



# The Global Tracheostomy Collaborative: A Multi-Disciplinary Quality Improvement Initiative

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**Background:** The Global Tracheostomy Collaborative (GTC) was founded in 2012 by Dr David Roberson, ENT Specialist at Boston Children's Hospital and Harvard, as a world first international multi-disciplinary Quality Improvement Collaborative (QIC). The GTC aims to improve outcomes in paediatric and adult tracheostomy care. Tracheostomy experts from leading institutions around the world were invited to participate. Dr Brendan McGrath, National Tracheostomy Safety Project is the UK lead. Austin Health's Tracheostomy Review and Management Service (TRAMS) and the Royal Children's Hospital were invited to participate as lead Australasian sites.

**Key drivers are:**

1. Patient and family participation
2. Multi-disciplinary tracheostomy care teams
3. Institution wide tracheostomy policies and protocols
4. Coordinated interdisciplinary education for all providers
5. HIPAA-compliant tracheostomy database to track and benchmark outcomes among member hospitals

**Aim:** To report on the process, outcomes and future directions of this tracheostomy quality collaborative.

**Method:** Creation of governance and committee structure, mission and vision, website, a HIPAA-compliant Tracheostomy Database, International Launch Meetings, International Tracheostomy Symposiums (ITS) and ongoing global recruitment.

**Results:**

**Governance:** Volunteer based Board of Directors, Steering Committee and 7 Sub-Committees. Not for profit status established in the USA 501(c)(3). **Membership categories** created 1. Patient and Families 2. Health Care Professionals 3. Hospitals.

**Mission:** To ensure best possible care for every tracheostomy patient in the world. **Vision:** Safe care for all patients who have a tracheostomy through eliminating preventable harm.

**Website:** [www.globaltrach.org](http://www.globaltrach.org)

**Data Collection:** A HIPAA-compliant REDCap database has facilitated data entry across 45 member hospitals. Reports are generated with data from all institutions. Each institutions can also create data reports. **Figures 1 & 2.**

**Results cont.**

**International Launch Meetings:** 1570 individuals from 125 institutions attended in Boston 2013 and 2014, London 2014, Melbourne 2014, Baltimore 2016 and Milan 2016. 1000 individuals from over 20 countries attended virtually. Disciplines attended included Otolaryngology, Anaesthesia, Critical Care, Pulmonology, Respiratory Therapy, Physiotherapy, Speech Pathology, Nursing, Social Work and Hospital Management.

**International Tracheostomy Symposiums (ITS):**

2011 – Inaugural ITS, Melbourne Australia at Austin Health - 420 attendees  
 2014 – 2<sup>nd</sup> ITS, Melbourne Australia at Austin Health - 1290 attendees  
 2016 – 3<sup>rd</sup> ITS, Baltimore, USA at John's Hopkins Medical Centre -350 attendees  
 2018 – 4<sup>th</sup> ITS, 2-3<sup>rd</sup> Feb in Dallas, Texas at UT Southwestern Medical Centre

**GTC Webinar Series:** Online global participation, expert multi-disciplinary presenters, robust discussions, international audiences, wide range of topics across populations and continuum of care. 8 webinars to date. **Figures 3 & 4.**

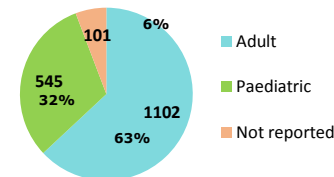
**Membership:** 91 patients/families; 608 health care professionals; 45 hospitals including those from the United Kingdom, United States, Australia, Sweden, Singapore, Canada, Qatar, New Zealand, Belgium, Brazil, Ireland, Taiwan, Germany, Portugal and Spain.

**Patients and Families:** Patients and their families are integral to the GTC . At each of the International Launch Meetings there were patient and family forums. These provided an opportunity for patients and families to connect, share their story and for clinicians to learn from the patients' experiences. A GTC Patient and Family Newsletter increases awareness of tracheostomy care, highlights patient stories and encourages GTC membership.

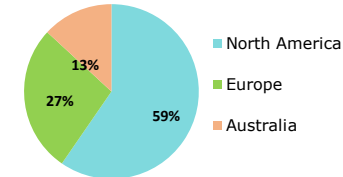
**Significance of the Findings for Allied Health:** This world first multi-disciplinary Global Tracheostomy Collaborative has strong allied health leadership and membership. Allied health are key to this specialist healthcare community and are promoting best tracheostomy care worldwide.



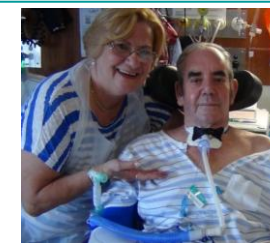
**Figure 1 – Adult and Paediatric Cases**



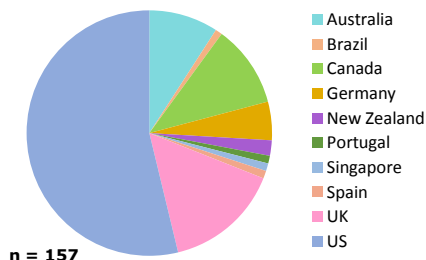
**Figure 2 – Data entry across continents**



n = 1748

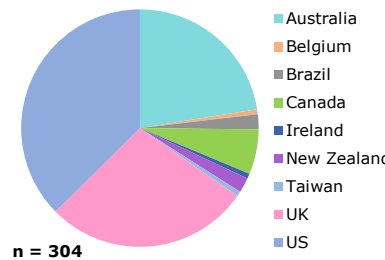


**Figure 3 – Paediatric Decannulation Webinar Attendance – January 2017**



n = 157

**Figure 4 – Adult Decannulation Webinar Attendance – March 2017**



n = 304

**Future Directions:** Patients, families and health professionals continue to collaborate to ensure improved safety and quality of tracheostomy care worldwide.

**Acknowledgement:** Thank you very much to all of the GTC volunteers, Steering Committee members, patients and families who have contributed countless hours to the GTC.