

Meet the Sierra Vista Trauma Team Leaders

Popular TV programs like "ER" have educated a generation of viewers about the demands placed on a hospital's Emergency Room. And while Sierra Vista has the good fortune to be in a rural community rather than a gritty urban setting, the hospital still tackles the same challenge of being ready for any emergency 24 hours a day.

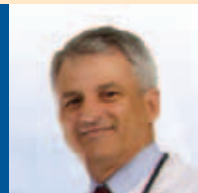
With Sierra Vista, our community has an Emergency and Trauma Services Department that represents the best of both worlds: a team of professionals who have trained at prestigious medical facilities in urban areas – and have now brought their talents to the Central Coast.



Dr. Scott Bisheff
Medical Director,
Emergency Services Department

Dr. Scott Bisheff is the medical director of the Emergency Services Department at Sierra Vista Regional Medical Center. Dr. Bisheff is a native of San Diego who completed his undergraduate and medical school training at UCLA. He learned fast-paced, life-saving medicine during his residency in Southern California.

He jumped at the chance to bring his expertise to the Central Coast where he could practice sophisticated emergency medicine in a family friendly community.



Dr. Paul Georghiou
Emergency Services Physician

Dr. Paul Georghiou is a familiar face in the local community and at Sierra Vista, where he has been an emergency room physician for 20 years. The UCLA Medical School graduate has an extensive resume in emergency medicine and has published numerous articles on the subject. He is the former Chief of Staff for Sierra Vista and also served as a member of the hospital's governing board.

Dr. Georghiou is not only proficient in medicine, but also speaks French, Greek and Spanish in addition to English. He is a pilot and has flown to Mexico with medical mission groups.



Georgette Sabota, RN
Emergency Services Director

Emergency Services Director Georgette Sabota, RN, oversees the operations of an Emergency Department that assists more than 22,000 patients every year. The University of Arizona graduate brings 22 years of critical care and flight nursing experience to her position.

Ms. Sabota was most recently the Nurse Manager, Critical Care Services at St. Mary's Regional Medical Center in Reno, Nevada, where she managed three intensive care units as well as a 29-bed Telemetry/Intermediate Care Unit. Prior to that, she was the Nurse Director, Emergency Services at Shasta Regional Medical Center in Redding.

In addition to her demanding post at Sierra Vista, she serves as a member of Trauma System Committee for the SLO County Emergency Medical Services Association.



Sue Fortier, RN, MS, CNS
Trauma Program Manager

As the Trauma Program Manager at Sierra Vista, Sue Fortier ensures that Sierra Vista's high standards and requirements are maintained from a patient's initial arrival to the emergency room, to the moment the patient is released to go home. The University of California, San Francisco master's graduate brings 29 years of nursing experience to her position.

Prior to her role as Trauma Program Manager, Ms. Fortier was the Emergency Department Director for Exeter Health Resources in New Hampshire. In addition to her position at Sierra Vista, she is a member of the Emergency Nurses Association and the American Association of Critical Care Nurses. She was recently published in the Journal of Emergency Nursing for a case review on Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome in Trauma.

When Every Second Counts.

SIERRA VISTA EMERGENCY & TRAUMA CARE

A Conversation with Dr. Howard Hayashi, Dr. Phillip Kissel and Dr. Stephen Tidik

These three prominent surgeons in San Luis Obispo County want to help Central Coast residents understand why a county trauma system plan will raise the level of care in our community and why a system with a designated trauma center can improve patient outcomes.



1 What is Trauma?
Trauma is a significant public health problem. It is the fourth leading cause of death among Americans of all ages, and the leading cause of death for children and young adults. From a social perspective trauma results in more years of productive life lost than heart disease, cancer, and stroke combined. Many traumatic injuries and deaths are preventable.

2 What is a Trauma System?
A trauma system is an organized, coordinated effort to provide a wide range of specialty health care services to injured people within a community or region. The primary goal of a trauma system is to reduce injury-related death and chronic illness that often results from the injury.

Trauma systems can save lives by addressing all aspects of trauma care – from injury to emergency care, through hospitalization and recovery. These systems rely on input of public health agencies, volunteer groups, hospitals, emergency responders and others to help find ways to improve care and prevent injury. Trauma systems are also essential in the event of a local, regional or statewide disaster.

3 Why is San Luis Obispo County developing a Trauma System Plan?
Ours is the only county in the state that does not have a trauma system plan. The San Luis Obispo Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) appointed a subcommittee of local citizens and emergency care providers to develop a trauma system plan and to make recommendations to the EMSA Board. The plan is near completion, and is due to be presented to the EMSA Board in the near future.

4 What did the subcommittee recommend?
The subcommittee started by using research information and the recommendations made by an independent consultant hired by EMSA. The report studied the way trauma care is currently handled in SLO County. The consultant's report, accepted by the EMSA Board, recommended the county establish a trauma system that includes the development of one "Level II" hospital.

5 What is a "Level II Trauma Center"?
Trauma centers are designated hospitals that serve as the backbone of the trauma system. A Level II refers to a hospital that is able to provide a wider range of specialty care to injured patients. Level II trauma centers are designed, equipped and staffed to care for severely injured patients such as those with multiple injuries, traumatic brain injury or spinal injury. They are not designed to treat every injury, regardless of severity.

6 Does SLO County have the capability of a "Level II" hospital?
Sierra Vista is the only hospital in SLO County that is positioned to apply for a Level II designation. Sierra Vista has the county's only neurosurgery program, and the largest panel of specialists available to the Emergency Room.

7 But in the case of traumatic injury, isn't it best to always get to the nearest hospital?
Sometimes the closest hospital is the right choice – but sometimes a stop at one hospital can actually delay specialized treatment urgently needed by the patient. A better approach is to create a trauma system in which every hospital and every prehospital emergency provider in our county is trained to know how to get a patient to the most appropriate care, using criteria set by EMSA. This criteria is designed to improve patient outcomes by getting trauma victims quickly to the most appropriate facility. San Luis Obispo County is fortunate to have four outstanding hospitals in our county: Arroyo Grande Community Hospital, French Hospital, Twin Cities and Sierra Vista. However, only Sierra Vista offers the level of specialized care necessary for Level II trauma status.

8 If every traumatic injury goes to Sierra Vista, it sounds like we don't need four Emergency Rooms.
Every traumatic injury will not go to Sierra Vista – only those cases that meet the criteria set by EMSA will go to Sierra Vista. Physicians appreciate the role all our hospitals play in our community, and we are not seeking to change

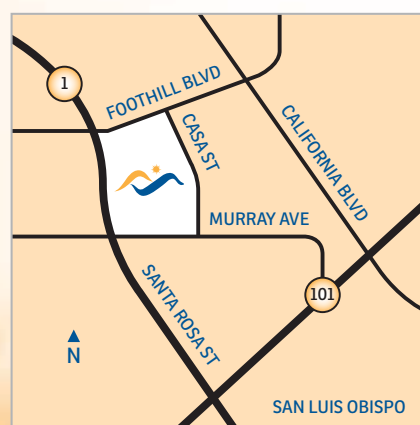
that. Our goal is to ensure that trauma patients can be treated or moved to an operating room with a qualified surgeon as quickly as possible. We believe the community agrees on the importance of this goal.

9 If one Level II Trauma Center is good, why isn't a Level II and a Level III or two Level III centers better?
Trauma Systems are structured according to several factors. The primary factor is the number of patients within a defined geographic area. Due to San Luis Obispo County's relatively low number of trauma cases each year when compared to other areas in California, one Level II hospital within a trauma system was recommended by the consultant. In trauma, research has indicated that patient outcomes are improved when a greater number of seriously injured patients are taken to one facility.

The second factor involves the expense that is incurred by an organization that is committed to investing additional financial resources into developing a Trauma Center. This includes a comprehensive physician on-call panel, additional staffing, equipment, education and training, as well as data collection and reporting. The needs of a trauma patient are complex and often require multiple resources. For example, a patient who is involved in a motor vehicle accident may require the specialties of general surgery, orthopedics and neurosurgery. The concentration of resources at one facility ensures a consistent, widespread approach in improving patient outcomes. A community trauma program needs to be self-supporting in order to be successful over the long term. The creation of too many designated trauma facilities within a defined area with relatively few patients has resulted in the failure of programs throughout the United States. We do not want this to occur in San Luis Obispo.

10 Will I still find the same quality of care that I have come to rely on from the emergency room closest to my house?
We are very fortunate to have excellent emergency care close to home throughout San Luis Obispo County. All four of our local emergency departments will continue to serve the needs of their local communities. Our hospitals, ER doctors, specialists and intensive care doctors are committed to this. However, when someone is severely injured, we will also have the additional resources of a trauma center.

11 Where are our next steps?
For more than 35 years, Sierra Vista has dedicated itself to the community and the care of trauma patients through San Luis Obispo County. The hospital has continued its commitment to trauma care by investing in additional talent, trauma-related education and specialized equipment. This is all part of a continuing commitment to improve trauma care and to prepare for designation as a Level II Trauma Center. The next step is to obtain County and State approval for the Trauma System Plan and to move forward with the trauma designation process – for the future of our children and our community.



1010 Murray Avenue, San Luis Obispo
For a physician referral call (800) 483-6387
SierraVistaRegional.com



SIERRA VISTA
REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

When Every Second Counts

Sierra Vista Trauma & Emergency Services

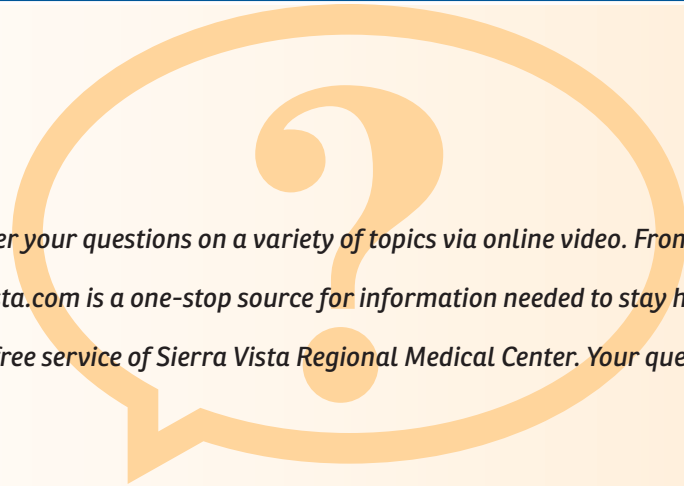
Is it really an emergency? From a simple earache to a catastrophic injury, Sierra Vista's emergency room and trauma specialists are ready to treat you 24/7.

Exceptional people. Exceptional facilities.
Exceptional service.

HEROICS
HAPPEN
HERE
EVERY
DAY

What Is AskSierraVista.com?

Sierra Vista Regional Medical Center's professionals answer your questions on a variety of topics via online video. From heart attack risk to tips on keeping your home germ free, www.AskSierraVista.com is a one-stop source for information needed to stay healthy in your busy life. The site is updated regularly. AskSierraVista.com is a free service of Sierra Vista Regional Medical Center. Your questions are welcome.



There's A Reason We Call It "Comprehensive Care."

Sierra Vista already offers Central Coast residents a long list of specialties and services, and our campus is expanding in 2009 to better serve you. We've been part of the local landscape for 50 years and we're getting ready for the next half century. Call (800) 483-6387 for a referral to a physician for any of the services provided at Sierra Vista Regional Medical Center.

Women's Services

The Birth Center
Bone Density Screening
Breast Care Center
Family-Centered Maternity
High-Risk Pregnancy Care

Emergency Services

Emergency Room
Neurological Diagnostics
& Surgical Services
Trauma Services

Cardiac

Cardiac Catheterization
Non-invasive Cardiac Testing

Infants & Children

Neonatal Intensive Care Unit
Dedicated Pediatrics Unit
Pediatric Specialists

Imaging & Outpatient

64-Slice CT Scanner
Complete Radiology Services
Four Convenient Lab Locations
Neurological Diagnostic
Services
Outpatient Surgery
Respiratory Therapy

Inpatient & Outpatient Surgery

General Surgery
Gynecologic
Neurosurgery
Oncology
& Gynecologic Oncology
Orthopedic
Urology

Your Health. Our Greatest Reward.

Patients are the top priority at Sierra Vista Regional Medical Center, where we are committed to quality care.

We don't do it for the accolades, but when prestigious national organizations recognize our work in the last year, we think that's news worth sharing.

American Heart Association

Gold Performance Award,
Heart Failure
Gold Performance Award,
Coronary Artery Disease

National Research Corporation

Consumer Choice Award
(San Luis Obispo/Paso Robles)

CIGNA Quality Award

Laparoscopic Gall
Bladder Removal
Hip Replacement
Spinal Fusion
Vaginal Delivery

CIGNA Center of Excellence

Spinal Fusion

UnitedHealth Premium Specialty Center

Spine
Cardiology

US Department of Health & Human Services

Organ Donation Medal
of Honor


SIERRA VISTA
REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

1010 Murray Avenue, San Luis Obispo
For a physician referral call (800) 483-6387
SierraVistaRegional.com



Call today to receive a
FREE First-Aid Kit.
Quantities Limited
(800) 483-6387