



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
February 1, 2013

Contact: DOH Communications  
(850) 245- 4111

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ANNOUNCES MEMBERS OF AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS TRAUMA ASSESSMENT TEAM**

*~Independent team of experts to assess trauma system in Florida~*

**TALLAHASSEE**--An independent seven-team member of the American College of Surgeons (ACS) Committee on Trauma (COT) will conduct an external review of Florida's current trauma system Feb. 2-5. The Florida Department of Health (DOH) today announced the members of the team that will provide recommendations to improve Florida's trauma system. Individuals participating on this assessment team have no relationship with Florida by birth, education and training, and employment.

"The Department remains committed to developing a trauma system that is inclusive, sustainable and focused on safe, effective, and efficient care for injured patients in Florida," said State Surgeon General and Secretary of Health Dr. John Armstrong. "The time has arrived for this ACS trauma system consultation, a visit that the trauma community has been requesting for more than five years. This team of well-respected professionals will inform decisions about trauma system improvement."

Members of the seven person ACS COT assessment team include:

- Team Leader Robert J. Winchell, MD, FACS, Head of the Division of Trauma and Burn Surgery at the Maine Medical Center and Associate Professor of Surgery at the Tufts University School of Medicine.
- Jane W. Ball, RN, DRPH, published author, former Director of the National Resource Center (NRC) at the Children's National Medical Center (1991-2006), and former President of the National Academies of Practice.
- Samir M. Fakhry, MD, FACS, Professor of Surgery and Chief of the Division of General Surgery at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC), and Physician Leader of the Surgical Acute and Critical Care Service line at MUSC.
- Ronald F. Maio, DO, MS, FACEP, Director of the Office of Human Research Compliance Review and Professor of Emergency Medicine, University of Michigan.
- Drexal Pratt, Head of the Division of Health Service Regulation of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services; Chair, State Medical Response Executive Committee and former Commissioner, North Carolina Governor's State Emergency Response Commission.
- Nels D. Sanddal, PhD, MS, REMT-B, Manager, American College of Surgeons (ACS) Trauma Systems and Verification Program, Past President of the Critical Illness and Trauma Foundation (CIT), Bozeman, Montana.
- Jolene R. Whitney, MPA, Deputy Director, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services and Preparedness, Utah Department of Health.

The Department of Health is currently conducting trauma center apportionment rule workshops around the state after the First District Court of Appeal invalidated the previous rule in December.

DOH protects, promotes and improves the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

###