

# BRITISH BURN ASSOCIATION

## NEWSLETTER: December 2019



Registered Charity No. 260167



### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

As 2019 draws to a close, we can look back at the past year and all that the BBA has achieved. The Executive Committee, Subcommittees and Special Interest Groups (SIGs) continue to promote the core objectives of the BBA including prevention, education, research and the running of EMSB courses.

Our Annual Meeting was held this year in Leeds. Alan Phipps and the Local Organising Committee delivered another high quality conference with many local and international speakers. Professor Peter Dziewulski delivered the annual A B Wallace Memorial Lecture entitled "Sometimes Wrong, Never in Doubt - Reflections of a Burns Surgeon" in charismatic style.

Continuing our education theme, the BBA was involved in the publication of Guidelines for the Provision of Intensive Care Services (GPICS) in conjunction with The Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine (FICM) and the Intensive Care Society (ICS). A copy is available via the link on the BBA website (<https://www.britishburnassociation.org/resources/>).

16<sup>th</sup> October 2019 was National Burns Awareness Day (NBAD) and the BBA was heavily involved with both face-to-face stands and online presence. The date of the next NBAD will be Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

2020 promises to be an exciting year for the BBA. Our new legal structure will be in place with the legal frameworks now in their final stages of submission. The Executive Committee will evolve to a Board of Trustees and the new BBA constitution, as discussed at previous AGMs, will come into force. Day-to-day membership will remain unchanged, but the legal and financial underpinnings will be more robust and ensure that the BBA continues to thrive for years to come. I would personally like to thank Jane, Yvonne and the rest of the Executive Committee as well as Nechama for their help and support in this massive undertaking.

The highlight of our 2020 calendar will be our joint meeting with the International Society for Burn Injuries, which will be held in Birmingham at the ICC on 23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> August 2020. We have negotiated that all BBA members will be able to take advantage of ISBI member registration rates even if they are not ISBI members. The conference website is at <https://www.isbi2020.org>

Finally I would like to take the opportunity to wish you all a restful and relaxing festive holiday season, and I look forward to seeing you all in Birmingham next year at ISBI 2020.

### BBA Grants

Four different grants are available to BBA Members. These are:-

- **The BBA Travel Grant**
- **The Margaret Miller Travel Grant (for Nurses)**
- **The BBA Research Grant**
- **A Grant for Research into Methods of Preventing Burn Injuries in the Home**

The terms of the grants are that applicants need to have been a BBA Member for at least 12 months to be eligible to apply. The Travel and Research Grants will not normally exceed £1,000, The Margaret Miller Grant is capped at £1,500 and an open sum will be considered for the Grant for Research into Methods of Preventing Burn Injuries in the Home. Further details and application forms for each grant can be found within the 'Education' section of the website, under 'Prizes and Grants'.

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**Chair:** Darren Lewis

**Deputy Chair:** Jane Leaver

**Secretary & Treasurer:**

Yvonne Wilson

**Committee Members**

Victoria Dudman

Katherine Elworthy

Nadeem Khwaja

Odhran Shelley

Kayvan Shokrollahi

Andrew Williams

### BBA SUBCOMMITTEES

**Prevention Subcommittee**

Chair: Victoria Dudman

**Education Subcommittee**

Chair: Katherine Elworthy

**EMSB National Organiser**

Tania Cubison

**Research Subcommittee**

Chair: Yvonne Wilson

**Communications Subcommittee**

Chair: Kayvan Shokrollahi

### CONTACT US

#### British Burn Association

35 – 43 Lincoln's Inn Fields

London WC2A 3PE

T: 020 7869 6923

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 Subcommittee

Welcome to Andy Williams, Consultant Plastic Surgeon, as both an Education and Executive Committee Member. Andy will be able to provide invaluable guidance for Surgical Trainees interested in Burns Care Education.

The Subcommittee has expressed a strong interest in continuing to pursue simulation training in Burn Care for Surgical Trainees – a survey covering interest, resources and uptake for a high fidelity SIM course has been developed and once disseminated and reviewed by the Education Subcommittee, this will be further disseminated to surgical trainees to establish demand.

The Subcommittee will also be working closely with the Nursing SIG group who have had their project approved to develop National Burn Care Competencies for Nursing; we will work alongside the Nursing SIG on these competencies in the hope that future Educational Burns programmes can tie these in to ensure continuity of care and standards throughout.

We would also be extremely keen to find out what the British Burns Association membership wants from the Subcommittee and what we can do to meet current needs. A survey will then be developed to establish these requirements to ensure focus and direction on future projects.

*Kate Elworthy, Education Subcommittee Chair*

## Laing Essay

**Laing Essay Prize 2019:** ‘The Role of Simulation in Burns’: Congratulations to winner Andreas Shiatis, Plastic Surgery SpR, London Deanery.

**Laing Essay Prize 2020 now open to all involved in Burn Care:** The Essay, titled ‘Artificial Intelligence in the Management and Treatment of Burns’ should be of a maximum 5,000 words and in the style used by *Burns* Journal. Your Essay should use sub headings, contain an introduction, main body, discussion and conclusion as a minimum. The essay should be well referenced using the Vancouver referencing style. An abstract of up to 150 words should also be provided with your Essay and a list of up to 6 keywords. Three referees, appointed by the BBA, will judge and award the winner £500. The prize-winning Essay may be eligible for publication in *Burns* at the discretion of the Editor. **Closing date for applications: 5pm on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020.** The winner will be announced at the BBA/ISBI Conference, August 2020. For further information, email:

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

## Annual Conference Leeds 2019: Prizes

The BBA had the pleasure of awarding five prizes this year in Leeds. The Oral Presentation First Prize was generously supported by Scars, Burns and Healing Journal and awarded to Ciara Harris, Amy Owens and Orla Austin, Pinderfields General Hospital for a presentation entitled “Resurfacing the Burnt Breast: A Reproducible Approach based on Lingerie Designs and Techniques”. The Oral Presentation Second Prize was awarded to Sian Falder, Louise Campbell, Juanita Harrison, Catherine Raraty, Natalie Holman, Jo Moore, Janet Hunter and Julie Short, Alder Hey Children’s Hospital for a presentation entitled “Going Digital in Burn Care”.

The posters were once again divided into three categories. The best Burn Care Poster Prize was awarded to Amal Sharaf, Lauren Taylor and Sharmila Jivan, Pinderfields Hospital for their poster entitled “Epidemiology of Isolated Lower Limb Burns in Adults presenting to a Regional Burn Centre over a Fifteen-Year Period”. The runner-up was Amal Sharaf, Veronica Wagstaff, Claire Swales and Brendan Sloan, Pinderfields Hospital for a poster entitled “Variation in Referral Rates to a Regional Burns Centre”. The best Prevention Poster Prize was awarded to Daniel Lazenby, Sarah Chadwick, Ken Dunn and Samantha McNally, Wythenshawe Hospital for a poster entitled “Self-inflicted Burns in Places of Safety – has The Care Act made a Difference?”. The runner-up was Amal Sharaf, Umair Anwar, Preetha Muthayya, Alan Phipps, and Brendan Sloane, Pinderfields Hospital for a poster entitled “Pattern of Firework-related Injuries during Celebrations presenting to a Regional Burn Centre”. The best Research Poster Prize was awarded to Elizabeth Concannon, Louise Fitzgerald, Joseph Harbison and Odhran Shelley, St James Hospital, Dublin for a poster entitled “Neuroimaging Provides Relevant Clinical Information in Patients with Burn Injuries “. The runner-up was Jessica Stolberg, Sarah Gaskell, Sam Bedford\* and Mamta Shah, Royal Manchester Children’s Hospital and Children’s Burns Foundation\* for a poster entitled “The Need for Structured Psychosocial Support toward Paediatric Burn Survivors and their Families”.



# BBA Annual Conference with International Society for Burn Injuries

## 23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> August 2020

### Sharing Knowledge



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I'd like to welcome you all to the combined 53<sup>rd</sup> British Burn Association and the 20<sup>th</sup> International Society for Burn Injury congress on 23-27 August 2020 in Birmingham, United Kingdom. This will be held at the International Convention Centre (ICC) at the heart of Birmingham city centre.

"Sharing Knowledge", is the theme of the congress. This is a great opportunity to meet and share knowledge with other burn professionals, survivors, representatives from burns foundations and Non-Government Organisations from across the globe. The congress programme is truly multidisciplinary, and the organising team is endeavouring to include speakers equally from both resource rich and limited settings.

A pre-congress course "Caring for the Burn-Injured Patient in Resource Limited Settings: Beyond 48 Hours", will run on Sunday 23 August at the Hyatt hotel, linked to the ICC, from 9am. This course is primarily designed to address the needs of the multidisciplinary team, especially in Resource Limited Settings. This pre-congress course is very popular, and spaces will be allocated on a first- come first -served basis.

This congress marks the first gathering of the ISBI without Dr Basil Pruitt, one of the founding members of our society. We are celebrating his legacy with The Pruitt Memorial Lecture and we are honoured that Dr. Naoki Aikawa, MD, DMSc, FACS. Professor Emeritus, Keio University, Japan, a close friend and colleague of Dr Pruitt, will give the Inaugural lecture.

The programme includes 5 plenaries, 13 symposia covering various aspects of burn care and forty (40) free paper sessions including the Young Investigators Award and the Zagame Rehabilitation Prize. In addition, there will be several E-Poster sessions.

Looking forward to welcoming you in Birmingham in August 2020.

*Naiem Moiemmen, President, ISBI*

## Communications Subcommittee

The BBA continues to work hard across all its membership, Subcommittees and Executive to promote its key messages.

Successful events across the UK involving BBA members were well-received throughout Burn Awareness Day in October, as was a live interview on BBC Radio Five Live from BBA Deputy Chair, Jane Leaver, talking about the dangers of fireworks around bonfire night.

A joint media campaign and press release from BAPRAS, the BBA and British Society for Surgery of the Hand (BSSH) resulted in widespread coverage on national and regional media channels. An article in the Guardian featured good coverage:

<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2019/nov/01/nhs-surgeons-say-fireworks-should-carry-graphic-warnings>

with key comments including:

**"BAPRAS, BSSH and the British Burn Association (BBA) believe mandatory graphic warning images and plain packaging for fireworks will help warn of potential injuries at the point of use and discourage misuse," the three groups said in a joint statement.**

The Daily Mail headline read:

**'Leading surgeons call for fireworks to be sold in cigarette-style packaging with graphic images of life-changing burns and injuries'**

The Association continues its messaging through its website and Twitter.

*Kayvan Shokrollahi, Communications Subcommittee Chair*

# Emergency Management of Severe Burns (EMSB)

The last 12 months have been very busy for EMSB, both in the UK and internationally.

## New course

As all of you will know who are involved with the EMSB course, one of the most common comments candidates give as feedback is that EMSB is an excellent course but tight for time and there is not enough time to practice actual scenarios. ANZBA have spent a considerable amount of time looking at this and the best way to solve the problem to improve the course.

The new course started in the UK in June 2019, with Nottingham the inaugural UK centre. To the end of 2019 there have been eight of the new courses run (including two military) and one instructor course (Liverpool).

The course content remains similar. The key difference being there is half as much time for the didactic lectures in the morning (candidates need to ensure they have read the manual before the day) and the extra time is now allocated to the small group discussions (previously known as skill stations / discussion groups) and importantly, for the moulages. Initial feedback has been very positive and we value comments from all faculties and candidates.

As part of evolving the course, there are plans to have a 'recertification/refresher' update which are likely to be an on line format. A new manual is in progress which will be much more evidence based (with references).

We will continue to run around 12-14 courses (including military courses) in the UK and one instructor course per year. The established centres continue from strength to strength and in 2019 Belfast ran a course reintroducing Northern Ireland as a course centre. It is anticipated this will be a yearly course.

If anyone would like to run a course in a new centre please contact the BBA.

## International Senate

EMSB was developed by ANZBA in the 1990s and is now taught in numerous countries in a number of continents around the world.

This year, just prior to the EBA conference in Helsinki (Sept 2019), there was a one day 'International Senate' meeting to share experiences and good practice of these internationally run courses and to learn from each other. From the UK, this was attended by Tania Cubison (new Senate Chair), Kate Elsworth (Chair, BBA Education Subcommittee and BBA Exec Member) and Andy Williams (BBA Exec Member and international EMSB Instructor).

Many new ideas were discussed to further improve the course delivery and maintain consistency and quality assurance across all the courses.

## UK Senate

EMSB (UK) Senate continues to meet twice a year to manage all areas of delivery of the courses in the UK, including course organisation, education issues, finances and new venues.

There have been discussions for a while around increasing centres' representation at Senate. The September 2019 meeting was the first such meeting where each centre now has multi disciplinary representation. This should improve feedback both ways and make Senate more receptive to local centre issues.

Finally, after three years as EMSB Senate Chair, it gives me great pleasure to hand over the reins to Tania Cubison (East Grinstead). Tania has been very involved with the delivery of both the East Grinstead and military courses with her team as well as with EMSB Senate. Her enthusiasm is well known throughout the BBA and she is well placed to take EMSB forward through the next exciting phase.

Thank you to all of you who work so hard to deliver these courses. It is, and continues to be, greatly appreciated.

*Nadeem Khwaja, Outgoing National Organiser, EMSB UK*

## Dates of EMSB Candidate Courses - 2020:

14 March – Birmingham	24 March – East Grinstead	28 March - Belfast
14 April – Preston	23 - 24 April – Strensall (Military)	3 July – Nottingham
4 July – Chelmsford	13 – 14 August – Strensall (Military)	12 September - Bristol
5 October – Newcastle	23 October – Chelsea & Westminster	27 November – Liverpool
3 – 4 December – Strensall (Military)		

## Research Subcommittee

A meeting of the BBA Research Subcommittee and SIG was held in London on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2019, chaired by Baljit Dheansa. Following that meeting the members have been busy updating the database in the research folder in the private members section of the BBA website. This is still a work in progress. There was a further short, although lively, gathering at the Annual Meeting in Queens Hotel, Leeds on 8-10 May 2019.

Dr Mark Brewin, clinical scientist at Salisbury, has recently submitted his application to stage 2 of the Research for Patient Benefit Programme, for his proposed study on the effectiveness of early treatment of hypertrophic burns scars with pulsed dye laser. He has done a huge amount of work on this, with support from some of the members of the Research SIG.

There is on-going engagement with the Scar Free Research Council and the NIHR injuries and emergencies group. For plastic surgery trainees, Julia Sarginson is our representative at the Reconstructive Surgical Trials Network. If you would like to join the Burns Research Network list on JISmail, please contact Mark Brewin at Salisbury or Simon Booth at East Grinstead.

The next meeting of the SIG will be held in London at the Royal College of Surgeons of England on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020. We plan to combine this with an educational day open to all interested BBA members, although the number of spaces will be limited to 60. The Research SIG now has 128 members and if you would like to join before that date please enquire via Nechama Lewis.

*Yvonne Wilson, Research Subcommittee Chair*

## Prevention Subcommittee

Once again I thank all members of the BBA and the Prevention Subcommittee for their continued support and enthusiasm. I was impressed by the number of prevention related posters and talks at this year's Annual Scientific Conference held in Leeds. I counted 16 posters on a wide range of burn mechanisms. Let's hope that further work can be done.

We have been able to collaborate with several organisations this year regarding burns prevention messages. It has been important for us to be involved with these and to support and share their efforts. This has included a press release from the Royal College of Surgeons, released on National Burn Awareness Day, on scald injuries and a BAPRAS campaign on firework safety.

We were also very excited to be involved with the launch of the SafeTea campaign (see further details included in this Newsletter). This campaign is ongoing and there are resources available on the website. Please continue to spread the word.

Child Accident Prevention Trust (CAPT) Safety Week in June held a dedicated day focusing on burn prevention. We thank our associates at both CAPT and Childrens Burns Trust (CBT) for their ongoing support and promotion of burns awareness. CBT continue to help us prepare for National Burn Awareness Day with the resource packs and social media promotion. NBAD in 2019 was held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October and had an increased social media reach. There was even a segment on ITV's This Morning programme on burns and scalds the following day. Feedback on local events has not yet been gathered. NBAD in 2020 will be on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October.

As the burns conference next year will be in association with ISBI and therefore later in the year, we hope to arrange a separate Prevention Subcommittee meeting in the spring. We will aim to review previous NBAD events and share experiences as well as planning for forthcoming events. We would like to enhance the focus on burns to the elderly population.

Age Cymru have launched a winter health campaign with some input from BBA members to promote burns and scald awareness. Hopefully there will be some learning points from this event that we can also take forward.

Overall there have been some fantastic developments this year but as always there is more to do. I look forward to working with the Subcommittee further next year.

*Vicky Dudman, Prevention Subcommittee Chair*

## Nutrition Special Interest Group

This year, there was an intention to rebrand the Dietetic SIG and become a BBA Nutrition SIG. The vision driving this change was to support greater inclusion of Burn professionals interested in nutrition with the hope of facilitating cross service research, peer support and guideline development. Sadly, there was little appetite for this from the BBA community, so the rebrand has not been undertaken.

Nevertheless, some positive nutrition updates can be delivered.

This September, Tig Bridge (Clinical Lead Dietitian at Nottingham) represented UK Burn Dietitians at the European Burns Association (EBA) Annual Congress in Helsinki. Fantastic sessions were delivered that were particularly pertinent to burn nutrition, which have been listed below;

- *Nutrition in the Burn injured Child: an Audit* by Sam Pearce RD (UK)
- *Why are trace elements important in Burns?* by Mette Berge (Switzerland)
- *Indirect Calorimetry, non-invasive measurements in practice* by Josefine Dimander RD (Sweden)
- *Reliability of resting energy expenditure in major burns: between measured and predictive equations* by D Kym (Korea)
- *Measuring energy expenditure using ventilator derived CCO<sub>2</sub> in severe Burns* by Bas Mul Beverwijk (Netherlands)
- *Improve burn care and patient outcomes by combining knowledge of physical therapists and dietitians* by Gretha Wessling-Keuning (Netherlands)

Furthermore, a lunchtime networking session was arranged at the EBA for nutrition professionals to meet and collaborate. Eight Dietitians, with experience in burn care, from five countries (UK, Sweden, Netherlands, Finland and Switzerland) were able to meet and share practice. Topics discussed were: staffing, bed numbers, job descriptions, use of indirect calorimetry/calculating nutritional requirements, feeding practices, trace element supplementation, products and referral criteria to name a few! Needless to say half an hour was not enough so to support ongoing communication, peer support and research collaboration emails were exchanged. Since the meeting, an email distribution list has been created, acquiring five more dietitians, with conference learning summarised shared for the benefit of all.

*Tig Bridge, Burn Specialist Dietitian*

## Psychosocial Special Interest Group

The Psychosocial Special Interest Group continues to meet formally twice a year for a day in Birmingham and more informally for an hour at the annual BBA conference. Burn care services from England, Wales, and Scotland are represented by those providing psychosocial care to patients and their families. This incorporates a range of professionals including clinical psychologists, other psychological professionals, play specialists, social workers, and members of the Centre for Appearance Research who are involved in burn-related research projects. Meetings are structured to include service updates from across the country, discussion of best practice and links to the National Burn Care Standards, updates on current research projects, and clinical case discussions.

At recent meetings the Psychosocial SIG has discussed the new Burn Care Standards and the implications of these for ongoing service delivery, attaining KPIs, and collection of screening and outcome data. The SIG plans to conduct an audit to review the current screening methods used nationally, as well as forming a small working party to develop guidance around the new scoring system of psychological need and associated action.

In October 2018 the SIG were pleased to see the launch of a fantastic new parent support website:

[www.supportingchildrenwithburns.co.uk](http://www.supportingchildrenwithburns.co.uk)

This was developed by our previous Chair, Dr Jennifer Heath, in conjunction with parents and carers, as part of her PhD research with the Centre for Appearance Research, University of West England. This website contains information to help support parents or carers of children and young people who have experienced a burn injury of any size, and includes parent stories as well as links to useful resources.

Members of the SIG are also actively supporting the next phase of the CARE Burn Scales research which will look at the responsiveness of the scales to change over time. This research is led by the Centre for Appearance Research, University of West England. Copies of the scales can be obtained on the following website:

[www.careburnscales.org.uk](http://www.careburnscales.org.uk)

Finally, we said farewell to our SIG secretary Dr Rachel Mumford earlier this year, and are pleased to welcome Dr Anna Turner into this role.

*Natalie Holman, BBA Psychosocial SIG Chair*

# Nurses Special Interest Group

A Nurses SIG meeting was held in the Burns Unit at the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2019. The theme of the meeting was 'Information sharing', to encourage distributing findings of completed research to contribute to improving burns care. Findings around the use of Honey in major burns, the use of Atrauman® silicone and pruritus management within paediatrics, were the three audits which had been undertaken within different burns services and were discussed. It was agreed that the sharing of audits between different burns facilities would strengthen communication and prevent duplication. There was a general consensus that Nurses SIG projects would be beneficial as this would allow collaboration between multiple nursing professionals within the BBA and would enable work to be carried out on a larger scale. It was agreed that future project planning would be structured around four themes: clinical, education, research and leadership and that these should be included and reflected within our mission statement. Therefore, those who attended agreed that updating the mission statement is necessary to reflect the current aims and goals of the SIG. Various key words were shared by attendees and over the past six months the mission statement has been circulated to all nurse members to share comments and receive feedback. The final draft has been approved by the Executive Committee and is printed below.

Another positive development is 'Wize Chat', a forum which has been created for the Nurses SIG that is password protected and located within the BBA members' website. It is hoped that this will strengthen communication between members and will help in our future SIG projects.

I am pleased to announce that we have been granted project approval to develop national nursing burns competencies. The project idea was brought forward by one of the nurse members who highlighted the difficulties in completing competencies in clinical practice. Through the development of succinct nationally recognised competencies it is hoped to reduce the length of time to complete all competencies and increase up take.

Unfortunately, our 'Project Planning' meeting in October was cancelled due to low attendance. We are planning to hold this in the next year; details will be circulated in due course. If there are any specific topics/issues you would like covered please send these to [sara.boylin@chelwest.nhs.uk](mailto:sara.boylin@chelwest.nhs.uk)

*Sara Boylin, Nurses SIG Chair*

## Nurses Special Interest Group MISSION STATEMENT

Welcome to the main page for the British Burn Association Nurses Special Interest Group (SIG).

We are the professional voice of nursing for the British Burn Association. Working collaboratively to develop nursing practice and awareness in all four essential areas of burns care: Clinical, Leadership, Education and Research (CLEaR).

Through a non-judgemental supportive and respectful culture, we aim to promote and empower all levels of burns nursing.

We are dedicated to delivery of high quality patient-centred care and provide an inclusive platform for the sharing of best practice in the management of burns care.

# Burn Clubs and Camps Special Interest Group

## WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The 16<sup>th</sup> October 2019 was National Burns Awareness Day, I believe now in its fifth year. It was fantastic to see so much coverage in both national and local media, from online articles to interviews with parents on the TV. The day not only raises significant information about how to prevent injuries, promoting campaigns such as Safe Tea, and 'Cool, Call, Cover' as first aid but also highlights the impact an injury can have on children and families. There were a number of 'survivor' stories featured, explaining the impact the injury had as they grew up and how now as young adults they are overcoming and succeeding in their own way.

This year at the BBA Annual Conference we heard from Raiche Mederick a burn survivor explaining about her transition from burn survivor to volunteer, peer mentor and ambassador. We are seeing evidence of this giving back more and more, from parents and burn survivors who are now young adults, and it is listening to what they say, about what helped them when they had difficult experiences after their burn journey, which is guiding much of the work we are seeing within Burn Camps and Clubs.

I have been fortunate to be involved for the last few years with a Young Adult support weekend which is sponsored by Dan's Fund for Burns. The attendees range from those injured as week old babies to those injured in their late teens or early twenties, some whom had a lot of support from camps and clubs, others limited, or none at all. It is inspiring to see the peer support they offer each other and the positive impact it can have on individuals when they go swimming as a group. When they talk to each there are also many examples of shared experiences they have had, some positive but many challenging, with one common one being dealing with stares.

There were similar shared themes and stories of support, or the need for greater support, coming from parents at this year's first parent conference last week and whilst we have seen some excellent work and support, I am sure there is more we could do with a little more help, whether financial or in time.

Across the country there is from different clubs, evidence of excellence and pioneering work. This year alone the Scottish Burned Children's Club are running a family adventure weekend for a large group of families with the emphasis on getting the families active, having fun and then talking informally about the 'burn journey'. The same venue in the Lake District is also used for children's camps by the Manchester and Yorkshire clubs as the facilities and activities are proving a great challenge and self-esteem boost for all involved. This year the Children's Burns Club, based at the St Andrews Centre in Broomfield, have created a 'recipes of life' book. Developed with children aged 8-17 attending their camp, it is real life examples of how to cope with different things, for children, by children – a recipe for creaming my scars, a recipe for answering questions, a recipe for changing schools and so on. The National Burns Camp, recognising some of the most difficult times for having a visual difference can be the teenage years, have organised a scuba diving course, where 10 children aged 15-17 will complete their PADI diving course in the UK and Egypt and then hold a qualification, as well as a chance of a lifetime experience for many.

Dan's Fund for Burns have now been running a live webchat and support group for almost a year for adult burns survivors and parents and have now trained older burns survivors themselves to help with moderating the forum. There is also great work being done by the Centre for Appearance Research, including Jen Heath as part of her research developing a great website for parents.

I could list more wonderful examples of support from clubs across the country, the Grafters in Newcastle, FAB in the South West and more, but again the common theme from those organising activities is that they always have more requests for support than they can offer as they are limited by financial or time resources.

So in 2020 if you can in one way or another, please try and support your local burns clubs or one of the national groups e.g. Children's Burns Trust, National Burns Camp, Dan's Fund for Burns, Katie Piper Foundation.

Please feel free to contact me should you need further information.

*Martin Palmer, Burns Club SIG Chair (Martin.Palmer@meht.nhs.uk)*



## Burns Therapy Interest Group

The Burns Therapy Interest Group continue to meet bi-annually. Members would like to thank Rachel Wiltshire and Vicky Dudman for their contribution as Chair and Secretary over the last few years, who sadly stepped down from their role in June. BTIG members elected myself, Amanda Dufley as Chair but we are still seeking a new Secretary. Please let me know if you wish to take on the role.

To provide members with CPD opportunities, BTIG have planned and delivered a number of study days which have been well attended and very successful. A scar management study day is planned for the 21st of February at Southmead Hospital, Bristol. This will initially be available to therapists with a view to expand availability to other professions e.g. nurses, if there is space available. Please contact me if you wish to put your name forward for the course at [Amanda.dufley@nbt.nhs.uk](mailto:Amanda.dufley@nbt.nhs.uk)

BTIG have plans to discuss at future meetings, feedback regarding Lymphotouch, which some services were kindly provided by Dan's Fund for Burns. They also plan to relook at the Burns Therapy Standards to see how well services are achieving them.

There has been concern raised regarding the difficulty therapists are having finding the time to attend general BTIG meetings. This is partly due to lack of availability to attend, but also due to location. There are plans to alternate the location of the meetings and the next meeting will be held at the ISBI in Birmingham August 2020. We are always seeking new members, so if you have members of your team who have not joined us, they are allowed to attend one meeting without being a BBA member to decide if they wish to join. Please advise them to contact me for more information.

*Amanda Dufley, Burns Therapy Interest Group Chair*

## iBID / QST & QD

Following the release of the revised Burn Care Standards at the end of last year there has been a Clinical Reference Group (CRG) initiated process to work with the Quality Surveillance Team (QST) of NHS England to translate some of the revised standards into a new set of quality dashboard items. This process is nearing its conclusion and will include a revised list of quality dashboard items from April 2020. The last such change to the quality dashboard list was in 2016.

As a consequence, the release of the planned iBID software upgrade has been delayed so as to incorporate the necessary structural changes to accommodate the new quality dashboard items. It is likely that the software release will be towards the end of December 2019 which will be a server level upgrade incorporating a number of the developments reported in the 2018 BBA Newsletter. It will also incorporate the need to report burns care PROMS and a burns rehabilitation prescription in line with current major trauma centre practice.

The plans for the forthcoming GIRFT review are to incorporate a self-assessment by burn services against the Burn Care Standards and for this information, alongside any findings gleaned from the GIRFT deep dive visits, to be passed to the QST in preparation for their peer review visits, which are planned to commence in Burn Centres from April 2020.

A number of new metrics have been developed not only for the quality dashboard but also for the GIRFT process which will be rolled over into subsequent iterations of deep dive visits following this initial round.

Unfortunately, delays in analysing non-iBID NHS data sources has resulted in slippage of the timetable for the GIRFT deep dive visits to burns and plastic surgery services, which is regrettable but unavoidable. There will therefore be the risk of an overlap between the GIRFT visits and the visits to Burn Centres by the QST peer review teams. This will require careful coordination.

*Ken Dunn, MD, iBID*

# The Scar Free Foundation



2019 has been another productive year for the Foundation with a range of fundraising and research activities successfully undertaken. In addition, this year we have continued to strengthen our research governance processes and Patient and Public Involvement in research activities. We continue to work with our Scar Free Foundation Ambassadors (people with a lived experience of scarring) and have had a record fundraising year, with £2,772,174 raised in the financial year 2018-2019, 217% up on the previous year. Research spending was up 22% on the previous year with spend in the year 2018-2019, £1,434,644.

## Royal visit to the Centre for Conflict Wound Research

In April, our Centre for Conflict Wound Research was visited by HRH The Duke of Sussex. His Royal Highness observed our scar free research, including an anti-scarring gel dressing for use in austere environments and was particularly interested in how we collaborate with key partners to address the challenges in acute care, long-term impact and psychological effects of conflict related injuries.

The Centre, which was officially opened by Her Royal Highness The Countess of Wessex in October last year, is a research partnership with the University of Birmingham, University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust, the Centre for Appearance Research at The University of the West of England, and the CASEVAC club.

As well as learning about our scar free research, Prince Harry spent time with members of the CASEVAC Club, made up of veterans injured in Iraq and Afghanistan, many of whom have also participated in the Invictus Games. The CASEVAC Club are involved in the trial and design of research underway at the Centre and many members will participate in Scar Free Foundation-funded studies.

## Annual Involvement Reception

In June we held our 2nd annual Involvement Reception. The event brought together Scar Free Ambassadors, along with volunteers and supporters. The event aimed to equip those interested in promoting the work of the Foundation with the public speaking and social media skills to do so.

The day consisted of two workshops led by Scar Free Foundation Ambassadors Pam Warren and Lois Collier. Pam Warren shared her top tips for public speaking and Lois Collier, along with Barley Communications, presented on how to use social media to raise awareness of scarring. Guests also heard from the Foundation's lead Ambassador, Falklands war veteran Simon Weston CBE, who shared his inspiring story.

## 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations

This year marks the 20th Anniversary of the Foundation. To mark this occasion, the Foundation will be producing a report on the impact of our funded research. The report will feature interviews with current and previous funding recipients and will be launched at our 20th Anniversary Afternoon Tea at Buckingham Palace in December. The event will be hosted by the Foundation's Royal Patron Her Royal Highness The Countess of Wessex.

## The Safe Tea Project

The SafeTea campaign was officially launched on 16 October to coincide with National Burn Awareness Day. This included media and press coverage on the day as well as daily social media posts. The campaign features burn prevention and first aid films and infographics aimed at the parents and health care professionals. The social media posts guide people back to the SafeTea website which hosts prevention tips, burn first aid and useful resources. The resources are downloadable from the website and include a reach chart, a poster and a fridge magnet image. The Foundation is providing 'in kind' communications and administrative support to the campaign and are working with the researchers on the ongoing preparation of tweets and communications material. You can visit their social media channels or visit their website <https://safetea.org.uk/>.

- Twitter: @SafeTeaCampaign
- Instagram: @SafeTeaCampaign
- Facebook: @SafeTeaCampaign
- Youtube: Safe Tea

## The Scar Free Foundation Burns Research Network supported by the VTCT Foundation

### New funding

We have committed funding to a Burns Cohort Feasibility Study which will be led by Dr Amber Young at the University of Bristol. The study looks to emulate the success of the Cleft Gene Bank and Cohort study by collecting biological and clinical data from children who have suffered a small scald and following them over time.

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

Scar Free Foundation Student Electives fund medical, paramedic, nursing, dietetics and psychology students wishing to undertake a small-scale Elective research project focused in the area of burn medicine and care relating to scarring, wound healing and disfigurement either in the UK or abroad. All applications are externally reviewed and the funding available per student is £1,200 to support projects of 4-8 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: <https://scarfree.org.uk/research/funding/student-electives-2020>

**The deadline for applications is the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020**

## Student Electives Update

### 2019

Three students undertook SFF/BBA funded electives in 2019.

**Student: Miss Alice Lee, Imperial College London.**

**Project: *Short-term outcomes after burn injury; standardising outcomes for research***

Supervisors: Dr Amber Young and Dr Anna Davies, University of Bristol and University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust.

Miss Lee's elective took place between 3 June – 12 July 2019 and her final project is due on 11 October 2019.

The project was part of a wider NIHR-funded research project to identify an agreed outcome for burn care research reporting, i.e. a Core Outcome Set (COS). Burns are an important cause of global morbidity, disability and healthcare expenditure.

Despite diverse treatments options, there is a limited evidence-base on which to make clinical decisions due to heterogeneity, limited patient involvement and varying international and national practice. The overarching aim of the NIHR project is to improve clinical trial reporting of burn interventions and ultimately clinical decision making and patient outcomes.

The Elective project analysed data collected from a large-scale Delphi survey, the first to incorporate perspectives of international burns patients, relatives and clinicians, to specifically look at short-term outcomes after burns.

Research Question:

What is the optimal Core Outcome Set (COS) for evaluating short-term effects of burn care interventions?

Objectives:

- Characterise the dataset gathered from the Delphi survey by way of participant type (clinician, relative, friend), details of burn injury (time since injury and size of injury) and intervention.
- Analyse the dataset to identify short-term outcomes.
- Conduct sub analyses to determine whether there are differences in preferred core outcomes according to factors such as participant type, type of burn injury and intervention.

Miss Lee presented her project at a VTCT Foundation update event alongside Dr Amber Young who is in receipt of funding from the VTCT Foundation.

**Student: Mr Louis-Phillipe Delaugere, Queen's University Belfast.**

**Project: *The use of telemedicine and affordable technology to improve outcomes of plastic surgery in a third world environment***

Supervisors: Mr Baljit Dheansa, Consultant Plastic Surgeon, Queen Victoria Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and Dr Jim Gollogly, Orthopaedic Surgeon, Children's Surgical Centre (CSC), Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Mr Delaugere's Elective took place between 24 June – 2 August 2019 at the Children's Surgical Centre in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Their final project is due on 1 November 2019.

One of the most important threats to wound healing following burns is infection. Deep burns which are poorly treated can lead to severe scarring which may have a significant functional impact on patients. Mr Delaugere's project proposed to prevent long term sequelae from impaired burn healing with early detection and diagnosis of wound infection or slow healing. There are studies validating the pH of healing wounds. The project hoped to use that body of evidence to establish the in vivo correlation between the pH at various stages of healing and deviations therefrom as indication of supervening wound infection.

Early near-patient detection of deteriorating wound conditions leading to timely intervention was therefore the raison d'être of this project. The project sought to investigate the adoption of a simple and cost-effective method of procuring desirable outcomes at reasonable cost.

## Student Electives Update (Cont'd)

The second component of Mr Delaugere's project was telemetric near-patient monitoring of wound healing by smart phones, when combined with litmus pH paper testing, this method of monitoring enables early detection of sub-optimal and slow wound healing and timely intervention to prevent long-term complications of impaired wound healing.

Research Question:

- To investigate the uses of telemedicine and affordable technology to improve outcomes of plastic surgery in a third world environment.

Objectives:

- Gain a practical understanding of burns management within an economically constrained environment.
- Develop leadership and team-working skills that will enable the student to conduct genuinely innovative clinical research.
- Gain an insight into the challenges faced by burns patients during their recovery.
- Work to improve wound healing outcomes of Cambodian burns patients through a collaborative approach that could be replicated elsewhere.

The methodology comprises:

- Assessing the use of litmus paper as a monitor of healing in burns.
- Evaluating telemetry to enable near-patient clinical assessment of wound healing with a scoring system based on direct visualisation.
- Deploying the smartphone as the intermediary between the patient recovering at home and the supervising hospital clinician in hospital.
- Designing a protocol for patient self-assessment in conjunction with Children's Surgical Centre, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

**Student: Mr Rupert Jordan, University of Leeds.**

**Project: *Improving recovery outcomes for burns patients in Tanzania. A new approach to immediate management.***

Supervisors: Ms Grainne Bourke – Consultant Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon, Leeds Teaching Hospital. Dr Ibrahim Mkoma, Surgeon, Muhiminili National Hospital – Tanzania.

Mr Jordan's Elective took place between 22 July 2019 and 30 August 2019. His final report is due on 29 November 2019.

The Foundation will send across the 2019 Final Reports once they have been formally accepted by our external Electives Adviser.

### 2018

Mr Liam D Cato, who undertook a BBA/SFF Elective in 2018, presented at The Scar Free Foundation's Annual Update Event on 10 Oct 2019. His project was judged to be one of the two best Final Reports from 2018. Liam presented a short overview of his project: *Investigative methodology of the histology of red duroc pig hypertrophic scarring and preliminary results of the application of adipose derived stem cells*. He was awarded a prize for a Highly Commended Final Report by the Foundation's Elective Adviser, Mr Martin Mace.

## Secretary/Treasurer Update

### Membership Fees 2020:

I am pleased to confirm that there will be no increase to membership fees for 2020 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

### 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.

# BBA Travel Reports

## BBA Travel Grant to attend MSACL 2019 & visit the Burns Unit, Los Angeles County Hospital, California, USA – *Dr Josh Cuddihy, Burns & ICU Research Fellow, Chelsea & Westminster Hospital*

In March 2019 I attended the Mass Spectrometry Applications in the Clinical Laboratory (MSACL) conference in Palm Springs, California with the financial assistance of the BBA Travel grant. At this conference I delivered a podium presentation of the mass spectrometry analysis of burned skin, with focus on the difference in spatial distribution in phospholipids, anti-oxidant molecules and small metabolites in burned and non-burned skin. As the only burn related presentation at this conference, I used the opportunity to raise awareness of burn injury associated clinical challenges and develop networks with other academic and clinical researchers with expertise in mass spectrometry and histological analysis of human tissue in health and pathology. I am delighted to report several positive meetings with academic colleagues from the conference who I intend to build collaborative partnerships with.



*Josh Cuddihy presenting at MSACL*

Whilst in California, I visited the BICU at UC Irvine Hospital and met with physical and occupational therapists delivering care to BICU patients. I have a particular interest in optimising functional outcomes of BICU patients and how therapy input during early BICU admission can be optimised to achieve this goal. I was interested to hear how the team at Irvine approached their burns patients. Of note, the utilisation of respiratory technicians within the burns MDT allowed for more time for the physical therapists to focus on early rehabilitation, positioning and mobilisation. In our own unit, the physiotherapists often prioritise the “chest physio” requirements of their patients in the early part of a BICU admission, and as a consequence have less time to focus on rehabilitation aspects of care.

I was aware of some of the structural differences between NHS provided health care services and the private healthcare model in the US. On arrival to the hospital I was surprised to have a valet offer to park the car, before a golf buggy style shuttle bus to take me to the part of the hospital where I was to meet the burns therapy team. Knowing how difficult it can be to find where you are going in a large, unfamiliar hospital, with multiple different buildings, this was very welcome! The structural differences extended into the in-patient care for the burns unit when compared to Chelsea and Westminster Hospital. Irvine is a major trauma unit, and the majority of the surgeons caring for burns patients were trauma surgeons, rather than the plastic surgeons I am more familiar. The BICU at Irvine is 10 bedded, and without a burn specific step down ward, patients remain on the unit until the bed is required for a new patient, when they will step down to a non-burn specific medical or surgical ward. Outpatient therapy services are provided by a different therapy team – a difference compared with our own therapy service, where the therapy team will frequently care for patients within the burns team service from BICU admission, to burns unit step down and outpatient follow up.

These differences aside, there were many similarities in the care provided, and I noted that the high quality and degree of care provided was the same regardless of insurance/financial status of the patients referred for care. As with our busy NHS, the clinical therapy team commented on their desire to do more with their patients and for more clinical staff and less administrative paperwork to achieve this.



*The main building of UC Irvine Hospital, housing the Burns ICU*

In summary, the BBA Travel grant funded visit to the UC Irvine Burns Unit and MSACL proved invaluable to the ongoing research project I am completing, allowing for development of academic and clinical collaborations and providing new insights into the delivery of burn therapy services in a different healthcare environment. I would like to thank the BBA committee for their generous awarding of the grant to make this possible!

## **BBA Travel Grant to visit the Adult Burns Unit at Tygaburg Hospital, South Africa – Ms Nola Mackie, ST7 Plastics and Burns, John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford**

My international burns fellowship at Tygerberg Hospital, Cape Town ran over the winter months in South Africa. Winter is the busiest time of the year for the Burns Unit and this gave me the most intense exposure in the surgical and ITU management of large burns in an adult population. Tygerberg Hospital is situated in the Northern suburb of Bellville in Cape Town. It opened in 1976 and has 1899 beds. It is the largest hospital in the Western Cape and the second largest in South Africa. It has teaching hospital status and is affiliated to Stellenbosch University. The hospital is mostly government funded and over 3.6 million people have their health care provided by the hospital either directly or via its secondary hospitals such as Worcester and Paarl to the north of the city.

The Burns Unit is the only dedicated adult burns unit for the whole of the Western Cape and services some 6.6 million people. The Paediatric Burns Unit is based some distance away at Cape Town's Children's Red Cross Hospital. As a tertiary hospital the patients are usually out of their resuscitation phase by the time they are transferred into the unit, though a small number present directly. If required, they will ideally have been ventilated and emergency escharotomies performed, patients should also have had an at least initial debridement done by a surgical team. Due to the great variability however in resources and trained personnel the adequacy and extent of any resuscitative or early surgical management is highly variable. Patients also often present late to medical establishments due to poverty, poor education and geographical distances. Bed and resource pressures often lead to further delays in transfer to specialist care. Due to these factors some patients may be in a relatively poor condition prior to reaching the unit and definitive burns care being instigated.

Priority for transfer to the unit is given to intubated patients and those with the most serious burns. In the interest of rationing limited resources the burns team use the ABSI score (Abbreviated Burn Severity Index) to guide admission. This uses a five variable scale to assess burn severity and mortality rate and this guides decisions regarding admission, district hospital active management or palliation. The criterion includes sex, age, presence of inhalation injury, presence of full thickness burn and total body surface area (TBSA) of burn.

The Tygerberg Burns Unit comprises 6 ITU beds with full ventilation capabilities and 16 ward beds. The burns surgical team staffs the ITU with regular input from the medical microbiologist and other medical teams as required. There is also dedicated Occupational (OT) and Physiotherapist (PT) input and input from social care and psychology on an as required basis. The burns operating lists are two half days and one full day. There is a weekly out patient clinic combined with PT and OT. The medical staff consists of one or two interns (house officers) two rotating general surgical registrars, a permanent and very experienced senior medical officer (Dr Kotzee) and the department lead, Dr Wayne Kleintjies. Dr Kleintjies has run the Burns Unit since 2013; he is a graduate from Stellenbosch University and is highly experienced and published. He has a keen research interest and is also a lecturer in Surgical Sciences at the Stellenbosch University. This small medical team cares for the ward, ITU and surgical side of all the burns patients that come through the department. They work with incredible dedication and care to provide the highest standard of medical management that can be achieved in a system that is stressed by patient volumes, limited theatre space and with restricted resources. The team of dedicated burns nurses is amongst some of the best I have ever worked with. They manage a huge workload with patience, calm, caring and a sense of humour that is so necessary in difficult working environments. The singing from the dressing room and the joyous prayer meeting every Monday morning gives the unit a family feel that extends to and welcomes all the patients and staff that pass through the Unit.

Due to economic and work force planning, general surgical teams perform nearly all of the primary management of burns patients in South Africa. Most of the patients admitted to the unit have large full thickness burns usually flame related. As expected the most common surgical management is debridement and skin grafting, often as a staged procedure if donor sites are limited and occasionally flap reconstruction if required. Due mostly to pressures on operating theatre space and the volumes of acute burns needing surgical management later contractures and complications are referred on to the Plastics Unit for management. Due to the extremely high pressure on beds, there is an imperative to try and discharge patients as soon as possible either home or to a local hospital. This however, is balanced with the very variable quality and availability of burns care at district units. For patients being discharged home there are often concerns surrounding stability of their home life and social support plus access to washing facilities, a clean environment and transport for outpatient appointments.

I would like to sincerely thank the BBA for their financial help without which I would not have been able to attend this Fellowship. It has helped me grow as a surgeon and improved my ability to care for patients with significant burn injuries both surgically and on the ITU side. I experienced a huge throughput of large complex burn patients that I may not have otherwise experienced in the UK.

I would also like to thank the staff at Tygerberg Hospital who showed me great kindness in their help and friendship and taught me so much.

# **BBA Travel Grant to attend ANZBA 2018 and visit the Fire and Rescue New South Wales – *Mr David Wales, International Fire Lead, National Fire Chiefs Council and Founder, SharedAim***

In 2009, in response to the Fire Service's desire to reduce injuries associated with fires in the home, I developed a research study that sought to answer the question 'Why don't the public do as they are told?' A frustration familiar to many organisations no doubt.

Over the course of nine years, I was fortunate to be given the autonomy by my employer at the time, Kent Fire and Rescue Service, to follow my instinct and where the research took me. As it turns out that has been a very long way both conceptually and physically. Placing the public experience and journey at the centre of the study, led me to work extensively with national FRS bodies, academia, the customer experience sector and the burns community. The latter facilitated greatly by the BBA to whom I am grateful.

From an early stage, the work also attracted considerable international interest. In early 2018 this led to a request from colleagues in Fire Emergency New Zealand to visit them. Over the course of two weeks, I gave a number of presentations and participated in various strategic planning forums. The trip proved very successful for both parties as we identified many common challenges, some solutions and made good links between our services. Whilst there, I also met with colleagues from the burns teams and discussed our work to improve pre-hospital burns care.

Inspired by my visit, I applied to present at ANZBA 2018 and was delighted to be accepted. However, without the kind support of the BBA, through its travel grant scheme, I would not have been able to attend, and I wish to place on record my sincere thanks to them.

ANZBA was a fantastic event and it reinforced the deep admiration for the professionalism and commitment of the burns community I developed at my first conference (ISBI) in 2012. Although, as in the UK, our sectors tend to remain separate and so it was at the same time, a privilege and slightly disappointing, to be the first Fire Officer to present at an ANZBA conference. My talk outlined the work behind, and recommendations within, the report 'Saving Lives Is Not Enough' which I co-authored with Kristina Stiles. I also was 'volunteered' as the model for a burn dressings workshop, which will live long in my memory and of those present. If not, I fear the photos may survive for some time and prove a more durable and harder to refute reminder.

ANZBA provided valuable learning and networking opportunities and I am especially grateful to Yvonne Singer who arranged for a visit to the Lady Cilento Burn Service where Bronwyn Griffin, Kristen Storey and Leila Cuttle hosted us.



Whilst in Melbourne, I was also able to visit Fire colleagues at Roma Street fire station. Here, I was joined by Kristina where, after a tour of the station, we led a discussion about their involvement in pre-hospital burns. As we have found in the UK, the fire crews had concerns about water quality and the appropriate treatment for burn survivors.

Since the trip I have kept in touch with fire colleagues in Australia and further developed our knowledge of common areas of interest. The opportunity to have met many of these in person has certainly assisted the ongoing liaison.

Oh, and the answer to why the public don't do as they are told. In many ways it is because we have failed to appreciate the experience from their perspective and therefore too readily dismiss their behaviours and motivations as irrational, when they are anything but. Evidence suggests the public are unlikely to change, so we need to. Assessing how a service is delivered is not the same as understanding how it is received.



## **Margaret Miller Travel Grant for Nurses to attend ISBI 2018, New Delhi, India and Safdarjung Hospital Dept of Burns & Plastic Surgery - Ms Mary Kennedy, Specialist / Service Improvement Nurse, Nottingham University Hospital NHS Trust**

The International Society for Burn Injuries Congress Conference is the opportunity for Burn care clinicians from around the world to meet. As a senior burns nurse, attendance at the meeting gave me the opportunity to learn from International colleagues and contribute to discussions and specifically nursing symposiums.

### **Objectives:**

To learn from presented International perspective of Burn patient care

Having a specific interest in how Burns and Specialised services use measures to review patient outcomes, opportunity to ascertain the International viewpoints on measuring outcomes, as ISBI Plenary sessions include: Outcomes beyond Mortality and Quality and Outcome Measures in Burns.

Attend Nursing Symposiums: enabling liaison with international colleagues and gain insight into current developments.

To learn about delivery of Burn care Education, what is being delivered internationally, especially for those clinicians less experienced in burn care.

Visit the Burns and Plastic Surgery department at Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi.

### **19th Congress of the International Society for Burn Injuries (ISBI)**



The 2018 conference programme was varied and extensive with Symposiums and 297 presentations in simultaneous sessions. 225 Posters were presented in electronic format. Reflecting on the conference program what was evident was multi – disciplinary clinicians in low and high income countries ongoing research and commitment to deliver the highest standards of patient care and work towards achieving the concept ‘One World, One Standard of Burn Care’.

The Plenary sessions on Outcomes and Quality in Burn care were interesting and providing a global perspective, what was evident was that this is an area that clinicians are striving to improve. The WHO Global Burn Registry provides a standard for Burn Data Collection and a start especially for services in low income countries in measuring burn patient outcomes, an increase in services using this Registry was reported. The collaboration with WHO to develop a Worldwide Burn Disaster plan as listed below.

A quality initiative of Burn Centre verification in the USA, demonstrated the process and challenges entailed in how we measure quality of care over services. The EBA / ANZBA perspective confirmed that even with established outcome measures the process is ongoing and that as well as clinician / organisations choosing measures the inclusion of patient reported outcome measures is required.

The following documents were presented at the conference and would be of interest to clinicians:

1. ISBI Practice Guidelines for Burn Care: Part 2. Published in: Burns 2018 November 44(7):1617-1706)
2. World Health Organization - Emergency Management Team (WHO-EMT) and Interburns consensus document for the minimum standards for burns care in mass casualty incidents and humanitarian emergencies

### **Nursing**

This comprised of a presentation session, within this interesting work presented on:

Anaesthesia Nurse led sedations for Adults and Children in Burns service (Uppsala, Sweden).

Occurrence of Delirium during Burns dressing changes: recognition and patient care.

Outreach Education to University Nursing students to promote recruitment to Burns services.

Nursing Symposium with the Theme: Nursing Care at the Bedside: How do we measure Quality?

Unfortunately presenter discussing Quality Metrics was not present.

PROMs in Burn care was discussed, continuing work required to develop these and recognition of how Nurses can contribute to establish this. Referenced: Systematic review by Griffiths, C. et al 2015 patient reported outcome measures used in child and adolescent burn research. Burns, 41(2), 212-224) ...

For Mary Kennedy's full Travel Report, please go to the BBA website: <https://www.britishburnassociation.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Margaret-Miller-Travel-Grant-for-Nurses-Report-Mary-Kennedy-2018.pdf>



# 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 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).

<http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/2059513117690012>

Whittam AM and Chow W. An educational board game for learning and

teaching burn care: A preliminary evaluation. Scars, Burns & Healing, Volume 3, 2017. DOI: 10.1177/2059513117690012



# Articles from the Burn Community

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

## Research Report from Salisbury

### PREMS

Together with Sharon Standen, a scoping exercise has been initiated for a Network-wide effort to broach the subject of PREMS (Patient Reported Experience Measures) for burns patients. The most recent version of the National Burns Care Standards requires in Topic A.09 that “The Burn Care Service measures the patient’s views and experience while receiving care. There is a focus on the process of care and how it impacts upon the patient experience.”

Burn Services currently use NHS Friends and Family questionnaires; however these are not burns specific. It is noted in the Standards (at the time of publication) that there are no validated PREMS for burn patients available. Local tools are currently used for internal audit within a particular service but cannot be used for comparison with other services.

Since the inception of this exercise, a paper on burns PREMS has been published in the Burns journal. This has been written by the Newcastle team: [www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0305417918311264](http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0305417918311264)

In the coming months, further work may be carried out to make a coordinated effort to further develop and/or validate PREMS for burns with the possible aim of having a set of tools that can be used across the Network.

### ELABS – Early Pulsed Dye Laser for Burn Scars

Mark Brewin (Clinical Scientist, Salisbury) has been working alongside the BBA Research SIG to write a grant application for a 3 year Research for Patient Benefit (RfPB) project from the NIHR. The proposed work is a national multi-centre study to study the effectiveness of treatment of burn scars with pulsed dye laser (PDL) at an early stage of scar development. The premise being that it is easier to prevent abnormal scarring than to treat it. This is a vision that is increasingly being bandied about at scar conferences and in journals globally, particularly in reference to laser treatment.

The Stage 1 application was accepted in early October with a view to submitting the Stage 2 application in late November. The study design is a gold-standard randomised controlled study with varied outcome measures of both subjective and objective scar assessment, patient experience, psychosocial impact and cost effectiveness. The study centres involved are Birmingham, Bristol, Chelsea & Westminster, Mid-Essex, Nottingham, Salisbury and Stoke-Mandeville.

For more information on either of these projects, contact Mark Brewin at [mark.brewin@nhs.net](mailto:mark.brewin@nhs.net)

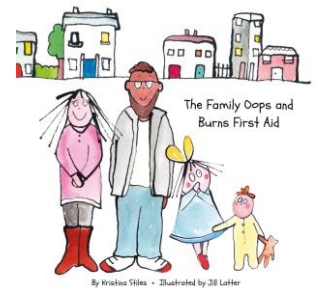
*Mark Brewin, Clinical Scientist, Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust*

## The Family Oops and Burns First Aid

“The Family Oops and Burns First Aid” is a book for children and families, and is my personal contribution to the burn awareness campaign. A rhyming story, which introduces the reader to an accident-prone family who are not aware of burn prevention. The narrative is descriptive of the typical burn injuries frequently seen across the national burn services and raises awareness of the dangers of sunburn, hot drink scalds, hair straightener burns and the use of accelerants on open flames. The characters in the book attend a school to learn the importance of appropriate burns first aid, which is key in reducing the pain, depth and size of the burn. Upon graduation from the school, the family want to share the messages they’ve learned, taking burn awareness beyond the classroom and the immediate family circle – making sure to promote healthy, connected and burn aware communities locally.

Some wonderful organisations working in risk prevention, emergency response, children’s burns and trauma, wound care and chemical safety came forward to support the printing and publication of the book. A professional voice over artist, Vonnie Lea, kindly gave her amazing voice to the audiobook version of the story, creating a resource easily accessible online by children, families, schools and healthcare teams.

“The Family Oops and Burns First Aid” book is now available on request from the Children’s Burns Trust. The audiobook can be accessed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n7aDyugYJOM&feature=youtu.be>



*Kristina Stiles, Head of Clinical Services, Katie Piper Foundation*



## SafeTea: An online intervention to prevent hot drink scalds in small children and improve burn first aid

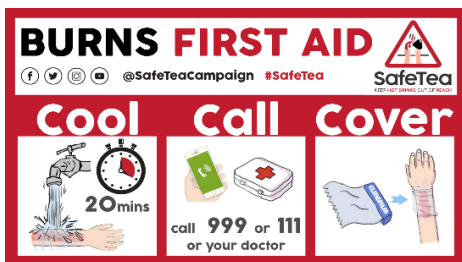
**SafeTea** is a national campaign which aims to reduce hot drink scalds to young children and promote burns first aid. The launch of the intervention was on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2019, National Burn Awareness Day. The target audience is parents, grandparents and carers of children under 5 across the UK.

The key messages of the campaign are to:

- Keep hot drinks away from young children
- Never carry a hot drink whilst carrying a baby
- Never pass a hot drink over the heads of young children
- Make a SafeTea zone: a safe place for hot drinks in your home, out of reach of small children
- First aid for burns is: COOL, CALL, COVER

**SafeTea website** provides free access to a suite of novel, web-hosted videos and downloadable materials (posters, flyer, reach chart, fridge magnet and activity pack) to support clinicians in communicating the SafeTea messages. Please visit the SafeTea website and become a supporter: [www.SafeTea.org.uk](http://www.SafeTea.org.uk).

A limited number of packs of printed materials are available for professionals to use to promote the messages with families. Packs of printed materials can be ordered from: [www.safetea.org.uk/resources](http://www.safetea.org.uk/resources)



Evidence based first aid: Cool, Call Cover

Available as business card or fridge magnet

### The SafeTea campaign

Following the launch on National Burns Awareness Day, the campaign will run on social media @SafeTeaCampaign for three months. The campaign will emphasise the likelihood and severity of hot drink burns in pre-school children, give prevention and first aid advice and invite parents and carers of young children to share their SafeTea stories and take the SafeTea pledge to raise awareness of hot drink safety at home. The SafeTea campaign will encourage online debate, discussion, downloads and publicise the availability of SafeTea materials to convey SafeTea messages directly to parents and carers of young children.



SafeTea Supporter banner

For use on email, social media and websites

### Get involved!

Check out SafeTea materials on the website: [www.safetea.org.uk](http://www.safetea.org.uk)

Become a SafeTea supporter and help promote the campaign

Take the SafeTea pledge

Follow us on social media @SafeTeaCampaign on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube to help keep children safe from hot drinks!

**The BBA is an ambassador and is contributing funding for the SafeTea campaign**

*Alan Emond, Emiritus Professor of Child Health, Bristol Medical School*

# National Conference for Parents of Burn Injured Children



On Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2019 the Children's Burns Trust in Partnership with the Children's Burns Club Charity hosted the UK's first national conference for parents/carers of burn injured children. There was recognition that parents/carers benefit from the family events run by burns clubs and charities, often supported by the Children's Burns Trust. However, because these can only reach a limited number at any time a decision was made to create an event that hopefully could have a further reach. This was supported by the hospitals within the London South East Burns Network (LSEBN) with representatives attending from each. The venue was generously provided by Ioannis Goutos, Plastic Surgery Consultant, and colleagues at Queen Mary University London.

The day was opened by Alison Tweddle from the Children's Burns Trust Charity and consisted of a number of presentations followed by opportunity for questions, in addition to networking time over lunch and at the end of the day. The presentations were on the 'Emotional Journey Following a Burn Injury' by psychologists Dr Beckie Connabeer and Dr Katherine Nutt from the St Andrews Centre, Chelmsford; Scar Management by Rachel Wiltshire, Lead therapist for the LSEBN and Megan Spires, Senior Burns Physiotherapist at the St Andrews Centre; Surgical pathway and Options for Reconstruction by Isabel Jones, Consultant Burns and Plastic Surgeon from Chelsea and Westminster Hospital; and a presentation on lived experiences by burns survivors Saffron Cohen, Raiche Mederick, Joe Ball and Tommy Gard and Parents Paul Gard and Amy McCabe (Parent Liaison, Scottish Burned Childrens Club) introduced by Pat Wade MBE, founder of the Burned Children's Club.

There were 64 attendees at the day which included parents/carers whose children had been treated at hospitals including Chelmsford, Chelsea and Westminster, Queen Victoria, Stoke Mandeville, Birmingham Children's, Glasgow, Royal London, Royal Manchester Children's, Nottingham and Murrison Hospital, Swansea. The day was supported by staff from a number of these hospitals including social workers, nursing staff and playworkers in addition to volunteers and Maia Thornton from the Centre for Appearance Research and Krissie Styles from the Katie Piper Foundation.

The feedback from the day was very positive with the majority rating all of the presentations as excellent and reflecting on how informative and useful the talks were. The lived experience session was a particular favourite with attendees finding this emotional but very inspiring. Attendees also appreciated the opportunity to meet with other parents/carers and know they are not alone, in addition to being able to talk to a range of professionals all in one place and have a greater understanding of the journey they are currently on and what is ahead.

There were requests for greater club support to certain geographical areas and also for future events to be held in different parts of the country to meet a wider audience and possibly be more interactive with workshop sessions. In addition a number of parents were very keen for their own children to hear the inspirational stories of the young adults who spoke about their personal experiences of their burn injury and subsequent journey. Within the Children's Burns Club we have burn survivors co-facilitate our workshops for young people which enables this process, survivors are often volunteers at clubs and camps and they use social media and promotion campaigns such as those run by the Children's Burns Trust but we would be interested in hearing about other ideas or events to further support this. If you have any questions about this event please contact us at [childrensburnsclub@meht.nhs.uk](mailto:childrensburnsclub@meht.nhs.uk)



*Katherine Nutt, Clinical Psychologist, Children's Burns Club, Broomfield Hospital*

# An Audit of Prehospital Burn Care in the UK

## Background

Although infrequently encountered, the ambulance service is often the first point of contact for patients in burn emergencies. It is therefore important that these potentially devastating injuries are managed in accordance with evidence based best practice. Appropriate assessment and management of these patients in the prehospital phase will have a significant impact upon their long-term outcomes, such as scarring, cosmesis and functionality.

## Aim & Objectives

This audit was conducted in order to determine if patients presenting to an ambulance service in the UK with thermal burn injuries are managed safely, effectively and in a timely manner in line with standards set out by the London South East Burn Network (LSEBN) and JRCALC guidelines. Areas highlighted for improvement will assist in directing future prehospital research and educational requirements. Epidemiological data will also be provided.

## Methodology

Data was collected retrospectively from the trusts incident database, extracted manually from PCRs and analysed using Microsoft excel. 1390 incidents were initially sourced for the audit from the crew condition codes, between June 2017 and June 2018. Once exclusion criteria had been applied 278 thermal burn incidents were identified for audit. The assessment and management of these patients was evaluated using the audit standards, set out at the beginning of the audit process.

## Findings

The epidemiological data showed that during the audit period 54% of patients were male, 44% were female and 2% did not have their gender documented. The large majority of burn patients were paediatrics who fell into the 0-10 age category and most burns occurred at a home address.

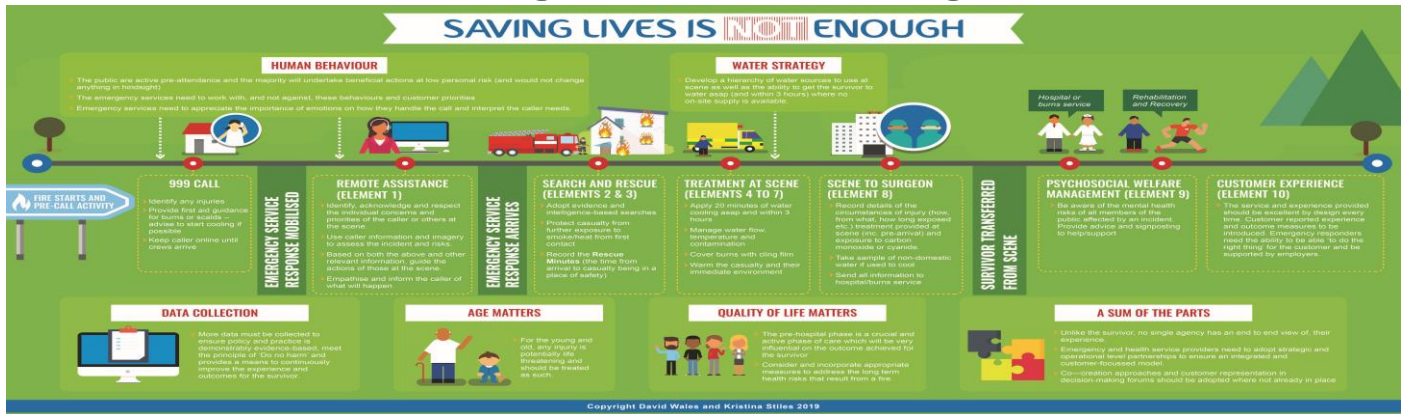
The assessment of pain and provision of analgesia for thermal burn patients showed a really positive high compliance rate, compared to current prehospital evidence. There was also a near 100% compliance rate for patients to be managed without hydrogel dressings and topical medicines. Assessment and documentation of the burn depth and extent of %TBSAB was around 50%, a reasonable finding as there is reducing emphasis on these elements in prehospital care. There was however poor compliance with cooling the burn injury, application of cling film and the provision of IV fluids where appropriate. These findings indicate areas for improvement within the trust.

## Recommendations

The recommendations from this audit are to increase compliance in the cooling of burns, assessment of burns, application of cling film and appropriate administration of IV fluids to 75%, on re-audit of the trusts clinical data. This is proposed to be achieved through educational sessions across the trust, infographic posters, changes to documentation and signposting to e-learning material (awaiting publication).

*Harriet Ashman, Paramedic, South of England*

# Saving Lives is Not Enough



'Saving Lives Is Not Enough' is a report by Kristina Stiles and David Wales (<https://tinyurl.com/SLINE2019>), which challenges the current focus and practice of pre-hospital burn care, argues for the transformation of emergency service partnership, and addresses the need for a cross-sector customer experience framework.

The pre-hospital phase is very influential on the survivor outcome and yet is not fully recognised as such. The report demonstrates that the impact of inconsistencies, false assumptions and uncoordinated actions (or inactions) between individual services, is to leave survivors vulnerable to avoidable and life changing outcomes. It identified that the Fire and Rescue Services (FRS) do not meet the principle of 'Do No Harm' due to not considering the upstream impact of existing ways of working or new initiatives. In order to provide the best survivor experience and outcome, existing FRS practices are insufficient in focus, knowledge and resourcing.

The BBA endorsed report recommendations have already influenced numerous quality improvements, including the procurement of smoke hoods for the public, crews attending scald and burn injuries to provide cooling and first aid, new guidance to crews for using water to cool burns, raising staff awareness of burn injuries and making burn prevention and treatment advice a core part of prevention and public advice activity. The report has also been shortlisted as a finalist in the Excellence in Fire & Emergency Awards in the Innovation of the Year category!

The report echoes the national initiatives in healthcare and policy innovation sector by placing the needs and experience of the burn survivor at the centre of service delivery. It sets out a route to improve the pre-hospital care and eventual quality of life outcomes for burn survivors. In doing so it articulates a new role and approach for the FRS, significantly extending its potential impact.

*Kristina Stiles, Head of Clinical Services, Katie Piper Foundation*

## 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.*



# CHARITY CORNER

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



## ReSurge Africa

**Hope through Training - Establishing reconstructive surgery and burns services in West Africa.**

In Ghana since 1992: responding to an obvious and critical need, Scottish reconstructive surgeons established the Charity and undertook the provision of infrastructure and the professional training and empowerment of local doctors, nurses, physios and anaesthetists to the highest clinical standards. They built a hospital and trained staff; today the Accra reconstructive surgery and burns unit is entirely self-sustaining, treating patients from around Ghana and serving as a highly regarded clinical training hub for the region.

In Sierra Leone since 2011: Healthcare provision in Sierra Leone is among the world's most challenged. Availability of health education is very basic. Our project is designed to create a sustainable surgical unit to address the great burden of need for reconstructive surgery for trauma, birth defects and infections. Establishing a national burns service is our priority.

The primary need in building this service is motivated local staff with the training, skills and experience to deliver care and train others – and impact on thousands of lives in the career of each clinician. Since 2011 Resurge Africa has been working toward this complex goal in Sierra Leone, training the first team of clinicians equipped to run a reconstructive surgery unit. We have used a combination of local training where possible, and international training where none exists in Sierra Leone. It is a long process of local partnership, investing in the right people.

We are keen to hear from clinicians with a burns focus who are interested in investing time and expertise to develop burns services in Sierra Leone. Help can be expertise, time, equipment, or financial – it is a challenging project, with tremendous impact.

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

[www.resurgeafrica.org](http://www.resurgeafrica.org)

Elizabeth Dell, Charity manager 07849744536

Registered Charity SC020924

## Children's Burns Club

The Children's Burns Club (CBC) is a charity which supports children who have experienced a burn injury or skin-related illness and their families in London and the South East. The psychological impact on both the children and their families can be significant, as all involved try to overcome the often traumatic experience, as well as adapt to uncertainty over the future.

Based in Essex, the CBC provides opportunities to meet other children and families who have had a similar experience as well as various opportunities for support and rehabilitation. We aim to provide this support through activities that are fun but also challenging.

We are fairly unique as unlike most other burns clubs in the country we are funded by the NHS to provide formal and structured therapeutic input alongside our activities. This support is delivered by one or both of our club psychologists often in the form of workshops or support groups. This input serves to give our members and their families the opportunity to openly discuss and learn ways to manage the issues they face on a day to day basis. This gives access to psychological support that children and families may otherwise struggle to access via more traditional routes. Examples of our workshops include managing questions, coping with bullying and teenage life and relationships. In our week long residential camp we also incorporate a workshop aimed solely at improving our children and young people's self-esteem.

In 2020 we are planning three family weekends (each of which incorporates a parent/carer support group), two family fun days, two residential trips (including our week long summer camp), a day trip, a teenage life workshop, a managing questions workshop and a volunteer training day.

We could not run these events without the support of our volunteers who give hundreds of hours of their spare time.

We know that access to burns support across the country is fairly inequitable and would be happy to talk to other clubs about how our current model of working became established. Check us out on Facebook – Children's Burns Club.





1<sup>ST</sup> ANNOUNCEMENT

**20<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL  
SOCIETY FOR BURN  
INJURIES (ISBI)**

**23 - 27 AUGUST 2020**



**INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTER  
BIRMINGHAM, UNITED KINGDOM**

[WWW.ISBI2020.ORG](http://WWW.ISBI2020.ORG)