

Atlanta Business Chronicle

Health Care Heroes: ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONAL

The Grady EMS Biosafety Transport Team is the winner of the 2015 Health-Care Heroes Allied Health Professional award.

Transport team honored for safe movement of Ebola patient

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For 12 years, the Grady EMS Biosafety Transport Team has been training for what came to pass on Aug. 2, 2014 — the day they transported the first American diagnosed with Ebola to Emory University Hospital.

Millions watched the action on television, but for the team involved it was just another day at the office. When they talk about it, they make it sound easy.

“It was easy because we have put in thousands of hours of training to make it easy,” said Team Leader Aaron Jamison. “We relied on our training and it went just like we had trained.”

The one thing they hadn’t planned for was media exposure. “We are pretty low key and don’t seek a lot of attention. Before that day, most people didn’t even know the team existed,” Jamison said.

The four-member crew of highly trained paramedics had run many missions before with patients diagnosed with or suspected of having highly contagious illnesses, but never before had anyone transported an Ebola patient in the U.S.

“These amazing professionals volunteer their time and expertise to ensure the safe transport of people with potentially deadly, often highly contagious diseases. Their dedication and willingness to go above and beyond the norm to provide this important service for our community makes them heroes in every way,” said John Hauptert,

president and CEO of Grady Health System.

Grady EMS Biosafety Transport Team is the winner in the Allied Health Professional category of Atlanta Business Chronicle's 2015 Health-Care Heroes Awards.

The team was first conceived in 2000 and focused on tactical SWAT-type responses in its early days. Four years later, the focus shifted as a SARS outbreak in Canada turned the team's attention to the need to be able to transport highly infectious patients safely.

At the time, Emory was building its specialized isolation unit and the CDC was looking for a way to safely transport the unit's health care workers should they be exposed to a potentially life-threatening pathogen.

Grady EMS Biosafety Transport Team

Team leaders: Aaron Jamison and Wade Miles

Team members: Gail Stallings and John Arevalo

Team medical director: Dr. Alex Isakov of Emory School of Medicine