



Burn Team

Fitting the
Pieces
Together

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ABA Mission Statement

The American Burn Association is dedicated to improving the lives of everyone affected by burn injury through patient care, education, research and advocacy.

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Did You Know?

You can now register online
for **Advanced Burn
Life Support Classes.**
Visit www.ameriburn.org
for more information.

Message from the President



The ABA Comes of Age

"Perhaps the biggest surprise, and for me the most heartening, is that the medical professionals who treat burns are a rare breed in the sorry world of today's hospital and health care: a multidisciplinary team of dedicated healers doing punishing work for little in the way of glory or riches." --Barbara Ravage in "Burn Unit"

The ABA was founded in 1967 by a small group of surgeons interested in furthering the emerging field of burn care. Their charter outlined the goals of the organization as, "To stimulate and sponsor study and research in the treatment and prevention of burns; to foster training opportunities for individuals interested in burns; to encourage publications pertaining to the foregoing activities, and to consider such other matters as may properly come within the sphere of the Association." The growth of the ABA in recent years is testament to the foresight of its founders. If one examines the ABA symbol, the words, "Teaching, Care, Research, Prevention, and Rehabilitation" appear. Our organization has made major strides in all of these important areas. This progress has required a great deal of hard work on the part of the ABA membership. Assisted by an increasingly capable central office, ABA members have devoted enormous amounts of time and effort to further the ABA's goals. Some of this progress is outlined here.

TEACHING

Teaching takes many forms for the ABA membership, addressing the multiple needs of the public, of multidisciplinary providers, and of our patients. Our members are recognized experts providing clinical training within their own units and operating rooms, educating students and new graduates of all disciplines in the practical delivery of burn care. The Advanced Burn Life Support Course has evolved from a slide show used almost exclusively within the burn community to a popular course used all over the world to educate first responders and emergency providers in the early aspects of burn care. The course is provided in multiple countries and can be taken on-line as well as in the classroom. Last year, nearly 5000 providers received ABLS training. Burn fellowships are evolving from informal affairs to organized programs that provide surgeons with the acute surgical, critical care, and reconstructive skills they need to lead teams providing comprehensive burn care. The ABA's journal, the Journal of Burn Care and Research, is internationally recognized as the premier journal in our field. Its print and electronic versions impact clinical and research programs all over the world.

CARE

Most ABA members play a role in the rescue, treatment, or rehabilitation of burn patients. Our organization facilitates this by information sharing, networking, guideline development, and promulgation of evolved best practices. Formal and informal information sharing and networking are major components of our regional and national meetings. ABA members take pride in what they do and are always grateful for the opportunity to learn from the experiences of other members. The organization's guidelines are used all over the world. Increasingly, the ABA has been an advocate for burn clinicians. The adage, "no margin, no mission" is apt in today's world, especially for those caring for patients with extensive multidisciplinary needs. With guidance of the membership and board, particularly Rich Kagan, the ABA has played an important role in federal advocacy, ensuring the burn units can provide top-quality care and still remain fiscally viable. Though its leadership in the burn center verification program, the ABA has helped to ensure that our patients' needs are met by well-

trained individuals working in cohesive programs. Burn care does not occur only in our hospital-based and community programs. ABA members have been active participants in international outreach programs sponsored by a variety of charitable organizations. Members of the ABA are very active in a number of regional, federal, and international disaster preparedness and response activities. The National Disaster Medical System values the participation of those with burn expertise and has sponsored teams to meet this need in disasters. Members of the ABA have played valued roles in the response to most disasters in recent years.

RESEARCH

ABA members have always been at the forefront in all areas of burn research. Many founding members came from the ranks of the United States Army's Institute of Surgical Research, and this close ABA relationship with the military continues. In recent years the organization itself has begun taking a leading role. Under the direction of Shriners Hospitals and Ron Tompkins, the ABA-Shriners burn outcome research program has been quietly collecting critical information over several years that will enhance our ability to optimize our patient's long-term outcomes. Under the leadership of Jeff Saffle, Tina Palmieri and Reg Richard, the ABA's Multicenter Trials Group (ABA MCTG) has become a highly productive entity. This group has authored several influential studies and multiple other projects are actively recruiting new patients and new centers. With funding from federal and DOD research grants, the ABA is developing an infrastructure to support central data collection and analysis. These centralized research efforts are an excellent illustration of the role the ABA can play in bringing its membership together to effectively solve important clinical problems.

PREVENTION

Few other organizations spend as much effort as the ABA in injury prevention. Numerous local, regional, and national initiatives began within the ABA and have impacted many thousands of individuals. In addition to flame retardant sleepwear and fire-safe cigarette advocacy, recent national programs have included scald and electrical injury prevention, and programs focused on the elderly, gasoline safety, and summer activities. These efforts have undoubtedly prevented much suffering and lightened the load in the nation's burn centers.

REHABILITATION

ABA members practice in burn programs that have a holistic emphasis, striving not just for wound closure, but for healing of the whole person, facilitating return to family, school and work as before the injury. These objectives cannot be met without an intensive focus on physical and emotional rehabilitation. The ABA's rehabilitation committee and special interest group are among the most popular, active, and productive groups within the organization. The breadth of activity, depth of knowledge, and quality of science in this area has rapidly grown in recent years. As patients with increasingly serious injuries survive, the ABA's rehabilitation practitioners have been able to meet their needs with increasingly sophisticated methods.

The scope and depth of the ABA's activities has grown substantially over recent decades. It now plays a meaningful role in virtually all aspects of burn care and is seen as an international leader in the field. But none of this happens without the active participation of the membership. Participation in any of these activities is open to all members through the ABA's committees and special interest groups. Although participation can require substantial work, the personal rewards are many, and the fellowship unique. The words on the logo—Teaching, Care, Research, Prevention, and Rehabilitation—may capture a great deal of what the ABA means, but the real treasure is in the people. Those who dedicate a great deal of their professional life to the care of burns are a special group to which it has been a pleasure and privilege to belong.



Dr. Robert Sheridan, MD, FACS
Shriners Hospitals for Children and Massachusetts General Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts

How We Do It . . .

A Guide to Becoming Involved in the ABA

Submitted by Michael Serghiou, Shriners Hospital for Children® - Galveston and Shelly Wiechman-Askay, Harborview Medical Center

If you would like to submit a "How I Do It" article for the newsletter, please contact Ingrid Parry at iparry@shrinenet.org

Becoming involved in ABA is an investment...in yourself and in your organization's success. The more involved you become, the more you will reap valuable dividends from the knowledge and insight gathered and shared with others. Please consider becoming involved within this great multi-disciplinary organization and contribute actively toward accomplishing its mission of promoting and supporting burn-related research, education, care, rehabilitation, and prevention. Here is how you can make a difference:

- **Become a member of the organization.** Becoming involved in the ABA begins with first becoming a member. Membership offers many benefits including a forum to network with like professionals, access to the latest burn care research and discounted rates for meeting attendance.
- **Join your discipline's Special Interest Group (SIG).** Get connected with your peers and share your contact information at the discipline specific SIG meeting. Volunteer to organize SIG events, present a lecture, or run a workshop. Introduce yourself to your colleagues and ask how to get involved.
- **Attend the ABA annual meeting.** The annual meeting offers many opportunities to learn about the workings of ABA and how you can get involved. Be sure to attend the presidential address, business meeting, and new member breakfast to learn more. Ask questions during the meeting (always introduce yourself prior to asking a question during sessions so that other members will learn your name); Do not be shy!
- **Apply for an ABA committee.** Once you have learned about how ABA functions, you may be interested in joining a committee. When applying for a committee (www.ameriburn.org), make sure you include your skills, knowledge, expertise, and why you would make a good candidate for that committee. Do not be discouraged if you do not get selected the first time you apply. There are limited spots so it may take a while to be appointed, but always re-apply. Once selected, be an active participant and contributor.
- **Present at the annual meeting.** Write and submit abstracts for a poster or an oral presentation. Learn the abstract writing process by asking colleagues with experience to help you in this process. Sharing your ideas and research is valued in the ABA. Once you have presented, proceed to publish it so your name and work can be recognized by wider audience. Other opportunities to present at the meeting are the breakfast or lunch symposia, where you can lead discussions on any number of burn care topics. To volunteer for symposia, complete the Annual Meeting Evaluation Form and provide your contact information. As you gain more experience you may be asked to moderate correlative or poster sessions so that you can give feedback to others in your area of expertise.

Securing Pediatric Endotracheal Tubes

Submitted by Larry Topliffe, Shriners Hospital for Children® - Boston with Kathy Supple, Loyola University Medical Center

Airway management is a priority of care for all burn care providers. Securing and maintaining the airway while preventing breakdown is a challenge that requires constant vigilance. The following method was developed collectively by medical, nursing and rehabilitative team as a quality improvement project.

Cotton twill ties, in lieu of adhesive tape, are routinely used to secure endotracheal tubes in patients with facial burns. However, twill ties can compress the oral commissures and perioral skin resulting in skin breakdown and patient discomfort. Significant and transient facial edema can further impact the risk for skin breakdown.

A new method was developed using an elastomer oral commissure pad (EOCP), made of medical grade latex-free elastomer. The inner surface of the pad conforms to the contours of the face. The outer surface is grooved to secure the cotton twill tie. Small oral commissure folds can be added if needed to supply additional protection in children with narrow mandibles.

This method was studied with 50 children requiring prolonged oral intubation at Shriners Hospital for Children® - Boston. The group with the EOCP experienced less perioral erosions and no accidental extubations. Nursing assessment routinely supported the enhanced comfort associated with the use of EOCP's.



Future editions of "Burn Team" can be found online at ameriburn.org.



Member Profile

TEAM: "Together Each Accomplishes More."



Exercise To Recovery

Through the efforts of clinical and basic research specific aspects of burn care have dramatically improved in burn hospitals. As a result, the survival rate of burns has significantly improved and survivors live happy productive lives. These changes and new therapies are made possible by the hard work and dedication of researchers like Dr. Oscar E. Suman-Vejas. Dr. Suman specializes in developing exercise regimens to help children recover from burns.

Born in Panama, a United States Citizen, Dr. Suman obtained his Ph. D. in 1995 in Exercise Physiology/ Kinesiology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His research and training background is in cardio-pulmonary exercise and physiology. After obtaining his Ph.D., he began to apply physiological exercise training concepts in the rehabilitation of children with severe burns.

Dr. Suman is the director of the Wellness/Exercise Center at Shriners Hospital for Children® - Galveston and serves as Associate Professor, Leon Hess Professor for Burn Injuries Research, University of Texas Medical Branch. "Burn research, whether it is basic or clinical research should be conducted in a manner such that it translates scientific and laboratory observations or discoveries into new strategies for burn care, and rehabilitation. We at SHC-Galveston, believe that research and burn care are coupled and should have as an ultimate goal to advance burn care."

Michael Serghiou, OT, has worked with Dr. Suman since 2000. "His research work in burn rehabilitation has been instrumental in our goal to study the long term effects of exercise after massive burn injuries." Dr. Suman notes, "It is important to remember that exercise training alone is not a substitute for traditional rehabilitation care. The benefits of exercise are probably additive to traditional physical and occupational therapy."

Dr. Suman's has been a member of the American Burn Association since 2001 and has served on the Research Committee. He has authored multiple manuscripts, peer reviews and chapters in textbooks. He has written and received numerous grants from NIH. Most notably, he was recently recognized by President Obama as one of the country's top 100 young outstanding researchers in 2009, receiving the "Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers," the highest honor bestowed by the United States government on young professionals.

Dr. Suman finds continual inspiration from children that have participated in the exercise rehabilitation program, "To see them return with improved physical function, and good psychosocial mood makes my day and motivates me to work harder."

LETTERS TO THE ABA

Dear ABA,
I am a counselor at a senior center in my community. An elderly adult in our community was recently involved in a house fire and was burned. Luckily he survived and is doing well but many of our members have expressed concern about the dangers of fire and other hazards. Does the ABA offer information for older adults to help prevent burn injury?

Sincerely,
Concerned Counselor

Dear Concerned Counselor,
Thank you for your inquiry about burn prevention in the elderly population. We offer multiple prevention resources on our website at: <http://www.ameriburn.org/preventionEdRes.php>. There you can find burn prevention information including general background information, fact sheets, PowerPoint presentations and presenter scripts that can easily be implemented at your community center. The prevention presentations were developed by prevention educators, firefighters, researchers and burn care providers and are also available in Spanish. In addition, you may contact your closest burn center to inquire about local prevention programs.
of burn units can be found at:
www.ameriburn.org.
A list

Warm Regards,
The ABA Central Office

The Wellness and Exercise Center (WEC) was created in 1998. It is a 600 square foot facility fully equipped with strength and aerobic exercise equipment for use by severely burned children. This facility also houses an exercise physiology laboratory for the assessment of physical function and body composition. The staff of the Wellness and Exercise Center is responsible for the implementation of the individualized exercise-training program and exercise testing of patients. One of the principal aims of the WEC is to spearhead the investigation of how exercise rehabilitation programs aid in the recovery of physical function in children with burn injuries. To date, more than 250 patients have been evaluated in the WEC and approximately 120 patients have completed the exercise-training program. The results to date are extremely encouraging and show that patients who participate in the exercise program improve muscle function and cardiopulmonary capacity significantly more than patients that did not participate in the exercise-training program. The Wellness and Exercise Center is participating in studies to investigate the effects of exercise at a molecular level and studies investigating if these physical improvements translate into improvements in psychosocial health or quality of life of severely burned children.

If you would like to nominate someone for "Member Profile" please contact Tammy Coffee at tcoffee@metrohealth.org

Future editions of "Burn Team" can be found online at ameriburn.org.



Image Enhancement for Burn Survivors

A helpful publication available for burn survivors with skin discoloration and scarring is the THE BOOK of Image Enhancement for Burn Survivors, by Barbara Kammerer Quayle and produced by the International Association of Fire Fighters Burn Foundation (IAFFBF). Following her burn injuries, Barbara developed a school re-entry program to assist her transition back to the classroom as a teacher. She believes that "self-disclosure is a powerful tool" and she never realized that more than when she faced the fear of removing the pressure garment from her face forever. Through research and a friend's assistance, she got a private session with a make-up artist to discover another image for herself.

With the emergence of burn camps it became apparent that girls and boys were concerned about their image. Barbara was invited by the IAFFBF to write a book and appear in a video so she could share her ideas and strategies on improving one's image. Barbara wrote the manual and appeared in the video. The goal of the IAFFBF was to make it available, at no cost, to burn centers, retreats, burn camps, burn foundations, IAFF, and other organizations that assist in the treatment, education and recovery of burn survivors.

Barbara's knowledge and understanding of skin tones and use of make-up sponges, brushes and creative techniques, in order to enhance appearance, is beneficial to male and female alike. Barbara displays her talent as she creates eyebrows and fuller lips with a style that introduces a feeling of fun.

This contribution of the IAFFBF to burn care education has made a difference in the lives of burn survivors across North America and throughout the world. Canada, France and Taiwan have embraced the information from this book and video. The Phoenix Society (www.phoenix-society.org) and the IAFFBF (<http://burn.iaff.org>) have made the complete packet available online and will have some available at their booths at the 2010 ABA meeting. Another resource to assist with school reentry after a burn injury is The Journey Back, available through the Phoenix Society.

If you would like to contribute a future article to the Fire Fighters Corner, please email Jerry Dunn at jdunn@denverburnfoundation.org

National Leadership Conference



At the National Leadership Conference in Washington D.C. on February 3, 2010, Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and Congresswoman Doris Matsui (D-CA) were keynote speakers. Senator Boxer was presented with the ABA President's Leadership Award for the key role she has played in supporting military burn research funding.

Verification Update

On September 9, 2009, Dr. Gamelli and Dr. Wahl conducted the first international verification visit at the Royal Adelaide Hospital in Adelaide, Australia. There are now 57 burn centers verified.



Did You Know?

Changes in ABA By-laws will be reviewed and voted on at the Business Meeting at the ABA Annual Meeting on Friday, March 12 from 4:15-5:00 p.m. All members are welcome to attend.



Burn Team
Fitting the Pieces Together

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