

**Norman E. McSwain, Jr., MD, FACS**, was born in the hill country of Northern Alabama, half hillbilly and half redneck. He finished high school at Albertville High, went to college at The University of The South in Sewanee, Tennessee. Since a Cub Scout he knew that a physician and a surgeon. He chose to return to Alabama at the University of Alabama, School of Medicine to learn medicine under Dr Tinsley Harrison (of *Harrison's Textbook of Medicine* fame) and Dr. Champ Lyons, in Surgery. Following graduation, he completed two years of surgical training at Bowman-Gray School of Medicine in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, then joined the Air Force (Berry Plan) and under the tutelage of Dr. Kermit Vandenbos performed more than a thousand surgical procedures before he went to Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta to finish his initial education as a surgeon. He acquired more education about true patient care as a partner in private practice with Dr. Harrison Rogers (who later became President of the American Medical Association) for three years in Atlanta before he joined the clinical and academic faculty at the University of Kansas in Kansas City. While at the KUMC, he was given the responsibility of EMS education and system development for the State of Kansas. When he was recruited four years later to Tulane University School of Medicine, Department of Surgery, and Charity Hospital, he left behind 90% of the population of Kansas covered by paramedic quality care within ten minutes and one out of every five hundred Kansans (including the entire Kansas Highway Patrol) trained as an EMT- basic.

He joined the academic and clinical faculty at Tulane, but his main interest was in Charity Hospital and pre-hospital patient care. He came to New Orleans because he considered Charity Hospital to be one of the three most important trauma centers in the United States. After arriving in New Orleans and along with his work at Charity Hospital, he was recruited by the City of New Orleans to develop an EMS system for the city. He initiated both the EMT-Basic and EMT-Paramedic training within the New Orleans Police Department and a Citywide EMS System.

During this time he was recruited to the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma to assist in the development of the Advanced Trauma Life Support program. To fill the gap in the trauma team he worked with the ACS/COT and the National Association of EMTs to develop the Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support program. Today, PHTLS has trained over half a million people in 45 countries. It is considered to be the world standard for pre-hospital trauma care. He has worked with the military and the Department of Defense to develop the Tactical Combat Casualty Care program for military medics.

Dr. McSwain is the only person in the history of the American College of Surgeons to receive all five of the major trauma awards:

- Committee on Trauma, Meritorious Achievement Award for State/Provincial Chairs, 2001
- Scudder Orator, 2001
- Committee on Trauma Millennium Commitment Award, 2000
- Surgeon's Award for Service to Safety, National Safety Council, 1998
- Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) Meritorious Service Award, Committee on Trauma, 1989

For the past 30 years, he has provided care to severely injured police officers at Charity Hospital and while at Tulane, he has written or revised more than 25 textbooks, published more than 360 articles and traveled throughout the world giving more than 800 presentations. He has lectured in all of the 50 states, all provinces in Canada, most of the countries in Europe, most of the countries

in Central America, and the upper part of South America. Japan, China, Australia, and New Zealand have also been places to which he has been invited to give lectures.

The major factors in these accomplishments have been the opportunity to see and care for patients and to learn and teach at Charity Hospital. Charity Hospital, until Hurricane Katrina, was considered by most to be one of the five top trauma centers in the United States. Charity Hospital continues to train medical students, residents and fellows in the skills and knowledge required to manage severely injured patients.