

# BRITISH BURN ASSOCIATION

## NEWS: December 2016



Registered Charity No. 260167



### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

This is my first 'Message from the Chair', having been given the privilege of taking over from Amber Young at the annual conference in Newcastle in May. Hers are (figuratively speaking) big shoes to fill, but I intend to continue Amber's excellent work in developing and modernising the Association, focusing on the interests of burn-injured patients and those who care for them in the UK.

I am pleased to say that the Newcastle conference was a great success. I'm sure you will want to join me in thanking the local organising committee (LOC) for their hard work in arranging such an interesting and varied program on the theme of 'Burns – The Bigger Picture'. Prof Fiona Wood's Wallace Lecture was a particularly thought-provoking highlight for me. Congratulations and thank you again to everyone involved.

Next year's conference is special, in that it will be the 50<sup>th</sup> in the history of the Association and will focus on the theme of 'New Burn Technologies for Better Burn Care'. I know that the Chelsea & Westminster LOC are working hard on an exciting program, featuring new events and personalities – truly, made in Chelsea. I would encourage all members to attend what promises to be an excellent conference if they can.

BBA members put a great deal of effort into running the various sub-committees and groups that make up the Association. As you will see from the reports and articles in this newsletter, they have all been very active since the last newsletter was published in December 2015. Particular highlights include the third Burn Awareness Day coordinated by the Prevention Sub-committee on 19<sup>th</sup> October, the very successful Psychology SIG Study Day on Self-Harm and the publication of the second edition of 'Outcome Measures for Adult and Paediatric Services' by the Outcomes Sub-committee earlier in the year.

I am particularly excited about the launch of 'The Burns Game'. Jane Leaver and the Education Sub-committee have done a great job in developing the game, partly funded by the BBA in co-operation with Focus Games. It is an exciting and innovative educational tool with something for anyone involved in burn care. Congratulations and well done to the whole team. I would encourage everyone to put it on their Christmas list!

The Executive Committee has seen some recent changes, with the departure or re-designation of some longstanding members and the arrival of some new faces. I am very grateful to Clare McGrory for taking over as Deputy Chair and to Darren Lewis for agreeing to take on the Secretary/Treasurer role at short notice. Welcome to the new Executive Committee and co-opted members (Kayvan Shokrollahi, Kristina Stiles, Yvonne Wilson and Nadeem Khwaja) and goodbye and a huge thank you to Jo Myers and Becky Martin. It is a great relief for me to know that the excellent Nechama Lewis remains in the key administrative role of BBA Manager.

So what of the future for the BBA? Over the next few years, I think that our website will become an increasingly important focus for the Association and its activity. To help Darren Lewis develop the site, I have proposed the formation of a Communications Sub-committee formed of volunteer members from all areas of the burns MDT. I also hope to reconvene the Outcomes Sub-committee (which disbanded following publication of the BBA Outcomes document earlier in the year), in order to continue our efforts in this important area. Lastly, I am keen to develop the BBA's role in helping members fund periods of humanitarian work in burn care overseas.

The BBA can only ever be as good as its members are prepared to make it. I am happy to say that through the hard work of many, I have taken over a thriving organisation with a distinct role in UK burn care. To keep the Association moving forward however, we must all encourage those new to burn care to join and to contribute fresh ideas and enthusiasm to the various committees and groups which make up the BBA.

Nadolig llawen a blwyddyn newydd dda  
(Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year)

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**Chair:** Peter Drew

**Deputy Chair:** Clare McGrory

**Secretary & Treasurer:**

Darren Lewis

**Committee Members**

Jane Leaver

Jorge Leon-Villapalos

Bruce Philp

Kayvan Shokrollahi

Kristina Stiles

Yvonne Wilson

### BBA SUBCOMMITTEES

**BBA Prevention Subcommittee**

**Chair:** Ken Dunn

**BBA Education Subcommittee**

**Chair:** Jorge Leon-Villapalos

**EMSB National Organiser**

Nadeem Khwaja

**Research Subcommittee**

**Chair:** Amber Young

**Outcomes Subcommittee**

**Chair:** Peter Drew

**Website:**

Darren Lewis & Kayvan Shokrollahi

### CONTACT US

#### British Burn Association

35 – 43 Lincoln's Inn Fields

London WC2A 3PE

T: 020 7869 6923

F: 020 7869 6929

E: [info@britishburnassociation.org](mailto:info@britishburnassociation.org)

W: [www.britishburnassociation.org](http://www.britishburnassociation.org)

**Membership email enquiries:**

[info@britishburnassociation.org](mailto:info@britishburnassociation.org)

**EMSB email enquiries:**

[emsb@britishburnassociation.org](mailto:emsb@britishburnassociation.org)

## Education Sub-Committee

### Annual Conference Newcastle 2016

The BBA had the pleasure of awarding three prizes this year in Newcastle. This year for the first time posters were divided into two categories. The best Scientific Poster Prize was awarded to Emma Johnson, Cardiff University School of Medicine for her poster entitled "Hairstyling Hazards and other non-Scald Burns in Children – Results from a Prospective UK Study" and the best Clinical Poster Prize was awarded to Debbie Smith, Sheffield Children's Hospital for her poster entitled "The Northern Burn Network Development of Therapy Competencies to Ensure Quality of Care".

The Oral Presentation Prize was awarded to Hendrik Hoeksema, Belgium for his presentation entitled "Burn Depth Assessment: Laser Doppler Imaging (LDI) vs Enzymatic Debridement". Two runner ups were named – Julia Sarginson, Healing Foundation Children's Burns Research Centre, Bristol for her paper entitled "The Inflammatory Response to Small burns in Young Children" and Michael Serghiou, Shriners Hospital for Children, Texas for his paper entitled "The Novel Use of a Self-Adhesive Silicone Fabric Sheeting for Managing Difficult Eye Contractures".

### Education Day

Two education days were planned for this year. The first one on self-harm/injury in burns on 21<sup>st</sup> September was organised the BBA Psychosocial Special Interest Group. 54 delegates registered and evaluated the day very positively. There was recognition that self-harm in burns needs further focus, understanding and research, and enthusiasm to take the information back to burn services along with ideas for how to improve self-harm patient pathways. There was also a consensus that more research on self-harm in burns was required. One of the attendees commented "The Self-Harm Study Day was one of the very best eye-opening opportunities to learn I have had in my whole plastic surgery career".

The second education study day on simulation in burns was due to be held in November. However this has now been postponed till 10<sup>th</sup> March 2017 when it is hoped that more people will be able to attend. Please go to

[http://www.britishburnassociation.org/downloads/BBA\\_Education\\_Day\\_Flyer3\\_10.3.17.pdf](http://www.britishburnassociation.org/downloads/BBA_Education_Day_Flyer3_10.3.17.pdf) for the Simulation Education Day flyer.

### Burns Game

The BBA along with Birmingham City University has been working with Focus Games to develop an educational board game aimed at supporting training in emergency burn care for frontline healthcare professionals. 'The Burns Game' was launched on 19th October to coincide with the National Burns Awareness Day. Please see the article on the Burns Game for more information.

*Jane Leaver has now demitted office as the Education Sub-Committee Chair and has been succeeded by Jorge Leon-Villapalos.*

*Jane Leaver, Past Education Sub-committee Chair & Jorge Leon-Villapalos, Education Sub-committee Chair*

## BBA Grants

Three different grants are available to BBA Members. These are: ***The BBA Travel Grant, The Margaret Miller Travel Grant and the BBA Research Grant.*** Applicants need to have been a BBA Member for at least 12 months to be eligible to apply. Grants will not normally exceed £1,000. Further details and application forms for each grant can be found within the 'Education' section of the website, under 'Grants'.

## Laing Essay

**Laing Essay Prize 2016:** 'Education in Burns; Lessons from the Past and Objectives for the Future':

Congratulations to winner Ruth Tevlin, Cork University Hospital, Ireland.

**Laing Essay Prize 2017 now open to all involved in Burn Care:** The Essay, titled 'New Technology in Burn Care' should be of a maximum 5,000 words and in the style used by *Burns* Journal. An abstract of up to 150 words should also be provided with your Essay. Three referees, appointed by the BBA, will judge and award the winner £500. The prize-winning Essay will be eligible for publication in *Burns* at the discretion of the Editor. **Closing date for applications: 5pm on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017.** The winner will be announced at the BBA Annual Conference, May 2017. For further information, email:

[info@britishburnassociation.org](mailto:info@britishburnassociation.org)

## STOP PRESS:

**Charity Dan's Fund for Burns is kindly sending a Xmas present of *The Burns Game* to all Burn Units in the UK**

# The Burns Game:

## Educational Board Game to Improve Core Burn Care Knowledge



The Burns Game was developed by **Focus Games Ltd.** in partnership with the **British Burn Association** and **Birmingham City University**. The purpose of the game is to bring key information about acute burns management in an engaging and interactive format. The game matches the core burn care competencies and knowledge requirements, which can be used for initial staff induction and follow up team training updates. The content covers the initial approach to management of burns of various aetiologies, severe and minor burn injuries, as well as the requirements for referral and transfer to a specialist burn service. The Burns Game is reflective of the advances in the burns first aid, burn shock, inhalation injury and burn fluid resuscitation in line with EMSB and ATLS principles, and is attentive to the key elements of burn assessment and wound management.

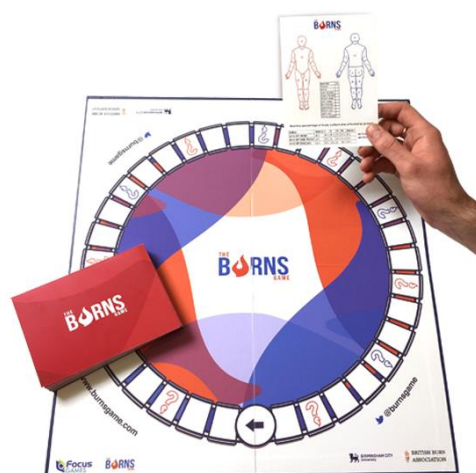
The Burns Game delivers awareness, knowledge and practical burn care skills through face-to-face, reflective discussions, stimulated by questions and scenarios presented in the game. These conversations allow participants to explore and discuss new ways of working amongst their peers and to share their knowledge and experience to learn from each other.

*'The Burns Game is an exciting and innovative way of broadening the knowledge base of anyone working with burn-injured patients. Everyone, from fire service personnel and first-aiders through to specialist hospital staff will find it challenging. The BBA is proud to have helped develop the game and hope players everywhere find it both educational and entertaining.'* **Peter Drew, Chairman of British Burn Association.**

The game is simple to play and manage. It is a competitive, discussion based game for between 4-12 players and games usually last between 45 and 60 minutes. It can be played with or without a facilitator. It can be used for informal workplace learning, or as part of more structured training programmes, everything you need is in the box! The game allows the players to be selective about the learnt content and be adapted to suit the training needs of the burns team.

*'As a Burns and Plastic Surgeon, I am all too familiar with the misery that burn injuries cause families throughout the country every year. Birmingham City University has used its expertise in medical education to develop this game together with the British Burn Association and Focus Games Ltd in order to improve the initial management of burn injury, which can greatly improve the final cosmetic and functional result for the individual patient.'* **Professor SLA Jeffery, Consultant Burns and Plastic Surgeon, The Birmingham Burns Centre.**

More information: [www.burnsgame.com](http://www.burnsgame.com) == Twitter: [@BurnsGame](https://twitter.com/BurnsGame)  
== Price: £60 (exc. VAT, P&P).





# Emergency Management of Severe Burns (EMSB)

The EMSB course continues to be in high demand in the UK. The work of the lead centres hosting courses (Nottingham, Birmingham, London, Chelmsford, East Grinstead, Swansea, Manchester, Newcastle, Bristol and Military) continues. There remains no active faculty in Ireland but candidates from Ireland are welcomed onto other UK courses.

The course attracts a large number of applicants from burn services. The demand for pre-deployment courses for the Military has led to strengthening of the military faculty and an increased number of military courses (mainly at Strensall). We are now advertising courses on the College of Emergency Medicine website and are targeting other relevant websites to increase the number of candidates from emergency and pre-hospital backgrounds.

We are running on average 10 courses per year. Recent candidate courses have been run:

DATE	LOCATION	CANDIDATES	COMMENTS
19/9/15	Bristol	22	1 failed MCQ, 1 failed both
5/10/15	Newcastle - INSTRUCTOR COURSE	12	
6/10/15	Newcastle	22	4 failed MCQ
17/10/15	Aberdeen – MILITARY COURSE	24	7 failed MCQ, 1 failed both
13/11/15	Manchester	22	
20/11/15	Swansea	23	
19/2/16	Birmingham - COORDINATOR COURSE	17	
12/3/16	Birmingham	24	1 failed MCQ
18/3/16	East Grinstead- INSTRUCTOR COURSE	11	
19/3/16	East Grinstead	17	1 failed MCQ
21/4/16	Manchester	22	1 failed MCQ, 1 failed both
9/5/16	Strensall - MILITARY COURSE	22	
14/6/16	Chelsea & Westminster	24	
24/6/16	Nottingham	24	2 failed MCQ

246 candidates participated in the last 11 courses with 20 candidates failing at least 1 element of the course. This is consistent with previous years with a pass rate of around 90%.

From these courses recommendations to join the faculty were offered to:

22 candidates for instructor training

48 as coordinators with instructor potential

28 as coordinators

## Instructors Courses

We are continuing to run once yearly instructors courses (maximum 12 places).

5/10/15–12 candidates (all passed)

18/3/16 – 11 candidates (all passed)

13 Associate Instructors have completed training and are now Full Instructors.

## Coordinator courses

There has been a coordinator course in 19/2/16.

A course is being planned for early 2017.

7 Associate Coordinators have completed training to become full coordinators

We are preparing an updated coordinator manual to provide guidance for coordinators as well as continuing to look at various options for improving the makeup on courses and teaching coordinators this essential skill.

## ANZBA Visits

Mr Amer Hussain, a registrar in plastic surgery and an active coordinator was due to attend as the UK representative to ANZBA 2016 but unfortunately had to withdraw due to ill health. Senate has agreed to allow him to defer this to 2017 ANZBA.

We are very grateful to ANZBA for the agreement to move to biannual exchange visits.

We would like to thank ANZBA for their continued support of the EMSB course in the UK.

## Course Updates

The recently updated course and materials continue to be received well. Access through the EMSB Dropbox continues to be very useful and enabled us to keep up to date with all developments. In common with ANZBA there have been some issues with Dropbox in terms of files being accidentally removed. We are currently exploring alternatives.

The UK Senate continues to receive suggestions/ questions around the future of the course development including revalidation for EMSB and pre-course e-learning / MCQ in advance of the course. Update from ANZBA on this would be of interest.

The consistent feedback we receive is that more time on the day of the course dealing with practical aspects and scenario training would be beneficial.

## U.K. EMSB Senate

The senate that oversees the running of EMSB in the U.K. on behalf of the BBA has met in April and again in October this year. This is our opportunity to review course feedback, update contents and faculty lists, budget issues and to plan future courses. We remain committed to delivering a high quality course that is accessible.

# Annual Conference 2017:

## New Technologies for Better Burn Care

On behalf of the organising committee at the Chelsea and Westminster Burns Service, we would like to welcome you to the **50<sup>th</sup> Scientific Meeting of the British Burn Association** to be held on **3-5 May 2017** at **The Royal College of Surgeons of England, London** on the theme of New Technologies for Better Burn Care.

We have an international panel of invited speakers to present their experience in the development and use of emerging technologies in burns care, and to chair the presentations. As a reflection of the increasing emphasis on reducing post burn scar morbidity we have arranged a scar academy workshop to run during the meeting on the Friday, which is free to attend.

This is the first BBA to take place in the centre of London, and we are delighted to have secured the historic and prestigious Royal College of Surgeons for the event, which will include the inaugural “Matilda” Lecture – further information is available on the website.

We will host a networking drinks reception in the Hunterian Museum at the College on Wednesday evening.

We look forward to you being involved and enjoying the meeting in London

Put the dates in your diary now!

*Jorge Leon-Villapalos*

*On behalf of the Chelsea & Westminster Organising Committee*

## BBA Annual Conference: Sponsorship of Overseas Delegates

The BBA will sponsor up to two Overseas Delegates from developing countries to attend the BBA Annual Conference in London on 3 – 5 May 2017. Sponsorship comprises the cost of the conference registration fee and does not include travel and accommodation costs.

Overseas Delegates must be supported by two existing BBA members and must not currently be working in Europe, North America or other developed countries.

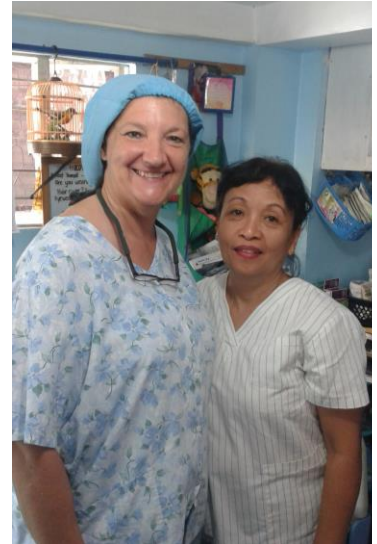
To apply please submit a written application to the BBA office by **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2017**. The application should include reasons for wishing to attend the BBA Conference and how attendance would benefit work in their home country.



# Overseas Delegate Report 2016

## Val Smith-Orr RN ENB 264 Burns & Plastic Surgery (QVH)

I have been a volunteer burns nurse in a medically underserved country for over a decade and visiting twice a year on 'medical missions' since 1991. Early in 2015, a British Doctor spent some time with me in my small burns clinic, which is situated in a province in North-West Luzon in the Philippines. The Doctor was amazed at what we (my Filipino RN and I) achieved with such limited resources and small space. At the end of the year she sent me details of the BBA conference and encouraged me to submit an abstract. I was nervous to say the least; 10 years in the 'jungle' as such, with limited internet access didn't 'put me up there' with the best of the bunch!! I submitted an abstract, not thinking for a minute that I would be even considered. But I was!!! Then the panic set in! How would I get to UK? How would I pay the registration fee, I am not on a salary and literally live on a wing and a prayer! I was directed to apply for funding for registration and after several attempts to find BBA members to support my application, achieved that goal, thanks to an amazing bunch of folks from QVH, East Grinstead!! After landing at LHR, our first port of call was to Canterbury where my daughter and I were graciously hosted by Lord and Lady Swinfen, Founders of the Swinfen Charitable Trust (Telemedicine UK), a charity with whom I have been a member since 2009 and where I have access to over 250 consultants to seek medical advice when needed. SCT is a dedicated, much needed service for medically underserved countries ([www.swinfencharitabletrust.org](http://www.swinfencharitabletrust.org))



Val Smith-Orr with Evelyn,  
Filipino RN

The BBA conference was **such** a highlight of my life that I couldn't single out any one experience - everything was totally amazing. I reconnected with colleagues from over 30 years ago (QVH) namely Dr Keith Judkins and Professor Fiona Wood; the latter having agreed to be a guest speaker at a fundraising lunch in Queensland for my charity Triple B Care Projects, later in the year!! Her BBA presentation was full of compassion, knowledge and determination, traits I hope that I can emulate. True Grit as we say in Yorkshire!! I was in awe of the amount of products available to treat burns. SO many!! I have a choice of just 2, with one in particular streets ahead of the other, and amazingly manufactured by a British Company *and* available in the Philippines. I made some wonderful contacts and new friends and hope that I can encourage them to do a volunteer stint with me as their circumstances allow. Dr Elizabeth Wharton, Rotarian and Burns Surgeon from W.A is 'in' and will make a trip in the not too distant future!

At the end of the conference an unexpected bonus was that I was able to show my 10 minute movie on the work of Triple B Care Projects. Chairman Mrs Sarah Pape introduced me by saying that I could use any pressure garments as I can cannibalise them to fit my needy patients!! I couldn't stop laughing, but it was so quiet in the room when the movie finished that I just assumed everyone had gone off for their packed lunch and made their way home. But everyone was still there. Mrs Pape stepped up to the podium and simply said "Well that puts things in perspective doesn't it - have a safe trip home everyone". From then I was surrounded by caring professionals who wanted to volunteer and help in any way. Thanks to Krissie Stiles and Jane Taylor for organising a 'balik bayan box' of goodies to be sent over and a **huge** thanks to the BBA for giving me the opportunity to attend and present at this excellent well organised conference. As a result of attending, I have been asked to write up my poster presentation as a case series for an International Journal, subject to peer review; I have met many professionals willing to volunteer, and have been assured that what I do, though somewhat simpler than what happens in NHS UK, is working and worthwhile, namely treating and healing burns with good outcomes. I am so thankful for the experience of a lifetime.



Check out our website: [www.triplebcareprojects.org](http://www.triplebcareprojects.org)

# Research Sub-Committee

The BBA Research Sub-committee holds biannual meetings for SIG Members. The group is growing in strength, with up to 25 members in attendance regularly. 106 BBA Members have formally signed up with the Research SIG, which equates to 29% of the BBA Membership. Attending members are truly multidisciplinary from burn surgery, anaesthesia, basic science, psychology, therapy, nursing, paramedics, fire services and charities.

The group receives regular e-correspondence with research updates from the NIHR (National Institute for Health Research), the Burns Collective and the Burns Current Awareness Newsletter from University Hospital Bristol NHS Foundation Trust.

The remit of the group is to provide a forum for discussion, advice and formal peer review for potential and ongoing research projects, especially those being submitted for consideration of funding by the NIHR. All discussions are confidential and open to BBA Members only.

The BBA Research SIG now has formal links with the NIHR through the Injuries and Emergencies Clinical Studies Group. A joint meeting was held in September 2016 and similar are planned for the future. The SIG is also now linked formally to the Reconstructive Surgery Trials Network (RSTN) through nominated representatives (Isabel Jones, Consultant and Julia Sarginson, Trainee). The RSTN will help support research applications from the BBA SIG with their links to the Oxford Clinical Trials Unit.

The Research Sub-committee has written a one page document on research priorities agreed last year and recently has agreed a linked lay summary of these priorities.

The next meeting of the Research SIG will be held in late February or early March 2017. The formal handover of the chair of the BBA Research sub-committee will occur at the BBA annual general meeting in May 2017. Dr Amber Young will hand over to Ms Yvonne Wilson.

All enquiries regarding the BBA Research SIG should go to Dr Amber Young ([amber.young1@nhs.net](mailto:amber.young1@nhs.net)) and Nechama Lewis.

*Amber Young, Research Sub-committee Chair*

# Prevention Sub-Committee

The Prevention Sub-committee has met two times so far this year, once in May at the Annual Meeting and again in the summer. The latter meeting was called to bring together some of the plans for the National Burn Awareness Day (NBAD) on 19 October. A number of tasks set by previous meetings have been completed while others remain outstanding but good overall progress has been made.

For the NBAD this year we were especially successful in linking in with a wider range of supporters in preparation for the day including the UK Fire Brigades via the Chief Fire Officers Association and key charities involved in burn injury prevention such as CBT and RoSPA. Through them a number of companies were interested and have come on board such as Electrical Safety Council and the Bathroom Manufacturers Association.

We have successfully confirmed that NHS England funding for the iBID includes analysis and reporting for injury prevention purposes so we continue to supply a significant amount of information on a regular and ad hoc basis to burn services, charities and industry as well as interested academics, all to take forward the injury prevention agenda. We are particularly hopeful that a very fruitful exchange of information with the UK Fire Brigades will be mutually beneficial in coming years.

Those on the Committee that have a greater understanding of social media have particularly focused on developing a Twitter campaign and will hopefully raise awareness of the problems of burn injury by this route. At the same time the prevention page of the BBA website has been updated with a series of infographics for the NBAD. As usual we also supplied information to burn services about the burn injury problem in their catchment population and provided national data to supporting organisations.

Many burn services had plans in place to surpass the influence and media attention they achieved over the last two years the NBAD has been running and the day was a great success. The date of the next National Burn Awareness Day will be **Wednesday 18 October 2017.**

In a wider context Committee members have been in contact with overseas prevention committees, particularly with the ISBI, to exchange information about what each of us have been up to and learn from other's successes and plans. It is anticipated that the momentum created by these events will continue with the support of the Executive Committee and the incoming chair of the Prevention Sub-committee, Krissie Stiles, who will take over in the 2018 Annual General Meeting. Meanwhile we will continue our efforts to keep the profile of burn injury prevention as high as we can both inside the NHS and out.

*Ken Dunn, Prevention Sub-committee Chair*

## Psychosocial Special Interest Group

The Psychosocial SIG continues to meet twice a year for a day and at the BBA conference for an hour. Burn care services from England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland are represented and include a social worker and a play specialist. In addition, members of the Centre for Appearance Research, who are involved in burn-related research projects, routinely attend.

### Research

A summary of the research projects, service evaluations and audit projects carried out by members of the SIG will be available on the BBA website in the near future and will be regularly updated. The development of a PROM (to be known as CARE) is well underway which will provide the Psychosocial SIG and others with a burn-specific psychology outcome measure. This project is being undertaken by Ella Guest, Catrin Griffiths and Professor Diana Harcourt at the Centre for Appearance Research, UWE with the participation of several burn care services and funding from Restore Burn and Wound Research, The Scar Free Foundation and Dan's Fund.

### Outcomes

The SIG is in the process of compiling a document which will outline the SIG's position in relation to 'Outcomes' and iBID with reference to KPI and the Quality Dashboard.

### Self-harm study day

A study day on self-harm across the lifespan was funded by the BBA and organised by several members of the Psychology SIG. The presentations, video material and discussions focused on definitions, the research literature, the role of social media, surgical decision-making, improving care and supporting patients. There were 54 registered delegates from several disciplines in burn care and researchers from the Centre for Appearance Research, University of West England. The study day generated a great deal of positivity and enthusiasm for the topic and a recognition that self-harm in burns needs more exploration, understanding and research. There was an interest in developing more training including teaching materials such as DVDs and a wish to address ways of improving the care provided. There will be proactive involvement by the Psychosocial SIG in these areas.

*Julia Cadogan, Chair, Psychosocial Special Interest Group*

## Nurses Special Interest Group

The Nurses SIG met at the BBA Annual Conference in May 2016.

It was confirmed that the underpinning foundation of the group is to be the professional voice of nursing for the BBA and to facilitate networking and sharing of good practice. There was discussion as to how this can be achieved with tools such as web forums, tele-conferencing and link nurse roles for services across the country identified. These issues were discussed as a matter of importance due to the difficulties and challenges faced with bringing the members together during the previous year, most likely due to increased demand in the workplace.

It was discussed as to how the SIG can improve nursing burn care nationally, with the burn care competencies identified as a priority for the SIG to review.

We are still looking for members to volunteer as link nurses for their services so please contact myself or the Network Lead Nurses if you are interested.

Unfortunately I have had to step down as the BBA Nurses SIG Chair due to family commitments sooner than I had wished, therefore if anyone would like to continue this journey, taking up this exciting role please contact myself, the Network Lead Nurses or Nechama Lewis.

I would like to thank Jane Leaver for all her support during my time as chair and look forward to continue working with you all in the future.

*Vicky Galsworthy, outgoing Chair, Nurses SIG*

## Burns Therapists' Interest Group

Amanda Dufley, Physiotherapist from Bristol, stepped down in July after two years as chair. Many thanks for all her hard work for the group. Vicky Dudman, Occupational Therapist from St Andrews Chelmsford, continues in post as Secretary. Rachel Wiltshire, Physiotherapist, also from St Andrews, is the new Group Chair.

The Group continues to meet twice a year, although attendance is limited by clinical work pressures. At each meeting each network delivers an update on the news from their area. Topics discussed this year include competencies for therapists working in burns and outcome measures.

The main body of work for the Burns Therapy Interest Group this year has been creation of a new version of the National Standards of Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy Practice in the management of Burn Injured Adults and Children. The existing document was published in 2006 and the new edition will include developments over the last decade, including changes to practise in relation to new safeguarding legislation and advances in treatments. The document will be a combination of standards for therapists and guidance on specific considerations related to specific topics. A small sub group of therapy representatives from across the country have created a draft document which will be reviewed by the wider Burns Therapy Interest group during the meeting to be held in November 2016. We aim for this work to be completed by spring 2017.

*Rachel Wiltshire, Chair, BTIG*



# The Scar Free Foundation

The Healing Foundation has changed to The Scar Free Foundation. On 19 July 2016, at an event at The Royal College of Surgeons of England, the charity published its Scar Free Strategy and formally changed its name.

The Foundation is setting the bold ambition to achieve scar free healing within a generation, building on over 15 years of pioneering research in disfigurement, wound healing and aesthetics research.

The research strategy, available from the charity's new website – [www.scarfree.org.uk](http://www.scarfree.org.uk) - envisages a multi-disciplinary, scientific but clinically driven focus of work over the next 10 year to kick start a global research movement set to deliver new treatments for patient in both the medium and long term.

Unveiling the change, Scar Free Foundation Chief Executive Brendan Eley commented, "We have an excellent track record of research in this area which is an excellent foundation on which to build our scar free strategy. We have a challenging fundraising task ahead but with the single, focused goal of the new



charity and the incredible support we receive from organisations like BAAPS and their members, we know that scar free healing within a generation can happen". For more information, [www.scarfree.org.uk](http://www.scarfree.org.uk) or @scarfreeworld

THE  
FREE  
FOUNDATION

MAKING A WORLD WITHOUT SCARS A REALITY

## The Scar Free Foundation Student Electives in association with the British Burn Association

Scar Free Foundation Student Electives fund medical, paramedic, nursing and psychology students wishing to undertake a small-scale Elective research project focused in the areas of burn medicine and care either in the UK or abroad. All applications are externally reviewed and the funding available per student is £1,200 to support projects of 6-8 weeks.

Students are invited to submit their own project ideas or apply to undertake a project supervised by a Scar Free Foundation Supervisor. To find out more please visit:

<http://scarfree.org.uk/research/funding>

The deadline for applications is the **28th of February 2017**

## Secretary/Treasurer Update

### Membership Fees 2017:

I am pleased to confirm that there will be no increase to membership fees for 2017 and fees will remain as follows:

Doctors and Consultant Nurses/AHPs	£75pa
All other staff	£50pa
Students studying for primary degrees and retired members	£30pa

***Please note that online access to Burns Journal is included in the Membership fee for 2017. Members have access to current issues of the Burns Journal as well as four years' back issues.***

### Income Tax Relief in Respect of Annual Membership Fees:

The British Burn Association has been approved by the Commissioners for HM Revenue and Customs under Section 344 of the Income Tax (Earnings and Pensions) Act 2003 with effect from 6<sup>th</sup> April 2014. The Association's name will therefore appear in the list of approved bodies.

### Discussion Forums:

Please note that a discussion forum is available within the members' only area of the BBA website for members to share ideas and discuss current issues. Please log into the Members' area with your Username and Password and click on 'Members Forum'. Click on the Forum Name to which you wish to add a comment / question and click on 'Create New Topic' to start a conversation or click on 'Post Reply' to respond to a posting.

*Opinions expressed in the articles below do not necessarily reflect the views of the BBA*

## Talkscars & Wound Care

Salisbury NHS Trust Foundation have recently approached and now launched a joint initiative with talkhealth to provide an online support resource for scar patients and their carers called “talkscars & wound care”. This may be found at [www.talkhealthpartnership.com/talkscars/](http://www.talkhealthpartnership.com/talkscars/)



Talkhealth were founded in 2001 and are one of the leading online health communities in the UK. They already provide free interactive support and information on a wide range of chronic health conditions such as acne, eczema and psoriasis.

This new resource is a hub within the talkhealth platform. It offers an opportunity for both scar patients and carers to talk and hear from others in similar circumstances through patient forums and blogs. They can also access and read trusted information supplied from a range of professional experts. It is the intention that an online clinic may also be set up periodically.

Initially, in order to kick start the development of this hub, a survey was recently distributed to the major burns centres. The purpose of this was to ask where the priorities might lie in scar support and what may be required from such a resource. Since the launch of the hub, a large scale patient/carers survey is now being carried out for feedback on their thoughts of current care and what they would like to see or receive in future.

Talkscars & wound care is now supported by most major NHS Trusts within the burns network, as well as a number of leading charities. All support for this initiative is welcome and they are looking for further input from scar experts in other scar aetiologies such as trauma and surgery. Talkhealth are currently looking for those who would be interested in providing helpful articles and to those who may wish to sit on a panel of experts for the online clinic. If you would be interested to see how you might get involved

**Salisbury**   
NHS Foundation Trust

or if you would like to see a summary of the results of the patient/carers survey when it is completed, please email [info@talkhealthpartnership.com](mailto:info@talkhealthpartnership.com), or Dr Mark Brewin ([mark.brewin@salisbury.nhs.uk](mailto:mark.brewin@salisbury.nhs.uk)) for further information.

## Update on development of the CAR<sup>e</sup> Burns Scales

Patient Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs) are vital for assessing patient needs and evaluating clinical practice. However, there are currently no burn-specific PROMs designed for UK patients.

Since 2012, researchers at the Centre for Appearance Research (CAR), based at the University of the West of England in Bristol, have been developing three age-specific PROMs for children, young people, and adults who have experienced a burn-injury. These PROMs, named the CAR<sup>e</sup> Burns Scales, were developed using two systematic reviews of current PROMs used in child, adolescent, and adult burns care, and 52 semi-structured interviews with patients, family members and health professionals. Cognitive debriefing interviews were then used to gain feedback on the initial measures.

With the help of 11 NHS burns units, and a number of burns-related charities and organisations, the PROMs have been psychometrically tested with a large sample of over 700 adults, young people, and parents of children living with a burn-injury. A Rasch analysis is currently being employed to shorten and refine each measure so that it is an appropriate length for use with patients. Following further psychometric validation, the CAR<sup>e</sup> Burns Scales will be widely available to assess physical and psychosocial wellbeing in burns care.

The Centre for Appearance Research would like to say thank you to Morriston Hospital, Swansea; Southmead Hospital, Bristol; Bristol Royal Children's Hospital; Queen Victoria Hospital, East Grinstead; Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, London; Broomfield Hospital, Chelmsford; Alder Hey Children's Hospital, Liverpool; Wythenshawe Hospital, Manchester; Royal Manchester Children's Hospital; Pinderfields Hospital, Wakefield, and Glasgow Royal Infirmary for helping to recruit patients to take part in the study.

If you would like more information about the CAR<sup>e</sup> Burns Scales, please contact [Ella.Guest@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:Ella.Guest@uwe.ac.uk).

## A New Direction for Burn Care

The practice of burn blister management has long needed a consensus from the burn specialists with great variation advocated in literature and existing between regional, national and international specialist services. This has led to lack of standard approach and confusion amongst clinicians outside of the burn services with regards to best practice in burn blister management. As a result, the non-specialist healthcare professionals' decisions to leave, lance or derooof burn blisters are often influenced by clinicians' preference and experience, potentially leading to inaccurate assessment, diagnosis and missing an opportunity to refer to a specialist service.

The argument for leaving the blisters intact suggests that the blister functions as a biological dressing, reduces the risk of contamination and infection and provides an optimal moist environment for healing. The argument for derooofing and debriding the blisters suggests that the blister fluid contains substances which impede wound healing, providing perfect environment for bacterial growth. Although the clinical evidence for derooofing blisters is poor, it is impossible to accurately assess the burn depth and size without derooofing. A debridement method that reflects the skill of the clinician, is appropriate to the location of the wound and removes intact or collapsed blisters should be utilised.

In order to support, guide and educate the non-specialist healthcare professionals, the London and South East of England Burn Network (LSEBN) have carried out a literature review and subsequently published a couple of consensus documents on burn blister management and derooofing. With the exception of small, non-tense blisters and blisters in severely burned patients, the recommendation is that all burn blisters should be 'derooofed' in order to:

- Observe and assess wound size, depth and viability of dermal structures to determine appropriate treatment
- Remove non-viable tissue from the wound bed to enable faster wound healing
- Improve the patient's ability to defend against infection by evacuating blister fluid that may suppress local and systemic immune function,
- Reduce the risk of wound infection
- Preserve the wound microcirculation and prevent the burn depth progression
- Enable mobility and reduce the likelihood of burn contracture
- Improve the efficacy of topical wound therapy

The LSEBN Burn Blister Management and Burn Blister Derooofing Guidelines have been welcomed by referring non-specialist clinicians and are available to download via [www.lsebn.nhs.uk](http://www.lsebn.nhs.uk)

*Kristina Stiles, Queen Victoria Hospital East Grinstead & Network Lead Nurse, London & SE of England Burn Network*

## Safeguarding in the Orthodox Jewish Communities

During 2013-2015, the St Andrew's Burn Service treated a small but persistent number of admissions from the Orthodox Jewish communities of North London. The consistent feature among these admissions were children of primary school age being burned at the weekend by hot water urns that were accidentally knocked or toppled from domestic worksurfaces.

Most of the scald burns were less than 10%TBSA but a worrying proportion were up to 40%TBSA, which required extensive grafting and prolonged hospital admissions. All the children were injured during the Shabbat (which is observed from a few minutes before sunset on a Friday evening until the appearance of three stars in the sky on Saturday evening) or while family members were observing religious celebrations on the Sunday.

Under the guise of Safeguarding Children, we engaged with some of the parents of the scalded children, Rabbis and other community leaders, members of the Hapzolah (Jewish community ambulance service), and a national Jewish newspaper to raise awareness of the problem. The most significant issue was that the Shabbat urns were free-standing and often contained in excess of 20-30L of near boiling water. The urns are traditionally used during the Shabbat and are not easily replaced with safer alternatives. The solution was to recommend that they were secured to a solid wall with a bracket or chain and that any trailing cables were clear of the floor or worksurfaces.

Since our community engagement a year ago, the St Andrew's Burn Service has not seen any further Shabbat urn burns. If this problem exists in other Networks, we would encourage Burn Services to engage with the Orthodox Jewish community in a similar manner as this approach has proved to be a very effective burn prevention strategy in our region.

*Niall Martin, Consultant Burn Surgeon and Safeguarding Lead for Burns  
Kelly Doran, Safeguarding Clinical Nurse Specialist for Burns  
Sue Boasman, Sister, Children's Burn Ward*



# Research Project: Opportunity for Collaboration

## *Optimising evidence-based decision-making for young people with burns by the development of a core outcome set and the identification of outcome measurement tools (COSBy)*

Understanding and agreeing key outcomes after burn injury is essential for collating and comparing research. Short-term outcomes include healing time, infection rates and NHS costs. Longer-term outcomes include functional, cosmetic and psychological issues and are more related to patient satisfaction. Currently, there is a lack of consensus and consistency in outcome and measurement tool choice in published research. Without agreement, comparing trials and evaluating treatment is difficult. Without patient input, measured outcomes may not be relevant.

A core outcome set (COS) is a minimum group of scientific outcomes agreed, defined, measured and reported in a standardised way. This doesn't prevent researchers reporting other outcomes, but ensures a 'core' set that is consistently reported. Achieving such a COS will allow research into care pathways, surgical management or new technology to be compared and analysed to improve clinical decision-making.

### *Study Aims:*

- Establish the most important recovery outcomes for burned patients, families, professionals and NHS for use in research.
- Determine how to measure these endpoints in a practical and reliable way.

This is a collaborative project supported by the British Burn Association. It will take place over the next four years (start date October 1<sup>st</sup> 2016) and involve multi-disciplinary burn healthcare professionals, patients, parents and carers and other key stakeholders. Consensus will be through a Delphi process involving sequential questionnaires informed by a systematic review and qualitative work with professionals and patients. A final consensus meeting will inform the final core outcome set.

If you are interested in hearing more about the project or in being involved in any way please contact Dr Amber Young ([amber.young1@nhs.net](mailto:amber.young1@nhs.net)).

*Amber Young, Consultant Paediatric Anaesthetist, Bristol Royal Hospital for Children*

## **WOULD YOU LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEWSLETTER?**

If you have a 'hot topic' to address or developments in your centre which you would like to share with colleagues via the BBA Newsletter, please email Nechama Lewis at the BBA Office:  
[info@britishburnassociation.org](mailto:info@britishburnassociation.org)

*The Executive Committee and Staff of the BBA wish Members a very happy festive season and all the best for the new year.*

The BBA Newsletter will feature information on two Burn Charities in each of its publications for the foreseeable future

# CHARITY CORNER

Burn Charities do invaluable work in supporting patients. Catch up on the work of 2 UK Charities

## CHANGING FACES



Changing Faces, the UK charity (<https://www.changingfaces.org.uk/>), supports patients and their families living with the psychological and social challenges of burns and other disfigurements. We also provide training for health professionals to support their patients' psycho-social needs, advocate that such help should be routine and campaign for fairness and respect towards people with disfigurements in the wider society through our campaign for 'face equality' (like race equality).

We are caring campaigners: helping to build people's confidence to live life on their terms and challenging prejudice, respecting differences and speaking to a world that needs to change.

### What we offer to your patients

- Access of our specialised psycho-social support delivered by Changing Faces Practitioners (CFPs) from our London HQ or our Centre in Yorkshire (Sheffield) – <https://www.changingfaces.org.uk/get-support> *"I am able to embrace my scars and use it as something to be proud of – not something to be feared or unwanted."* (burns survivor after sustaining injuries as a young child)
- Access to our wide range of self-help guides on all aspects of 'coping with a disfigurement' – <https://www.changingfaces.org.uk/get-support/self-help-guides>
- Access to our Skin Camouflage Service in 100 monthly clinics across the UK. You can find out much more about the Service and how to refer your patients here: <https://www.changingfaces.org.uk/skin-camouflage>

### What we offer to health care professionals

- We offer practical training for professionals on the psycho-social impact of burns and other disfigurements so they can help their patients acquire 'disfigurement life skills'. *"Giving me more confidence in helping patients coming to terms with life changing injuries."* (health care professional who attended a study day in 2015). Please see <https://www.changingfaces.org.uk/resources/health/study-days> – for more information contact Henrietta Spalding on [henriettas@changingfaces.org.uk](mailto:henriettas@changingfaces.org.uk).
- We also offer a fully accredited VTCT Level 3 Certificate in Cosmetic Camouflage (BT3C7). Which includes all aspects of running a successful camouflage clinic. Please contact Sam Kirby to find out more on [sam.kirby@changingfaces.org.uk](mailto:sam.kirby@changingfaces.org.uk).



## CHILDREN'S BURNS TRUST

### HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

The [Children's Burns Trust](https://www.cbtrust.org.uk/) has been providing rehabilitation support for burned and scald injured children and their families for over 16 years, as well as promoting burn and scald prevention and awareness campaigns throughout the UK.

We make a positive difference in three ways:

- Working with others to raise the awareness of burns and scalds including [PREVENTION](#) campaigns
- Working with NHS burn care professionals to provide direct help and funding for [REHABILITATION](#)
- Giving direct financial [SUPPORT](#) to families and hospitals and providing advice on how to access burn related information.

In addition to being an active member of the BBA Prevention Committee, and working closely to promote National Burn Awareness Day each year, we provide funding for a variety of projects and individuals. These range from major projects such as the Residential Family Weekends we run in association with the Fire Fighters Charity, London & South East and Northern Burn Care Networks – to covering the cost of overnight accommodation for a mum and her child prior to early-morning admission for surgery. We know that the quick provision of a relatively small grant can not only make a huge difference to the family, but also help to save NHS costs, for example the provision of funding to pay for transport to outpatient appointments can assist with compliance and the purchase of a shower hose and extra towels can enable early discharge of a patient. Other funding which can be made available includes the purchase of therapy equipment, sponsorship for burns camps and support of clubs.

If you would like to know more about the grants available to you, please don't hesitate to [contact us](#).

### HOW CAN YOU HELP US?

We are always keen to promote the work of NHS Burn Care Professionals, and one way we can do this is via the [blog](#) on our website. If you would be interested in sharing the highs & lows of your profession – or would like to use this facility to promote a particular message, please do get in touch.

Alison Tweddle, Operations Manager, Children's Burns Trust [Alison.Tweddle@cbtrust.org.uk](mailto:Alison.Tweddle@cbtrust.org.uk) 020 7881 0902



# Advance Announcement

CPD points applied for

## British Burn Association

50<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting - London: 3-5 May 2017  
The Royal College of Surgeons, London

### New Technologies for Better Burn Care

Hosted by: Chelsea and Westminster Burns Service

On behalf of the organising committee at Chelsea and Westminster Burns Service we would like to welcome you to the 50<sup>th</sup> scientific meeting of the BBA on the theme of **New Technologies for Better Burn Care**.

We have an international panel of invited speakers to present their experience in the development and use of emerging technologies in burns care, and to chair the presentations. **As a reflection of the increasing emphasis on reducing post burn scar morbidity we have arranged a scar academy workshop to run during the meeting on the Friday, which is free to attend.**

This is the first BBA to take place in the centre of London, and we are delighted to have secured the historic and prestigious Royal College of Surgeons for the event, which will include the inaugural "Matilda" lecture - further information is available on the website.

We will host a networking drinks reception in the **Hunterian Museum** at the College on Wednesday evening.

We look forward to you being involved and enjoying the meeting in London.

### Call for Abstracts.

All abstracts are encouraged as well as abstracts with specific interest in **New Technologies for Better Burn Care**

Deadline for submission of abstracts: **Midnight - Monday 2nd January 2017**

**House note: There will be no extension to this deadline**

**For further details, abstract submission & to Register Online, please visit the website or contact the Conference Secretariat: [www.conventus.com/bba](http://www.conventus.com/bba)**

Member: Earlybird: £275.00 - £310.00 Regular

Non Member: Earlybird: £355.00 - Regular: £390.00

Day Delegate: Member: £120.00 per day attended, Non Member: £170.00 per day attended.

Early Bird registration rate before **27th February 2017**

**Free** online Hotel Booking Service at guaranteed rates available only from Conference Secretariat

Conference Secretariat: Conventus LLP | 00 44 (0)1722 742603 | [bba@conventus.com](mailto:bba@conventus.com)

