



Research Could Improve Survival Rates from Traumatic Injury

The Medic One Foundation recently awarded its first grant from the W. Hunter Simpson Fund for Research & Development in Pre-Hospital Emergency Care. The grant of \$106,291 will support research in cellular oxygenation in cases of traumatic shock.

The research is being led by Kenneth A. Schenkman, M.D., Ph.D., Medical Director of the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit at Seattle Children's. Dr. Schenkman is also an attending pediatric intensive care physician at Harborview Medical Center.

Dr. Schenkman explains, "Traumatic shock remains a major cause of death, despite significant advances in resuscitation, both in pre-hospital and hospital settings. This grant will allow us to study a new, non-invasive method to assess how well oxygen is getting into the cells of the body."

The grant will focus on the development of a new monitor that uses ordinary light to assess cellular oxygenation, and that alerts clinicians when a person's circulation is not providing enough oxygen to the cells in the body. "With earlier detection and more rapid and appropriate treatment of shock, survival rates from traumatic injuries should be greatly improved," Dr. Schenkman adds.

Graham Nichol, M.D., who chaired the Research Grant Review Committee, says, "This grant is a true reflection of the spirit and purpose behind the W. Hunter Simpson Fund. Hunter was a strong advocate for research and understood its critical role in developing cutting-edge technology in healthcare."