

**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 Ordinance”

**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