020 Aug; eISSN 2508-1349
4. Peter Bryant, Aaron Yengo-Kahn, Candice Smith, RN, **Melissa Smith, RN**, Oscar Guillamondegui, MD, MPH. Decision Support Tool to Judiciously Assign High-Frequency Neurologic Examinations in Traumatic Brain Injury. *Journal of Surgical Research*. 2022 Dec; 280:557-566 PMID: 36096021
5. Smith MC, Medvecz AJ, **Smith MD**, Streams JR, Dennis BM. Computed tomography scanning is feasible in select patients with REBOA catheter deployment. *Injury*. 2024 Feb; PMID: 38360518