

# 2025 EMMCO West EMS Education Symposium

May 9 – 10, 2025

Bayfront Convention Center - Erie, PA

Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup>

## **07:30AM – 08:30AM**

Great Hall      Registration/Continental Breakfast

## **08:30 AM - 09:30 AM**

- 130A    Leadership Insights      Mr. David Basnak      Emergycare Inc.  
Join a seasoned EMS leader for a workshop designed for those rising in the EMS profession. Drawing on a lifetime of experience, this session will explore the lessons, challenges, and core values that define effective leadership in emergency services. Prepare to gain practical strategies and inspiration to lead with confidence and integrity. *1.0 Other*
- 130B/C    Airway Lecture      Mr. Jusin Beal & Mr. Mike Yee      Stat MedEvac  
This focused session offers a comprehensive review of airway management principles for EMS providers, covering both foundational techniques and current best practices. Attendees will refresh their knowledge on airway anatomy, assessment, and device selection to enhance confidence and performance in critical situations. *1.0 CPC*
- 140B/C    But We've Always Done It This Way      Ms. Cassandra Asberry      AHN LifeFlight  
Break free from the myths that still haunt prehospital care in this provocative, evidence-packed session that challenges outdated practices like routine backboarding and fluid overload. Discover how modern, guideline-driven approaches can improve outcomes and transform the way you treat trauma in the field. *1.0 CPC*

## **09:45 AM - 10:45 AM**

- 130A    Case Reviews - Best Hits      Dr. Anthony Battista, Jr.      Allegheny Health Network  
Take a front-row seat to the region's most compelling EMS calls in this interactive, case-based session featuring high-yield, high-acuity incidents submitted by local providers. From rare diagnoses to hospital outcomes, you'll connect prehospital care to the bigger clinical picture. *1.0 CPC*
- 130B/C    Why Seatbelts Are So Important      Ms. Katie Sherretts      EMMCO West, Inc.  
This powerful and eye-opening workshop that reminds EMS providers of the life-saving importance of buckling up—even in the back of an ambulance. Featuring a firsthand account from a crash survivor, this session will highlight real-world consequences, dispel common myths, and reinforce the critical role of seatbelt use in provider safety. *1.0 EMSVO*
- 140B/C    Does The Seat Go There?      Mr. Dave McWilliams      UPMC Children's Hospital  
Strap in for a fast-paced and eye-opening session that dives into ambulance transport safety, showcasing real-world crash stats, hands-on restraint equipment, and the latest guidelines—all aimed at keeping our youngest patients safer on every ride. Get ready to rethink how we move kids in EMS! *1.0 CPC*

## **11:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

- 130A    Our Journey Down the EMS Path      Mr. Doug Dick      Superior Ambulance  
A heartfelt and inspiring talk that invites attendees to reflect on where their EMS journey began and where it's leading. With deep passion for the profession, the speaker shares personal stories and insights aimed at reigniting purpose and encouraging the next generation of EMS providers to serve with pride and passion. *1.0 Other*
- 130B/C    Imodium: Why We Should Give A Crap      Ms. Kathleen Kern      AHN LifeFlight  
Uncover the hidden dangers of a medicine cabinet staple in this eye-opening case-based discussion on the misuse of Imodium by opioid users to curb withdrawal—often with deadly cardiac consequences. We'll also explore how Methadone shares similar risks, highlighting the critical need for EMS awareness and intervention. *1.0 Other*
- 140B/C    Sports Medicine for SWAT: Tactical Athlete Care      Mr. Clayton Ondrizek      North Huntingdon EMS/Rescue  
From the gridiron to the grind of tactical ops, this high-energy session draws surprising parallels between elite athletes and tactical team members. Dive into the world of injury prevention, assessment, and treatment for today's "tactical athletes," and learn how a sports medicine mindset can elevate care across all public safety roles. *1.0 CPC*

## **12:00 PM – 01:00 PM**

Great Hall      Lunch

## **01:00 PM - 02:00 PM**

- 130A    Airway Nightmares      Dr. Marcus Pearson      St. Vincent Emergency Medicine  
Enter the world of "Airway Nightmares" as we tackle high-stakes airway scenarios from both the street and the hospital, blending real-world chaos with clinical insight. This session will challenge your skills, sharpen your instincts, and leave you better prepared for when the airway turns critical. *1.0 CPC*
- 130B/C    AHN Skills Review      AHN Prehospital Services  
This hands-on session, led by the AHN Prehospital Services Team, offers EMS providers the chance to practice less common but critical interventions in a supportive, no-stress environment. Instructors will guide participants through stations designed to build confidence and reinforce skills that may not be used every day—but are vital when needed. *2.0 CPC*

140B/C It Always Seems Like "Someone's Watching Me!" Mr. Gene Giraulo Allegheny Health Network  
Mr. Steve McKinnis Allegheny Health Network

In a world where everyone's watching—literally—this eye-opening session explores the legal landscape of cameras in EMS, from social media and security footage to patient privacy and provider rights. Learn what's legal, what's not, and how to protect yourself and your patients in today's always-recording reality. *1.0 Other*

**02:15 PM - 03:15 PM**

130A Licensure 101 Ms. Trisha Parker EMMCO West, Inc.

You're the new EMS officer—now what? This upbeat, no-stress session walks you through the licensure and inspection process step-by-step, proving that with the right prep, it's truly an open-book test and nothing to fear. *1.0 Other*

130B/C AHN Skills Review Continued AHN Prehospital Services

140B/C So It Happened, Now What? Mr. Wesley Semple Allegheny Health Network

"It won't happen here" is no longer an option—this powerful session confronts the reality of rising threats with a deep dive into incident stats, initial response strategies, and the Rescue Task Force concept. Walk away with the tools and mindset to make sure your service is ready when the unthinkable becomes real. *1.0 Other*

**03:15 PM - 03:30 PM**

Great Hall Afternoon Snack

**03:30 PM - 04:30 PM**

130A Pediatric Lightning Round Dr. Brian Risavi EMMCO West Regional Medical Director

Get ready to sharpen your pediatric instincts with this fast-moving, case-based lecture that highlights red flags in history and physical exams. From subtle signs to serious pathology, you'll gain the tools to rapidly assess, recognize, and respond with confidence. *1.0 CPC*

130B/C Thorough Documentation Is Good Patient Care Mr. Jason Orton Pennsylvania Mountains Care Network

Discover why documentation is more than just paperwork—it's a powerful tool with four distinct roles that shape patient care, legal protection, billing, and QA/QI. This engaging session unpacks special scenarios and shows how great charting drives better outcomes across the board. *1.0 Other*

140B/C Regional Case Review Dr. Christopher Cammarata UPMC Emergency Medicine

Join this dynamic speaker for an engaging review of real-life trauma cases from across the region. This fast-paced workshop will challenge your clinical thinking, highlight lessons learned, and offer practical takeaways to improve prehospital care. Expect lively discussion, expert insight, and plenty of real-world relevance. *1.0 CPC*

**06:00 PM - 10:00 PM**

Pre-EMS Week Celebration 5 Iron Golf 1000 State Street | Erie, PA 16501

While at the symposium, join us for our Pre-EMS Week Celebration! Join us at **5 Iron Golf** - a two-story urban playground featuring six cutting-edge TrackMan golf simulators, a multi-sport simulator, a putting green, shuffleboard, foosball, and a 26-seat bar. Enjoy complimentary hors d'oeuvres and beverages, free play, a cash bar with signature cocktails, and the chance to win exciting door prizes. Whether you're swinging a club, challenging friends to zombie dodgeball, or just relaxing in the lounge, this is the perfect way to connect and celebrate with your EMS community. All are welcome.

**Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup>**

*All Events Will Be Held in the Great Hall*

08:30 AM - 09:15 AM Breakfast

09:15 AM - 10:00 AM Honorable But Broken *1.0 Other*

10:00 AM - 11:30 PM Panel Discussion *1.5 Other*

11:30 AM - 11:45 PM Break

11:45 PM - 01:00 PM Myth Busters: Slaying EMS Sacred Cows Mr. Matt Zavadsky

"Modern" EMS is half a century old, and would you believe there are some things in EMS we have done for nearly that long, despite volumes of evidence that indicate they may not be best practice? We cling on to some practices that not only have been disproved by science but are actually dangerous. This dynamic, interactive, and controversial session will attempt to slay the sacred cows in EMS by busting myths related to ALS resource deployment, response times, lights, and siren use, and even the fundamentals of EMS system design. *1.0 Other*

01:00 PM - 01:15 PM Closing