



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).

Chad Carr

Compliance Officer, MedStar Mobile Healthcare

Chad has been a Paramedic for 26 years and is the Compliance Officer and General Counsel Paralegal for the Metropolitan Area EMS Authority in Fort Worth, TX. In this role, Chad is responsible for ensuring system wide compliance with all regulatory requirements, including DEA regulations, and diversion control. Chad is a certified Paralegal through the University of North Texas, and a certified Privacy and Compliance Officer through the National Academy of Ambulance Compliance.

Cameron Decker, MD

Medical Director, Harris County Emergency Corps

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

Dr. Decker is double board-certified in emergency medicine and EMS medicine, 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.

In his free time, Dr. Decker enjoys flying as a pilot, SCUBA diving, and traveling.

Mark Escott, MD

Medical Director, Austin-Travis County EMS

Dr. Escott serves as the EMS System Medical Director for the City of Austin and Travis County, Texas and is an Assistant Professor in the Section of Emergency Medicine at the Baylor College of Medicine. He also is appointed as a Senior Lecturer at Flinders University in Adelaide, Australia. Dr. Escott was elected Chair-elect of the Section of EMS and Prehospital Medicine of the American College of Emergency Physicians in 2015 and serves on the EMS Committee of ACEP. He is Board Certified in Emergency Medicine and Subspecialty Board Certified in EMS. He



has published numerous articles, abstracts, papers, and presentations related to EMS, Disaster Management, and Public Health.

Prior to his position in Austin, Dr. Escott served as the Director of the Division of EMS and Disaster Medicine and EMS Fellowship Director for Baylor College of Medicine, Health Authority for the Montgomery County (Texas) Public Health District and Medical Director for the Montgomery County Hospital District EMS, Harris County ESD #48, and San Jacinto Community College-North. In addition, he served as the Medical Director for the EMS Service and EMS education program at Rice University which he founded as an undergraduate student in 1996 after completing his training as a Firefighter and Paramedic.

Craig Holzheuser
Consultant, Texas EMS Alliance

Craig Holzheuser was hired as TEMSA's lobbyist in February 2017. Prior to his lobbying work, he served as the staff director of the Texas House Public Health Committee for State Representative Myra Crownover. He is a graduate of Texas A&M University and a native of Victoria, Texas.

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.

Jeremy Hyde
President and CEO, Harris County Emergency Corps

Jeremy, an entrepreneur from Wharton, Texas graduated from Texas A&M University with a degree in business. Jeremy became involved in EMS while attending Texas A&M University and was quickly promoted to the campus Assistant EMS Chief. With that role, he led all EMS responsibilities at campus events, including football games with 90,000 spectators at Kyle Field.

After a successful career building several businesses, Jeremy accepted a full-time position with HCESD-1. He was promoted soon after to his current position as CEO of the newly reformed Harris County Emergency Corps. During his tenure at HCEC, Jeremy has led the efforts to remain a fiscally sound organization focused on high-quality care. He has changed the organization to be diversified, providing services to multiple EMS and Fire agencies in the Houston area, leading the efforts in creating the Community Health Paramedic Program, and sharing his expertise of large events with the HCEC staff and vendors.

Tami Kayea
Dallas Fire-Rescue

Tami Kayea has been a firefighter and paramedic with Dallas Fire Rescue Department for 21 years. She has her Master's Degree in Management and Leadership and is a graduate of the Executive Fire Officer Program. She came up through the ranks and has served as a Battalion Chief for 8 years. She currently serves as Battalion 1 which is stationed downtown and is the busiest Battalion in the city. She was in command of EMS and fire operations on July 7, 2016 when 12 Police Officers were shot, 5 of them fatally, during an active shooting event.

Emily Kidd, MD

Dr. Emily Kidd was born and raised in San Antonio, Texas. She attended Texas A&M University and the University of Texas Medical School at Houston. She did her residency training in



emergency medicine at Pitt County Memorial Hospital with the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina. She did her fellowship in EMS with the Houston Fire Department and Baylor College of Medicine. She is double-board certified in Emergency Medicine and EMS.

Dr. Kidd has practiced emergency medicine in Houston and San Antonio for 17 years, and pre-hospital (EMS) medicine for 13 years. She has served as an Assistant Medical Director for the Houston Fire Department (HFD), and Assistant and Interim Medical Director for the San Antonio Fire Department (SAFD), where she directed the clinical implementation of the SAFD Mobile Integrated Healthcare (MIH) program and the SAFD Medical Special Operations Unit (MSOU). She is currently the Texas Medical Director for Acadian Ambulance, where she provides clinical oversight for all medical care delivered by Acadian medical personnel across the state.

Dr. Kidd is very involved in disaster preparedness and public health and medical emergency management, and has been involved in field response and medical direction during Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Gustav, Ike, and Harvey, as well as the 2009 H1N1 pandemic, 2014 Ebola event, and the West, Texas explosion. She has been a sitting committee member on the Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC) Disaster and Emergency Preparedness Committee since its inception as a Task Force in 2006. She is the Medical Director for the State of Texas Emergency Medical Task Force (EMTF). In addition, Dr. Kidd is a council member of the Federal Emergency Management Agency National Advisory Council (FEMA NAC), and she is the Project Director for the Texas Disaster Medical System (TDMS), an ESF-8 coordination and collaboration project among Texas emergency medical and public health responders and the Texas Department of State Health Services.

Dr. Kidd is married to Nim Kidd, Assistant Director of the Texas Department of Public Safety and the Chief of the Texas Division of Emergency Management. They have 3 children and 1 granddaughter.

W. Nim Kidd
Chief, Texas Division of Emergency Management

W. Nim Kidd serves as the Chief of the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM). In this capacity, he is responsible for the state's emergency preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation activities. Response activities also encompass field response and daily operations to include statewide alert monitoring, management of the AMBER and Silver Alert programs, and the processing of daily requests for assistance from local jurisdictions.

His appointment as Chief of Emergency Management and Assistant Director for the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) began on June 1, 2010. During his tenure, the state has managed 12 Stafford Act presidential disaster declarations, 2 Stafford Act emergency declarations, 58 Fire Management Assistance Grants (FMAG), and over \$6 billion in federal disaster funds.

Prior to serving with DPS, Chief Kidd was appointed to the San Antonio Fire Department (SAFD) in April of 1993. During his time with the SAFD, he was promoted through the ranks from firefighter to District Fire Chief, including Lieutenant in charge of the SAFD Technical Rescue Team and Captain of the SAFD Hazardous Materials Response Team. From 2004 to 2010, Chief Kidd served as Emergency Manager for the city of San Antonio, where he managed the city's response to over a dozen state and presidential disaster declarations.

Since 1997, Chief Kidd has been an original member of the Texas Task Force 1 Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Team and responded to the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Center.

Chief Kidd currently serves as a subcommittee chair for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Advisory Council (NAC), a group that advises the FEMA Administrator on all aspects of emergency management nationwide. Chief Kidd also serves as a Certified



Emergency Manager (CEM) Commissioner with the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM). In this capacity, he is responsible for reviewing and making recommendations on applications for certification and recertification.

Chief Kidd holds a Masters of Public Administration from Texas State University, a bachelor's degree from Texas A&M University-Commerce, and two associates degrees. He is both a Certified Emergency Manager (CEM®) and a certified Texas Emergency Manager (TEM®). Chief Kidd is also a Texas Master Firefighter and holds Hazardous Materials and Emergency Medical Technician certifications.

Chief Kidd and his wife, Dr. Emily Kidd, M.D., share three children together.

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.

Brenda McBride
UT Health East Texas

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.

Jeff Morris
Assistant Fire Chief, Eules Fire Department

Jeff Morris has served as the assistant fire chief for the Eules Fire Department since 2000. He received an undergraduate degree in Emergency Management Administration from West Texas



A&M University and is currently pursuing his Master's in Public Administration from Texas Tech University.

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.

Ernesto Rodriguez

EMS Chief, Austin-Travis County

Ernesto Rodriguez has over 36 years of experience in emergency medical services including fire service, statewide, private sector, and municipal third service models. Ernesto currently serves as Chief of EMS at Austin-Travis County EMS in Austin Texas. Chief Rodriguez holds a bachelor degree from West Texas A&M University and a Masters degree from Liberty University.

Chief Rodriguez is one of six Improvement Advisors in the nation specializing Improvement Science in emergency medical services through the Institute for Healthcare Improvement. He is a founding member of the Texas EMS Alliance (TEMSA) and serves on TEMSA's board.

Chief Rodriguez is serving as a member of the EMS Agenda 2050 project. As one of ten members of the Agenda 2050 Technical Expert Panel, Chief Rodriguez is playing a pivotal role along with experts from across the nation in capturing the future vision of the EMS industry.

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.

Brent Smith

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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 in 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.