



2021 Patty Brown Award

The Patty Brown Innovation Award recognizes an individual or team that contributes to advancing health care in Maryland. Recipients of this award demonstrate innovation in how they engage and collaborate with people and organizations across the health care continuum. They are strategic thinkers and have led others in adopting pragmatic solutions with health information technology. Above all, their approaches are mission-driven and always aim to support better health outcomes for our patients and communities.

This year's award goes to: The Critical Care Coordination Center (C4) Leadership Team

The Critical Care Coordination Center (C4) Leadership Team of the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS) established a multi-institutional statewide critical care coordination center staffed 24/7 by a state Central Intensivist Physician and a Critical Care Coordinator to ensure that all adults in the state of Maryland receive appropriate critical care services. The health care team of Alex Kelly, NRP; Andrew Naumann, NRP; Melissa Haut-Kelly, NRP; Dwayne Kitis, NRP; Dr. Theodore Delbridge (MIEMSS Executive Director), Dr. Thomas Scalea (UMMS System Chief for Critical Care / Director, Program in Trauma, University of Maryland), Dr. Jennifer Anders (C4 Pediatric Medical Director) and Dr. Sam Galvagno (C4 Medical Director) lead these efforts.

This program, the Critical Care Coordination Center (C4), started during the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic but evolved rapidly to include all critical care requests from standalone EDs, remote ICUs, and ICUs requiring upgraded services, such as ECMO or other advanced critical care support. The program relies on CRISP to access patient records, enabling real-time medical direction, consultation, and transport coordination.

To date, the C4 program has provided expert critical care consultation for over 2,000 adult and pediatric patients. In October 2021, pediatric critical care consultation services were added. The program has helped 60 patients receive ECMO and was able to provide consultation for over 42% of patients who ultimately did not require transfer to a higher level of care. The C4 has placed patients in PA, DC, VA, DE, WV, and VA, and recently handled two international repatriation consultations from Honduras and the Dominican Republic. The C4 serves as a model for a tiered regional system to ensure that the demand for critical care services may be met during a pandemic and beyond.

We would like to congratulate the C4 Leader Team on their exemplary work within the community and thank everyone who had submitted nominations this year. We are proud to see so many CRISP participants contributing to the healthcare community in such innovative and transformative ways!