



Bryan Wilson, MD, FAEMS, is an Emergency and EMS Physician at St. Luke's University Health Network in Bethlehem, PA. He is also the director for St. Luke's new EMS Fellowship Program.

Among many other professional and volunteer roles, Bryan serves as faculty for the NAEMSP Quality and Safety Course, and for NEMSQA's Lights and Siren Collaborative. He is passionate about safety, saying, "It's about what we can do that gets everyone to go home. Our people and our patients."

**What initially brought you into EMS?**

Ironically, probably the lights and sirens. I thought it was cool – now I know better. But actually, one of my grandfathers is the retired Fire Chief, and the other is the retired Deputy Police Chief in my hometown. So that drive to help people was always there. I was also really involved (and still am) in Boy Scouts of America, and I loved learning first aid, helping people, and volunteering at my church. And then I realized that in EMS I could do all those things at the same time. And here we are today. It's been 18 years of my life.

**How did you get involved in NEMSQA's Lights and Siren Collaborative?**

I vividly remember being involved in a lights and siren accident on Interstate-78 as an EMT. I was 18, maybe 19, and it created just this huge disaster of an incident. Thank God nobody was seriously injured, but it just always stuck with me that, "This didn't need to happen." Since then I have been curious about lights and siren use, and did a quality improvement project on it at my agency. That led to me being invited to join an American Ambulance Association webinar on the topic, then the writing team for the Joint Statement on Lights and Siren Vehicle Operation, and lastly a member of the faculty for the Collaborative.

**What is your passion project in EMS?**

I'm really passionate about the idea that everyone goes home. That drives a lot of why I'm doing the Lights and Siren Collaborative, and why I do a lot of work with our agency on patient safety initiatives. It's about how we enhance our capabilities to fulfill us as clinicians, so that we know we're doing the right thing every time. It's about trying to help people as much as possible, because the system is broken and it wears on you after a while. So how we, piece-by-piece, start fixing the system to make everyone feel safe and empowered.

**What do you think of when you hear EMS quality improvement?**

A lot of people hear "quality" and roll their eyes because it's not viewed as a tangible thing that matters to patient outcomes. But really, quality is just assessing, "Can we do the right thing for the patient as often as possible?" It's a way to look at the system, which is important because we're here for the patients, to make sure that they can get home, or at least make their experience as positive as it can be.

**What do you like to do in your spare time?**

There is no spare time. This work is so emotionally taxing that to truly do it well, it becomes part of who you are, part of your identity. When I think about my volunteering for the Boy Scouts, and how I became the Medical Director down at the Summit – I would take a week off work to "go on vacation" into the mountains of West Virginia to volunteer as a doctor. That's a "vacation" for me, because I'm not in the ER, and I'm still getting to do what I find fun and am passionate about. You need constructive hobbies in your free time because what we do becomes so much of our identity that it likely contributes to some of the wellness issues and burnout that we're having.

**What is your favorite food or candy?**

Tacos, Reese's, and anything with bourbon.