



Faculty Biographies

Gail Atnip

Provider Education Specialist, Novitas Solutions, Inc.

Gail Atnip has 36 years of experience in Medicare. She worked for TrailBlazer Health Enterprises, LLC for 34 years and September 2012 she joined the Novitas Solutions education team. During the time she has held various positions including claims processing, written correspondence, telephone customer service, and telephone appeal line and the enrollment call center. She holds the current position of Provider Outreach and Education Specialist where she has served providers for the past 16 years. This team is comprised of specialists who have an extensive background with Medicare policies and claims processing. The primary focus is to meet the educational needs of the physicians and suppliers. This is accomplished through conducting workshops, on-site visits and speaking to various groups.

Her specialties include Ambulance, Therapy Services (PT, OT SLP), Psychiatric Services, Non-Physician Practitioners, "Incident To" Services and the liaison for Indian Health Services (IHS).

Cameron Decker, MD

Medical Director, Harris County Emergency Corps

Cameron Decker, MD, LP is a graduate of Rice University and Baylor College of Medicine. He completed his residency in Emergency Medicine and fellowship in Emergency Medical Services at Baylor College of Medicine.

Dr. Decker is a board certified emergency physician, an Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine, and faculty at Ben Taub General Hospital, one of the busiest Level I trauma centers in the country.

As a Licensed Paramedic, Dr. Decker has a strong background in pre-hospital care, having been active in EMS through multiple 911 departments. Before becoming the Medical Director of Harris County Emergency Corps, he worked there as a Paramedic. He is also the Medical Director of Rice University EMS, Aldine Fire Rescue, Eastex Fire Department, Northwest Fire Rescue, Westfield Fire Department, and The Emergency Medical Task Force - 6, the state's regional response network for large scale medical incidents. He is a decorated police Sergeant and Tactical Physician with the Harris County Sheriff's Office High Risk Operations Unit.

Doug Hooten

Executive Director, MedStar Mobile Healthcare

Doug Hooten is the Executive Director of MedStar Mobile Healthcare. He has over 34 years of experience in EMS, having served as senior vice president of operations and regional director for American Medical Response, CEO of the Metropolitan Ambulance Service Trust (MAST) in Kansas City, and a variety of leadership roles with Rural/Metro Ambulance, Inc. in South Carolina, Georgia, Ohio and Texas. Doug serves on the National EMS Advisory

Council (NEMSAC) and is the co-author of “The Patient Experience Revolution” published in The Journal of Emergency Medical Services (JEMS) in February 2014.

Brian Klozik

Assistant Deputy IG for Administrative Investigative Support, Texas HHSC

Brian Klozik is a Certified Fraud Examiner and currently serves as the Assistant Deputy IG for Administrative Investigative Support.

Brian has been with the Inspector General since 1997 (including its predecessor, the Office of Investigations and Enforcement). He has more than 20 years of investigative and program integrity experience in Medicaid health care fraud investigations.

Brian graduated from Sam Houston State University with a Bachelor of Science in Law Enforcement and Police Science.

Ryan Matthews

CEO, Trans Star Ambulance

Ryan is a licensed paramedic and has been active in the EMS community since 1993. He received degrees in biology and chemistry from Texas Tech University. He currently serves as a board member of the Texas EMS Alliance and as an executive board member of the North Texas Regional RAC (NTRAC). He has served as both the chair and treasurer of NTRAC. Ryan is also an active member and past president of the North Texas Regional EMS Provider Association and is a longtime member and current treasurer of Holliday Volunteer Fire and Recue, where he fills dual roles as a volunteer firefighter and paramedic first responder. Ryan serves as the private EMS representative on GETAC.

Kenneth Mattox, MD

Chief of Staff and Surgeon in Chief, Ben Taub Hospital

Dr. Kenneth L. Mattox is a Distinguished Service Professor at Baylor College of Medicine and Chief of Staff and Surgeon-in-Chief at Ben Taub Hospital, where he has worked since 1973. BTH has been at the forefront of surgical critical care, breaking ground with its automated system for the storage and retrieval of laboratory data in 1975. Dr. Mattox helped develop the internationally renowned Ben Taub Hospital Emergency Center and its equally respected Trauma Center.

His reputation as an innovator in trauma care is known worldwide. Dr. Mattox is past President of the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma and Secretary-Treasurer of the Michael E. DeBakey International Surgical Society. He previously chaired the Mayor's Red Ribbon Committee to address Houston Fire Department Emergency Medical Services, and sat on the Hospital Subcommittee of the Mayor's Special Task Force on the Medical Aspects of Disaster.

Currently, Dr. Mattox serves as consultant to the Center for Biologic Evaluation and Research of the FDA. Dr. Mattox has served on the Board of Directors of the Rotary Club of Houston, Doctors' Club of Houston, Wayland Baptist University, the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma, the Southeast Texas Trauma Regional Advisory Council, the American College of Surgeons Board of Governors, and serves as Chairman of the Board of the John P. McGovern Museum for Health & Medical Science.

Brenda McBride

ETMC

Brenda McBride is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Licensed Brain Gym® Instructor, and Registered Parent Educator with over 20 years of experience in mental health with clinical

expertise in the treatment of trauma. She is trained in numerous evidenced-based interventions for the treatment of trauma, including Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR®), Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI®), and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT).

She is the Employee Assistance Director at East Texas Medical Center, and was instrumental in ETMC's retention of a grant, "Healing Our Heroes," which provides PTSD support groups, counseling, and community education forums for first responders in East Texas.

She facilitates a weekly PTSD support group for first responders as well as a PTSD support group for female survivors of sexual trauma. Beginning in August 2017, Ms. McBride will begin a free support group for spouses and significant others of first responders. Ms. McBride serves as an expert witness for local District courts. Ms. McBride serves as a clinical expert in the field of mental health for numerous news and print segments, public forums, and panel discussions. She is the owner of McBride Counseling Solutions, LLC, and conducts psychotherapy with a focus on trauma. She is trained in Tension and Trauma Releasing Exercises (TRE®), and is in the process of becoming the first LCSW in Texas certified in TRE®. Ms. McBride is passionate about helping first responders utilize evidenced-based tools to help heal trauma and restore joy.

Jeff Mincy

EMS Director, Coryell Memorial EMS

Jeff Mincy has served as the EMS director at Coryell Memorial Healthcare System since 2009. He is responsible for five crews of 37 employees that run 450 calls per month. He was selected by the Texas Department of State Health as the 2015 EMS Provider of the Year.

Asbel Montes

VP of Governmental Relations and Reimbursement, Acadian Ambulance

Asbel Montes began his employment with Acadian in May 2009. He oversees Acadian's revenue cycle management, contract management, business office process improvements, and government relations for state and federal reimbursement policy initiatives.

In 1999, Asbel began working for an ambulance billing and consulting firm. After three years, he decided to work for a private, non-emergency ambulance service. Since then, he has provided leadership in revenue cycle management to four ambulance agencies located throughout the Southeast.

Asbel pursued his education the non-traditional way by attending college online while maintaining a fulltime job. He received an associate's degree in accounting in 2007 and graduated in November 2010 with a bachelor's degree in business management.

Asbel has been a member of the American Ambulance Association (AAA) for over ten years and has served on its Board of Directors; he currently is Chair of the Payment Reform Steering Committee. Asbel also sits on the board of the Louisiana Ambulance Alliance. He is a respected thought leader on reimbursement initiatives within the industry and is a requested speaker at many conferences. He has also been asked to testify as an expert witness before federal and state health committees regarding ambulance reimbursement.

Asbel is married to Stephenie Haney-Montes. He has one daughter and resides in Carencro, LA.

Monty Northern

Director of Special Events, Harris County Emergency Corps

Monty Northern serves as the Director of Special Events for Harris County Emergency Corps (HCEC), a position he has held since 2014. With more than 15 years management experience, Monty began his transition into EMS in July 2012 serving as a 911 medic. As Director, Monty oversees the daily operations of the largest event medical standby operation in Houston. Counting NRG Park (Stadium, Center, and Arena), Toyota Center, and BBVA Compass Stadium as well as Rice University, Houston Baptist University, and numerous high schools throughout the Houston area as clients, HCEC provides Event Medical coverage for more than 800 events per year. Under Monty's direction, HCEC has provided medical support for several of the largest events to visit the Houston area in the past three years including the NCAA Men's Regional Finals, NCAA Final Four Men's Championship, Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, and Super Bowl LI.

Along with being certified as an EMT-LP, Monty holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture Economics and Entomology from Texas A&M University.

Butch Oberhoff

Director of Governmental Affairs and Business Development, Acadian Ambulance

Butch Oberhoff grew up in Baton Rouge, while spending summers and holidays in his father's hometown of Rosenberg, Texas. He started as an EMT in 1988 while attending Louisiana State University and worked as a paramedic at Acadian Ambulance before moving into various leadership and governmental relations roles.

Though most of his career has been with Acadian, where he now serves as the Director of Governmental Affairs and Business Development, Butch also spent time as AMR's governmental relations manager in Mississippi.

Butch now resides in San Antonio when he is not at the State Capitol. He is married to Cynthia, a neonatal nurse, and has two children. This year, he was made a permanent member and bass player of the House of Rock and Roll band, which is headed by Chairman Richard Raymond, and includes Chairman Joe Pickett, Representative Bobby Guerra and Representative Pancho Nevarez. The group performs without charge at many legislative events.

Taylor Ratcliff, MD

EMS Medical Director, Cities of Belton, Harker Heights, Copperas Cove and Llano

Dr. Ratcliff started his career in EMS with EMT school in 1995. He subsequently completed his Paramedic training at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in 1999 and worked for Lubbock EMS from 1997 until 2009 and the Lubbock Fire Department from 2002 until 2005. Ratcliff worked as a career Paramedic/Firefighter and ran the City of Lubbock's medical first responder medical program until leaving to start medical school at Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Medicine. He completed Residency training at Scott & White Memorial Hospital in Temple, as part of the Texas A&M Health Science Center. He is presently board certified in Emergency Medicine and a Fellow of the American College of Emergency Physicians.

He currently works as an academic faculty physician in the Department of Emergency Medicine in Temple. Dr. Ratcliff is the division director of Prehospital Medicine and is the EMS Medical Director for the cities of Belton, Harker Heights, Copperas Cove and Llano as well as Temple College. He is the assistant medical director for the Temple based EMS helicopter, PHI Med 1-5. In addition, he provides medical direction for many Bell County first responder organizations, the Bell County Communications center and is the physician medical director for EMTF team 7 in the Central Texas region. Dr. Ratcliff serves on the

Texas Governor's Emergency and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC) education committee and is a site visitor for CoAEMSP.

In addition to spending time with his wonderful family, he volunteers as a Firefighter/Paramedic with the Morgan's Point Resort Fire Department. Dr. Ratcliff's passion continues to be the support of our brave public safety professionals in Texas and furthering the mission of EMS throughout our State. He can be reached at bellcomd3@gmail.com.

Denise Richter
Marketing Manager, Acadian

Denise Richter joined Acadian Ambulance Service in 2010. Based in Austin, she works with the media statewide; handles RFP responses, presentations and proposals; serves as the company's CAAS coordinator; and assists with company-sponsored charitable and civic events.

Before coming to EMS, Denise had been a journalist for 20 years, working at newspapers in Texas, Mississippi, Florida, Oregon, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Louisiana. She spent the last 13 years of her journalism career serving as the editor of three Gannett newspapers, most recently in Lafayette, La. While there, she was named one of Gannett's Top 10 editors for her newspaper's coverage of hurricanes Katrina and Rita. She also saw firsthand the work of Acadian Ambulance, which has its corporate headquarters in Lafayette, and knew that if she ever left newspapers, she wanted to join the Acadian team.

Kristofer Schleicher
General Counsel, MedStar Mobile Healthcare

Kristofer R. Schleicher is an experienced healthcare and risk management attorney. He has represented public and private EMS services for 25 years, along with other healthcare providers and a variety of businesses. He has been General Counsel at MedStar Mobile Healthcare since January of 2016.

His healthcare expertise includes: regulation and delivery of emergency medical services; Medicare/Medicaid audits and disputes; compliance plans; defense in civil and criminal healthcare fraud litigation and qui tam actions; HIPAA compliance; risk management; provider liability defense; professional licensing and disciplinary matters; employment matters; drafting and negotiation of government contracts; contracts between healthcare entities; provider networks and managed care organizations; insurance regulation; government relations; and healthcare legislation. Mr. Schleicher authored legislation that improved reimbursement for healthcare providers and has appeared before many legislative committees to secure funding and protect providers' interests.

Mr. Schleicher has also successfully managed government and public relations teams, authored legislation and regulations in four states for regulated industries (EMS, fire protection, insurance, healthcare), and drafted municipal ordinances, intergovernmental agreements, and municipal charter amendments.

Joseph W. Schmider
Texas EMS Director, Office of EMS/Trauma System Coordination

Joseph W. Schmider is currently the Texas Department of State Health Services and formally the Pennsylvania's Emergency Medical Services Director since January 8, 2005. Joe served as Acting Director for 6 months, and previously as Program Manager within the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services for 2 years within the PA Department of Health.

Joe was the Regional EMS Director for Bucks County for 10 years before accepting a position with the Pennsylvania Department of Health. Joe has served emergency services as a Firefighter with the Warminster Fire Department and a Firefighter/EMT with Dublin Fire Company and Ambulance since 1979. Joe served as Squad Chief for Dublin EMS for 10 years, and trained/certified as a Firefighter, EMT, EMT-Instructor, a HazMat Technician, Rescue Technician, and formerly EMA Director for Bedminster Township.

Jonathan Sell
Chief, Booker EMS

Jonathan Sell has served in various roles including student, EMT, Paramedic, Volunteer, Career, Executive, and Educator in EMS since 2004. Sell owns Innovative Solutions Management, a company focused on providing management and staffing solutions for rural EMS services with an exceptional level of clinical and operational expertise. Sell has served as the Chief of Booker EMS since 2010, and currently serves as a board member of the Texas EMS Alliance. Sell is a Nationally Registered Paramedic with Flight, Critical Care, and Tactical board certifications. Sell holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration/Accounting and is currently pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Clinical Biology.

Mark Smith, JD
Partner, Smith Reed & Armstrong, PLLC

Mark has been a licensed attorney in Texas since 1999. He has worked on both sides of the bar – representing plaintiffs in cases involving employment law, contract disputes, personal injury claims, and other legal matters and businesses as general counsel.

Since 2004, Mark has represented Harris County Emergency Corps (“HCEC”, formerly Harris County Emergency Services District No. 1), a premier EMS agency in Southeast Texas. During that time, he served as Vice President of Administration and General Counsel for the organization of 200+ employees and volunteers and serving more than 400,000 residents of Harris County, Texas. Since returning to private practice, Mark has added a number of small businesses to his growing practice, including Manvel EMS, Angleton Area Emergency Medical Services, Inc., Art & Kustom Kreations, the Wellness Integration Center, Deep South Builders, LLC, and more.

Mark is certified as a Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR) and a Senior Certified Professional (SHRM-SCP), which exemplifies Mark's expertise to help small and mid-size businesses with their employment-related legal and general business issues.

Mark is General Counsel and Secretary of the Board of Directors for Harris County Emergency Corps (a nonprofit 911 EMS agency), General Counsel and Director for the Board of Directors for the Outdoor Association for Texas Heroes, Inc. (OATH) (a nonprofit focused on helping disabled veterans through outdoor recreational activities), General Counsel and Secretary for the Pearland Foundation for the Performing and Visual Arts (a non-profit granting scholarships for students in the fine or performing arts), and General Counsel and Secretary for Aggies Helping Others (a charitable non-profit of former Texas A&M MBA graduates). He is also co-owner of OlsonSmith Solutions, LLC, an emerging IT staffing and consulting firm.

A graduate of Texas A&M University's Mays Business School with an MBA, Mark serves as a class agent and keeps in frequent contact with his classmates.

David Teuscher, MD

Regional Administrator for Intergovernmental & External Affairs, HHS Region 6

David Teuscher, MD was sworn in as the head of the U.S. Department Health and Human Services' Region 6 office in May 2017. Region 6 consists of Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Arkansas, New Mexico, and 68 Indian Tribes. The regional office is based in Dallas, Texas.

Dr. Teuscher is a board-certified orthopaedic surgeon who is a past president of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons and Texas Orthopaedic Association. He retired from his practice at Beaumont Bone and Joint Institute in Beaumont, Texas in December 2016.

After earning his bachelor's degree from the University of Illinois at Champaign/Urbana, and his medical degree from the University of Texas Medical School in San Antonio, Texas, Dr. Teuscher completed his internship and residency at the Brooke Army Medical Center, Fort Sam Houston.

During his 13 years of military service, Dr. Teuscher was deployed to the 144th Evacuation Hospital in northern Saudi Arabia in support of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm and was the chief of surgery at Reynolds Army Community Hospital. He received the Meritorious Service Medal and Distinguished Honor Graduate Flight Surgeon Wings. He entered private practice in 1993, after 13 years of military service, ending his military career as the chief of surgery at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

Keir Vernon

**Compliance Officer & Director of Billing Services & Special Projects,
Harris County Emergency Corps**

Keir Vernon is a licensed paramedic and has worked for the Harris County Emergency Corps since 2008. Since her first job as a dispatcher for Stat Care EMS in 1992, she has served in many roles, both in the office and the field.

Now with over 15 years of management experience in departments such as communications, operations, transfer services, and billing, Keir utilizes her diverse background and expertise to fill the position of Director of Special Projects and acts as the compliance officer at HCEC. She is a former board member of the Greater Houston EMS Council and previous participant in the GETAC Transportation Committee.

Dudley Wait

Executive Director of Public Safety, City of Schertz

Dudley Wait has been employed by the City of Schertz since June, 2001. Until April 2015, he served as the EMS Director for Schertz EMS when he was promoted to his current position as the Executive Director of Public Safety. He has been in the EMS industry since 1985 when he joined the volunteer ambulance service at Texas A&M University. Dudley obtained his bachelor degree in Management in 1992 from Texas A&M and during his time there he also became certified first as an EMT and then as a Paramedic.

Dudley has worked in all types of EMS systems to include volunteer and paid, private and public, city and county, fire based and third service.

After graduating from Texas A&M, Dudley took a position as a paramedic with Sunstar Paramedics in Pinellas County Florida. In his ten year career in Florida, he advanced through a number of positions including field supervisor, Communications Center Manager and finally Operations Manager where he was responsible for the day to day operations of

Sunstar, a large county-wide EMS system that answers over 120,000 requests for service annually.

Since arriving in Schertz in 2001, Dudley has overseen the beginning of a new, fully paid municipal ambulance provider that left its volunteer days behind it a few months before his arrival. In addition, Schertz is situated in an area that has experienced amazing growth and expansion over the last decade. Our population has increased by over 70% and our call volume has grown by 150% and continues to increase approximately 12% a year. We have worked to not only keep up with this rapid increase in demand but to also position ourselves in front of it to appropriately plan for our future.

Dudley is also a big believer in regional collaboration and is actively working to improve the ambulance industry. Dudley currently sits as the Chair of the Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council's EMS Subcommittee, is the Treasurer for our Regional Advisory Council (STRAC) and chairs our regions Cardiac Care Committee where doctors, nurses and EMS personnel have built a regional cardiac care system that is unrivaled in the State.

Dudley met his wife Cindy in Florida and brought her back to Texas with him. They currently have two sons, Zayden and Zachary, who were adopted over the last three years. They also have three "other children" - Sadie, Diesel and Pepper - their English Bulldogs.

Brian Werfel

Werfel & Werfel, PLLC

Brian S. Werfel, Esq. is a partner in Werfel & Werfel, PLLC, a New York based law firm specializing in Medicare issues related to the ambulance industry. Brian is a Medicare Consultant to the American Ambulance Association, and has authored numerous articles on Medicare reimbursement, most recently on issues such as the beneficiary signature requirement, repeat admissions and interrupted stays. He is a frequent lecturer on issues of ambulance coverage and reimbursement. Brian is co-author of the AAA's Medicare Reference Manual for Ambulance, as well as the author of the AAA's HIPAA Reference Manual. Brian is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and the Columbia School of Law. Prior to joining the firm in 2005, he specialized in mergers & acquisitions and commercial real estate at a prominent New York law firm. Werfel & Werfel, PLLC was founded by David M. Werfel, who has been the Medicare Consultant to the American Ambulance Association for over 20 years.

Matt Zavadsky

Director of Public Affairs, Medstar Mobile Healthcare

Matt Zavadsky is the Director of Public Affairs for MedStar Mobile Healthcare in Fort Worth. He has helped guide the implementation of several innovative programs with health care partners that have transformed MedStar fully as a mobile integrated health care provider, including high utilizer, CHF readmission reduction, observational admission reduction, hospice revocation avoidance, 9-1-1 nurse triage programs and a partnership with a home health agency.

Zavadsky also chairs the NAEMT Mobile Integrated Healthcare – Community Paramedicine (MIH-CP) Committee and is the co-author of the book "Mobile Integrated Healthcare – Approach to Implementation" published by Jones & Bartlett Publishing. He has a Master's degree in Healthcare Administrator, with a Graduate Certificate in Healthcare Data Management.