

Research in EMS

(Monday, Sept. 15th – Track C)

Research in EMS must tackle several burning problems and questions. Among the most important issues are:

- ◆ It is still unclear today whether 15 minutes more or less of prehospital medical treatment has a positive effect on a range of outcome variables. Modern EMS systems are expensive and have been introduced throughout the world, but their effectiveness is supported by scant scientific evidence. This is why research into EMS systems is urgently needed.
- ◆ There are significant differences between the approach to EMS research and traditional medical research. New methodological approaches, such as system-orientated research and risk-adjustment measurements, must be further developed.
- ◆ Suitable alternatives to RCTs exist and should be further developed. Epidemiologists would be of assistance here.
- ◆ Agreement on clear definitions, standard data elements and severity scoring for trauma and non-trauma-conditions as well as their routine use throughout the world are urgently necessary.
- ◆ Clarifying many questions with regard to EMS systems cannot be left to chance. An internationally recognized research agenda with prioritization and adaptation to regional requirements would be of great assistance here.

PD Dr. Joseph J. Osterwalder MPH

Head of Emergency Department

Cantonal Hospital St.Gallen

Rorschacherstrasse 97

CH-9007 St.Gallen

Tel.: ++41 71 494 36 00

Fax: ++41 71 494 28 07

e-mail: joseph.osterwalder@kssg.ch