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## Correspondencia

# University of Washington School of Medicine

March 7, 2004

**To the members of the Asociación Mexicana de Medicina y Cirugía del Trauma:**

It is with pleasure that I write this letter regarding the Essential Trauma Care Project. I would like to invite your participation in this important global initiative to strengthen the care of injured worldwide. The Essential Trauma Care Project is a joint endeavour of the World Health Organization (OMS) and the International Association for the Surgery of Trauma and Surgical Intensive Care (IATSIC), which is an integrated society within the broader International Society of Surgery.

The Project has developed a set of *Guidelines for Essential Trauma Care*, which lay out the elements of human resources (staffing and training), physical resources (supplies and equipment) and organization & administration that should be in place in hospitals and clinics of different levels in countries around the world. As far as we can tell, it is the first time that such a global delineation of the resources necessary for trauma care has been undertaken. We feel that these guidelines will assist in strengthening care of injured persons in every environment worldwide. Further details of this project are described in the article in this month's issue of *Trauma: La Urgencia Medica de Hoy*.

However, the guidelines are only meaningful if they are useful to professionals caring for injured patients in their own countries. We hope that the guidelines will be useful for members of organizations, such as

the AMMCT, in their efforts to promote sustainable and affordable improvements in the resources devoted to trauma care in their own countries. Thus, the true foundation of the Essential Trauma Care Project is the partners in countries around the world. Thus far, several societies and groups in countries on almost every continent have been involved. One of the most active and prominent of these is the AMMCT. When I attended the annual meeting in Puebla in August, 2003, I asked if your association would like to participate in the Essential Trauma Care Project. I received an incredibly enthusiastic, energetic, and positive reply from both your leadership and membership. In the months that have followed I have been impressed to see the dedication and fortitude with which the members of the AMMCT have worked to utilize the Essential Trauma Care Project in their own ongoing efforts to strengthen trauma care in Mexico. I have informed people in other countries about the AMMCT's efforts as an example of what can be done in this project. I would like to continue to work with you on this important effort and look forward to continued success in helping our fellow human beings who become unfortunate victims of trauma, the neglected disease of modern society.

Sincerely yours,  
Charles Mock, MD, PhD, FACS  
Chair, IATSIC Working Group for Essential Trauma Care

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