

**SURGEONS GARDNER, RASMUSSEN AND VENTICINQUE JOIN
NATIONAL TRAUMA INSTITUTE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

San Antonio, Tex. (August 11, 2011) – Angela Gardner, MD, FACEP; Todd Rasmussen, MD, FACS; and Steven Venticinque, MD, join the Board of Directors of the National Trauma Institute for three-year terms beginning this month.

The incoming board members are surgeons and researchers, all selected for their experience and expertise in trauma care and research. Dr. Angela Gardner is Assistant Professor, Division of Emergency Medicine, Department of Surgery, at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas. Lt. Col. Todd Rasmussen is Deputy Commander, US Army Institute of Surgical Research, Ft. Sam Houston, Texas. And Dr. Steven Venticinque, a critical care anesthesiologist, is Associate Professor, Department of Surgery at the University of Texas Health Science Center—San Antonio, as well as Medical Co-Director of the SICU at Audie L. Murphy VA Hospital in San Antonio.

The National Trauma Institute (NTI) assembles public and private resources to support trauma research across the country, sets a national trauma research agenda, and supports military and civilian innovation and collaboration in trauma care and research. NTI's Board of Directors is responsible for directing the organization's research priorities and raising awareness among key constituencies about the need for an increased investment in trauma research.

“These three newest Board members are already assets not just to NTI but to the national community of trauma providers and more importantly, to all the patients that they care for,” said Sharon Smith, NTI's executive director.

Since 2008, the organization has awarded \$4 million to 16 studies now taking place in 20 states. NTI's next trauma conference, to be held in May 2012 in San Antonio, will focus on recent advances in trauma and offer the first insights gleaned from its funded studies. Learn more about NTI at www.nationaltraumainstitute.org.

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