

**TRB EMS Subcommittee ANB10(5)**

# **EMS Safety Summit 2012**

## **Safety Systems, Strategies and Solutions**

**Summit Wrap up**

**Professor Arthur Cooper, Columbia University,  
New York**

February 29<sup>th</sup> , 2012

# Wrap Up

- If you think we don't have an EMS system in the United States...
- Just try to change it!
- In fact, it's perfectly designed to get the results it currently gets!

# Wrap Up

- “The problem with public health is, it’s in government.”
- We link EMS with public safety, but lump it with public health.
- As a result, it is underappreciated, undervalued, and underfunded.

# Wrap Up

- What's old in EMS safety?
  - Inadequate funding (old equipment)
  - Inadequate training (esp volunteers)
  - “We've always done it this way”
- What's new in EMS safety?
  - Exponential growth in teleinformatics
  - Better vehicle, system engineering
  - Increasing awareness, safety culture

# Wrap Up

- Hippocrates' First Precept
  - Rarely fully translated
  - First, do no harm...
  - Then, do some good!
- The Three Es
  - Efficacy
  - Effectiveness
  - Efficiency

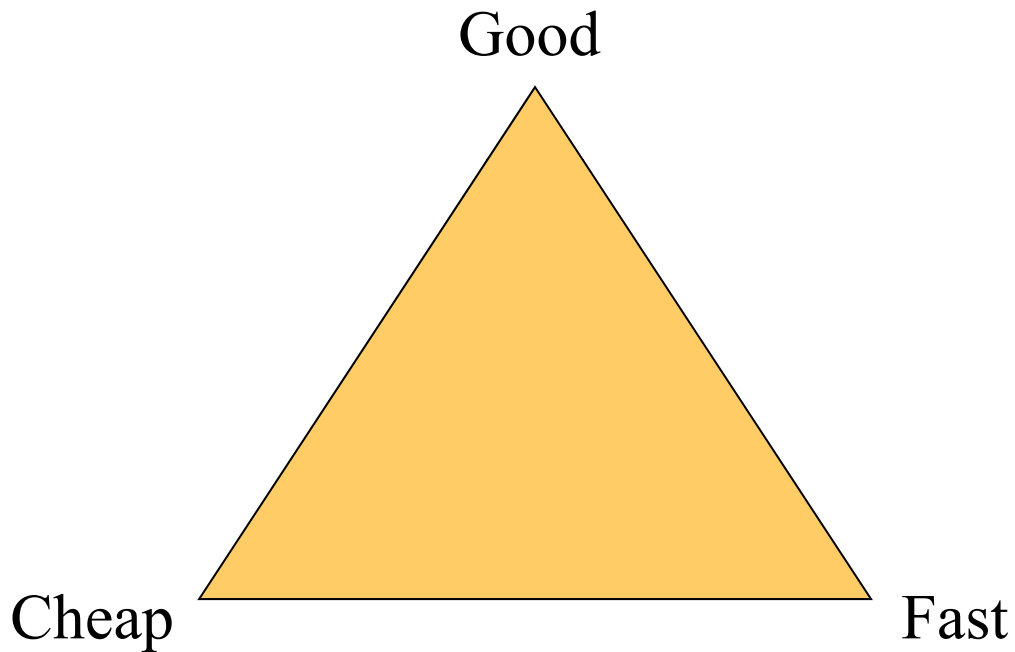


# Wrap Up

- We know well what to do...  
(the science is solid, and growing)
- So why don't we do it?  
(is it really just the economy?)

# Wrap Up

- The Iron Triangle



***Pick Any Two!***



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# Wrap Up

- Let's stop studying...  
(what we already know)
- And start doing!  
(many of us have)



# Wrap Up

- Simple things we can do now
  - NAEMT EMS Safety Course
    - Crew Resource Management
  - “Black boxes” on ambulances
    - Seat belts, accelerometers
  - Factory installed cellular, GPS
    - Hands free telecommunications
  - NASEMSO “Star of Lanes”
    - Contemporary vehicle design



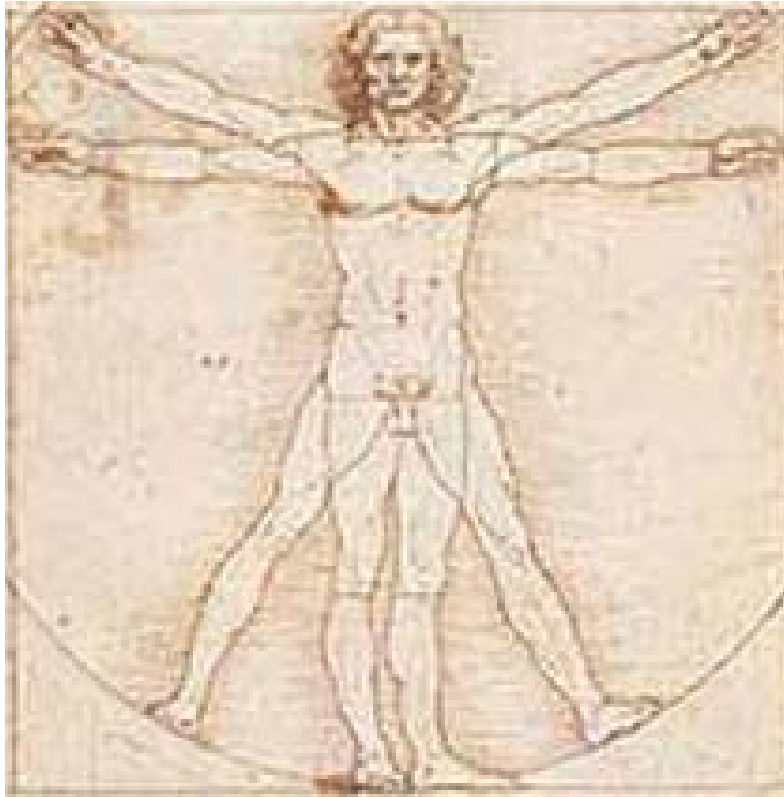
# Wrap Up

- “Signal” research we can do now
  - Which calls truly need a hot response?
    - High performance simulators may help
  - How much time do L&S really save?
    - Apocryphal California “Yellow cab trial”
  - True cost benefit analysis of L&S use
    - How many lives/dollars are saved/lost?
  - Which patients may be eligible for T&R?
    - Leverage HCP-EMT telecommunications



# Wrap Up

- The Real Challenge



***How To Change  
Human Nature?  
We Love The  
Rush...So We  
Love To Rush!  
Carrots? Sticks?  
Teleinformatics?***



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# Summary

- Systems
  - Physical Factors
  - Human Factors
- Strategies
  - Imagination, Innovation
  - Leadership, Followership
- Solutions
  - Vehicles, Ergonomics
  - Informatics, Telematics

