

## **NTI Provides Public Evidence of Need to Close Trauma Research Gap**

(San Antonio, TX, May 16, 2011) NTI's Executive Director Sharon Smith provided a public statement before the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) Board of Governors Meeting held in New York on May 16, 2011. PCORI is an independent organization created to help patients, clinicians, purchasers and policy makers make better informed health decisions. [Read More...](#)

In her comments, Smith outlined the case for making trauma a national research priority and providing research funding for advancements in trauma practice. While trauma is the number one cause of death in Americans aged 1-44 years and the second most expensive public health problem, there is little public funding for it. The National Trauma Institute is the first to establish a national trauma research agenda and the only organization whose mission is to raise public and private funding for general trauma research. "Fifty years of dedicated research into proper diagnosis and treatment of leukemia has led to an 80 percent reduction in the death rate," she pointed out. "Imagine even a five percent reduction in trauma deaths, injuries and economic burden—this would save the United States \$35 billion, prevent 1.5 million injuries and save 9,000 lives *every year*."

The PCORI Board of Governors is chaired by Eugene Washington, MD, MSc, the Vice Chancellor of UCLA Health Sciences and Dean of the David Geffen School of Medicine at the University of California Los Angeles and members include Francis S. Collins, MD, PhD, Director of the National Institutes of Health; Robert Jesse, MD, PhD, Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Health, Department of Veterans Affairs; CEOs of several healthcare and pharmaceutical firms; leaders of health-related nonprofits; and physicians and researchers from medical education institutions across the United States.

Once it is fully funded, PCORI will commission research that is responsive to the values and interests of patients and will provide patients and their caregivers with reliable, evidence-based information for the health care choices they face. To learn more, visit [www.pcori.org](http://www.pcori.org).