

Laing Memorial Essay

Terms of Reference and Author Guidance

Title: *Defining the Endpoints for Success in Burn Care*

1. Purpose of the Award

The Laing Memorial Essay aims to promote scholarly reflection, critical analysis, and innovation in burn care. Submissions should demonstrate original thinking, a clear understanding of current practice, and proposals for improving outcome measurement and success definitions within modern burn services.

2. Essay Scope

Authors must address the overarching question:

“What should constitute meaningful endpoints for success in burn care?”

Submissions may consider (but are not limited to):

- Acute clinical outcomes
- Surgical endpoints
- Rehabilitation and functional recovery
- Psychological well-being and quality-of-life trajectories
- Patient-reported outcome measures (PROMs)
- Long-term morbidity (e.g., hypertrophic scarring, contractures)
- Societal reintegration, return-to-work, and cost-effectiveness
- Health-system and service-level performance indicators
- Equity, global health perspectives, and variations in resource settings

Interdisciplinary perspectives (surgery, anaesthesia, psychology, nursing, rehabilitation, health economics, data science) are welcomed.

3. Eligibility

- Open all involved in burn care.

- Essays must represent original work not previously published or submitted elsewhere.
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4. Word Limits

- **Abstract:** *Maximum 150 words*
 - **Main text:** *Maximum 5,000 words* (excluding references, tables, figures, legends)
 - **Tables and figures:** up to 5 in total
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5. Structure and Required Sections

A typical structure may include:

1. **Abstract (150 words)**
2. **Introduction**
3. **Current Models and Traditional Endpoints in Burn Care**
4. **Limitations of Existing Metrics**
5. **Proposed Framework for “Success” in Burn Care**
6. **Short-, Medium-, and Long-Term Endpoints**
7. **PROMs, PREMs, and Holistic Recovery**
8. **Global and Ethical Considerations**
9. **Future Directions and Research Gaps**
10. **Conclusion**
11. **References (Vancouver style)**

Alternative structures are permitted but must remain coherent and academically robust.

6. Referencing Requirements

- Vancouver style must be used.
- References must be numbered in the order they appear in the text.
- Authors are responsible for ensuring accuracy and completeness.

Example (Vancouver):

1. Jeschke MG, van Baar ME, Choudhry MA, et al. Burn injury. *Nat Rev Dis Primers*. 2020;6(1):11.
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7. Evaluation Criteria

Submissions will be judged on:

- **Originality and insight**
 - **Critical appraisal of evidence**
 - **Clarity in defining measurable and meaningful endpoints**
 - **Clinical relevance and feasibility**
 - **Quality of writing and argumentation**
 - **Appropriate referencing**
 - **Contribution to thought leadership in burn care**
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8. Formatting Requirements

- Word-processed document (MS Word format)
 - Font: 12-point (Calibri, Arial, or similar)
 - Line spacing: 1.5
 - Margins: ≥ 2 cm
 - Pages numbered consecutively
 - Vancouver-style references at end
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9. Ethics and Integrity

- All content must adhere to international research ethics standards.
- Any discussion involving clinical images, patient stories, or identifiable data must be anonymised and ethically appropriate.

A declaration that Artificial Intelligence has not been used in writing the essay must be signed

10. Submission Process

- Submission deadline: 30 March 2026

- Submission email: Info@britishburnassociation.org