

# BRITISH BURN ASSOCIATION

## NEWSLETTER: December 2020



### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

It is just a few months since I had the honour of being appointed Chair of your Association, taking over from Darren Lewis at the first 'virtual' BBA Annual General Meeting, held at the end of September 2020. I would like to thank Darren for his hard work and leadership over the last two years. Working closely with Jane Leaver, who also finished her term as Deputy

Chair, he guided us through the sometimes complex process of changing the legal structure of the BBA to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. This necessitated an updating of the constitution, which is available on the website. The Board are very grateful to both Darren and Jane for all they have done and are pleased to know they are still available for advice should it be required.

For many of us and our patients, this has been a very difficult year. We witnessed the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our patients, services, colleagues, families, ourselves and wider society. Alongside the disruption to patient care, the activities of the BBA have also been interrupted in several areas.

The planned joint annual conference with the International Society for Burn Injury unfortunately had to be postponed to 14-17<sup>th</sup> June 2021, to be held at the original venue in Birmingham. You can find details at [www.isbi2021.org](http://www.isbi2021.org). Abstract submission is already open.

EMSB courses have had to be cancelled since March 2020 and I am really sorry for the uncertainty that has surrounded these, knowing that some of you have had to change your plans several times. The EMSB Senate are hopeful to have better news soon as to the recommencement of courses, so check the website for updated information in the next few weeks.

In recognition of the prioritisation that members have had to make in their working lives, the Laing Essay Prize, on the subject of artificial intelligence, has now had the deadline extended until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

Despite the unprecedented situation, the membership have continued to work to deliver the core aims of the BBA. From June, the BBA collaborated in four successful webinars with BAPRAS, BFirst and ReSurge Africa. In August there was a nurses' webinar, followed by the Burns Therapists Interest Group webinar in September. A successful National Burn Awareness Day was held on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2020, in a somewhat different format from usual. All of these have been well attended and hopefully you managed to join at least some of the events.

Nadeem Khwaja and the Manchester team have produced three eye-catching posters on the theme of burns prevention. There is also an excellent safety poster about steam inhalation injuries, shared from the LSEBN via the Prevention Committee.

More educational events will be provided on a virtual platform to keep the activities of the BBA running and provide opportunities for all members, who so wish, to be involved.

Finances will be a challenge in the next year and the Board of Trustees are resolved to protect your Association for the long term.

As we move towards recovery from the pandemic, the well-being of burn patients is at risk of being overlooked and we must support our whole multidisciplinary team to ensure the best care for our patients in these challenging times.

I would like to wish everyone a happy festive season and a safe and prosperous New Year.

### Board of Trustees

**Chair:** Yvonne Wilson

**Deputy Chair:** Kayvan Shokrollahi

**Secretary:** Andrew Williams

**Treasurer:** Odhran Shelley

### Trustee Members

Simon Booth

Victoria Dudman

Nadeem Khwaja

Nicole Lee

Preetha Muthayya

### BBA SUBCOMMITTEES

#### Prevention Subcommittee

Chair: Victoria Dudman

#### Education Subcommittee

Chair: Andrew Williams

#### 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)

The British Burn Association is operating as a  
Charitable Incorporated Organisation  
Registered Charity no. 1187794

# 20<sup>th</sup> Congress of the International Society for Burn Injury

## 14<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> June 2021



Dear friends and colleagues

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I hope 2021 will be less challenging and more prosperous. It has been a very difficult year across the globe. I wish all our colleagues the best of health and a speedy recovery to those who got unwell with Covid-19 and my prayers and thoughts for colleagues that we lost this year.

The ISBI congress on **14-17 June 2021** is planned to be held in a hybrid format with a virtual platform and limited face-to face interactions depending on what would be possible and safe. Abstract submission is now open, and I would encourage you all to share with us your work, especially on the impact of Covid-19 on burn care across the globe.

The congress is a combined gathering of the International Society for Burn Injuries (ISBI), British Burn Association (BBA), Chinese Burn Association (CBA), and the Federacion Latino Americana de Quemaduras (FELAQ). This will be the biggest burn community platform in 2021 and we hope to see you all there. Registration will open on *1<sup>st</sup> February 2021*.

Looking forward to meeting you in June  
Keep well and safe

Naiem S Moiemem  
President  
International Society for Burn Injuries (ISBI)

## Education Subcommittee

The Education Committee has met twice this year, on the 26th of May and 10th of September. Discussion at both meetings revolved around the BBA's remit to deliver educational content and adapting to do this in a post-COVID environment.

Progress this year has included:

- Discussion with the Board of Trustees and ANZBA about bringing the therapies course from Australia/ New Zealand to the UK
- Work on the creation of a 5 year plan for the EdCo
- Discussion on how to incorporate Sim training into BBA educational activities
- Work on the development of an online educational platform for the BBA. Two options were put to the Board of Trustees (BoT), including designing, building and running the platform "in-house", or utilising a healthcare sector tech company to do this for the BBA. A presentation was given to the BoT on the capabilities provided by Proximie to run this platform. A Request for Proposal (RFP) has now been sent to Proximie and further progress is awaited. The EdCo is also applying for grant funding that would mean that the costs of running this platform would be covered for 2 years.

Following one resignation, the committee now consists of:

- Andy Williams (Chair)
- Stephen Benbow
- Nicole Lee
- Ian King
- Krissie Stiles
- Karl Walsh

Some positions on the committee are due to expire this year, so we will be looking for nominations for new members to allow a robust committee to continue this important work.

*Andy Williams, Education Subcommittee Chair*

## Laing Essay

**Laing Essay Prize 2020/21 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 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.** The winner will be announced at the BBA/ISBI Conference, June 2021. For further information, email:

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

*This year's Laing Essay Prize is generously donated by Jennifer Laing, daughter to JE Laing*

## 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'.

***Please note that the award of Travel Grants have been "paused" over the COVID-19 period.***

# Emergency Management of Severe Burns (EMSB)

The first international EMSB Senate meeting was held in Helsinki (September 2019). This was a great opportunity to meet with not just the ANZBA Faculty but also teams from many other countries around the world. It was a real opportunity to share ideas on both content and delivery and to appreciate that the EMSB is a living course and its delivery must move forward. It was observed that although the content had remained fairly consistent, the UK was delivering this with a less integrated multidisciplinary faculty due to following restrictions that had been superseded in other countries. A new course structure was agreed to incorporate less formal lectures and more time for small group work and practical skills.

The new course structure was introduced and the UK Senate are considering the structure of our faculties to decide how we might change in the future. This process has been held back due to other covid related issues.

Also in September 2019, the Senate was restructured to ensure better representation from regions, proposed changes to the course cost and expenses were discussed and Nadeem Khwaja handed on the chair of EMSB Senate to Tania Cubison.

In the Spring of 2020, the Covid pandemic resulted in the cancellation of all courses from March 2020.

A virtual Senate meeting was convened in May 2020 and it was agreed to cancel all courses until July and then consider if a virtual or social distanced course would be practical. The Birmingham course was rescheduled for November and other venues were asked to consider if they might host courses.

It was agreed to increase the course cost from £295 to £345 but to freeze the costs for the cancelled candidates. Faculty costs were to be reimbursed if no other refund possible. This was a particular issue for the Belfast course where there had been significant costs incurred by traveling faculty.

A further virtual Senate was held in July and plans made for virtual and social distanced courses from October. Rates and content were discussed and the need to do a face to face assessment at some point before the qualification could be awarded.

By the next virtual Senate in September, it was clear that the virtual options would be challenging due to the faculty being involved in restoration and recovery activity and many venues were still limited for face to face courses. However, the Chelsea and Westminster course for October 2020 was considered to be practical and was still planning to go ahead, as was a reduced course in Birmingham. Since then, a further wave of covid and the second national lock-down prevented all courses from being held in 2020.

It was highlighted that this lack of courses would be a problem for plastic surgery trainees wishing to apply for ST3 places and this has been taken to the SAC so that this course becomes desirable rather than mandatory for the next round of candidates although these individuals will need to pass the course by the end of ST4.

There is an enthusiasm to restart the courses although we are all aware of the stress that covid has had on faculty and candidates. We need to provide consistent content and ensure that the standard is kept up while accepting the limitations of social distancing and avoiding large groups. The Senate is meeting more regularly to reflect changing times and to support our faculties with the challenges ahead.

*Tania Cubison, EMSB National Organiser & Senate Chair*

# Research Subcommittee

In common with other BBA members, the Research SIG and Sub-Committee have had a disrupted year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The proposed study day on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 was cancelled and in its place a short teleconference was held, although only a small number of the group were able to attend. The main topic raised was that patients and families needed more information about COVID-19 and how it may impact them. Di Harcourt, from the Centre for Appearance Research, kindly shared a link to the NHS site regarding anxiety around coronavirus and this is now available on the BBA website.

Subsequently, most NHS Trusts paused research activities (unless directly related to COVID) to focus on the challenges of the pandemic. Staff were re-deployed to other clinical areas, some were shielding and others furloughed. Clinical studies which were due to open in 2020 were put 'on hold' and in some cases grant funding was also paused.

Fortunately, during these strange times, some members were able to continue their research if it did not involve direct patient contact. We continued to engage with the NIHR Clinical Research Network (CRN) Trauma and Emergency Care Group, albeit virtually. The team led by Alan Emond, undertaking research into prevention of burn injuries in the home (partially funded by a BBA Grant), were able to complete their work on the Safe Tea campaign this year, despite the challenges. You can view the resources they have produced at [www.safetea.org.uk](http://www.safetea.org.uk).

BBA members have also been involved in submitting data to the RSTN Covid Burn Study and more information can be found on their website [www.reconstructivesurgerytrials.net](http://www.reconstructivesurgerytrials.net). Many burns services contributed to a survey on the subject of paediatric burns from steam inhalation undertaken by Naiem Moiemmen and the Birmingham service and this resulted in a letter published in the Lancet, which is also available to view via a link on the BBA website.

Looking forward to the rest of 2020 we hope to see more research studies being re-opened and commenced, in the knowledge that funding could be facing some inevitable constraints.

## Input and views sought from BBA members

Amber Young and her team in Bristol, along with national and international collaborators are starting a Scar Free Foundation funded project. It is 14 months feasibility work for a future cohort study to assess the impact of genetic make-up on small area scalds in children. They are seeking input and views from any interested BBA members. You can contact Amber directly on [amber.young1@nhs.net](mailto:amber.young1@nhs.net) to find out more about the project and how you may be able to contribute

## Plans for the Coming Year

- Continued collaboration and support for members who are re-opening or starting new research studies.
- Nominations for new members prior to 2021 AGM.

# Communications Subcommittee and Professional Matters

The BBA established a Communications Subcommittee in 2018 analogous to the terms of reference for other subcommittees, but operating as a 'virtual committee' and engaging with the Executive Committee and Subcommittee Chairs.

## Media and Messaging

The BBA has been active over the last year on a variety of issues and has engaged with third parties as required – including BAPRAS and its newly-formed Burns Special Interest Group (SIG).

Covid-19-related messaging to the public has focussed on (a) avoidance of steam inhalation scalds and (b) encouraging patients to be careful with DIY tasks during lockdown whilst encouraging attendance for injuries requiring medical attention early to avoid complications of delayed presentation. Both of these areas were consolidated through BBA poster and social media campaigns.

KS undertook a live Sky News interview in December relating to the New Zealand Volcano eruption disaster provide key messaging to the public, and additional media contributions were forthcoming from a number of BBA members and members of the Executive Committee. The disaster in Lebanon also saw BBA members actively participating in communications in case mutual aid was required or requested.

Based on previous lobbying on the issue, including live national TV and radio broadcasts by members of the BBA Executive, parliamentary debating on the subject of firework regulations went ahead over the last year and culminated in a parliamentary briefing Regulation of Fireworks; Parliamentary Briefing Number 05704, 1st April 2020 and Research Briefing publication, 16<sup>th</sup> November 2020 (<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/sn05704/>).

Bonfire Night this year again saw media activity by the BBA in conjunction with BAPRAS and other relevant organisations, centred around firework safety.

There was great concern towards the end of 2019 and beginning of 2020 from BBA members in relation to the rapid and poorly-communicated progression with attempts by NHS England to rationalise the care of patients with SJS-TENS into a small number of national centres via a formal tender process with the remit that a burn surgeon should be 'available within 12 hours' with the possibility that such a centre need not necessarily be a burn centre. As things stand, it is understood that this process has been temporarily paused but remains live, and consideration by NHS England is being given as to the importance of dove-tailing any such work with other burns-related work, as well as a wider process of engagement with burns services and operational delivery networks.

The new and updated 'SitRep' burn bed availability templates have been live since February and emailed twice daily via the national burn bed bureau to burns services and clinical leads to provide single-point burn bed availability status nationally. These have been updated further over the last few days to streamline data entry and all burns services are reminded to ensure these are accurately input every day to provide a 'live' national burns bed status snapshot and which feeds into the National Burns Major incident plan.

A fortnightly burns-related research publication circular is currently being considered for production by the BBA for dissemination to the membership. Feedback from the membership as to whether this would be valuable would be appreciated.

## Social Media:

The social media aspects of the BBA have been excellently managed by Victoria Dudman over this timeframe and has led to a great deal of useful burn prevention work in particular, dovetailing with the Prevention Subcommittee.

The BBA is now a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) with all Executive Committee members being Trustees of the British Burn Association.

*Kayvan Shokrollahi, Communications Subcommittee Chair*

# Prevention Subcommittee

As with everything this year, the Prevention Subcommittee has been affected by the COVID pandemic. We had to cancel our planned study day in June and replaced this with an online meeting in August which was well attended. I thank Alison Tweddle at Children's Burns Trust for hosting this meeting via Zoom. I hope that the introduction of online meetings will allow more frequent opportunities for us to discuss and plan prevention activities.

Child Accident Prevention Trust (CAPT) focussed one day of their Child Safety week on Burns and Scalds. This took place on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2020. Katrina from CAPT kindly fed back to us on how their week was managed this year in light of COVID at our August meeting. [www.capt.org.uk](http://www.capt.org.uk)

Some local teams have worked hard on producing catchy posters which have been distributed via social media. London and South East Burn Network created a poster on steam inhalation and Wythenshawe Hospital have produced a series of posters encouraging safety in self-isolation and avoiding injury on Bonfire Night and during Autumn, Winter and Christmas. The seasonal posters are displayed on the next page. We thank these teams for sharing these posters with us.



National Burn Awareness Day was held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2020. Many services adapted their usual activities but continued to raise awareness in creative ways. Fire services across the country also shared the burn awareness messages. Search for #BeBurnsAware on Twitter to see some of the content shared.

A report on NBAD will be written and shared with the membership. Please can any members submit any information, photos etc... to be included in the report to [vjududman@gmail.com](mailto:vjududman@gmail.com) There are some examples submitted by Alder Hey, Nottingham and Wythenshawe burn services at <https://www.britishburnassociation.org/bba-national-burns-awareness-days/> and also some data on social media reach from CBT elsewhere in the Newsletter.



Children's Burns Trust social media reach	
Facebook (24.09.2020 - 21.10.2020):	Twitter (28 day overview):
Reach - 279,770 (Increase of 42% from 2019)	Impressions - 72,400 (Increase of 20% from 2019)
Engagement - 22,196 (Increase of 4% from 2019)	Mentions - 202 (Increase of 6% from 2019)
New followers - 252	New followers - 51
Instagram (24.09.2020 - 21.10.2020):	
Engagement - 482	
New followers - 80	

Nottingham Burns Services



If anyone would like to be included on the Prevention e-mail list then please send me a message.

Date for your diaries: NBAD 2021 will be held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2021. #BeBurnsAware

*Vicky Dudman, Prevention Subcommittee Chair*

BBA Endorsed Wythenshawe Hospital Avoiding Injury Seasonal Posters

**PREVENT BURNS**  
Support your NHS this  
Bonfire Night & Halloween

Hot water Bottle Scalds  
Rocket injury  
Bonfire Injuries  
Sparkler Eye Injuries  
Hot food & drinks  
Flammable Costumes  
Electrical Injuries  
Candle Burns  
Test your Fire Alarm  
Ghoul soup scalds  
Parental Supervision with sparklers

Whether you choose a trick or treat this year  
Prevent a burn to yourself or someone dear  
**STAY SAFE AT HOME**

The Royal College of Emergency Medicine | BSSH | ROSPA | BAPRAS | THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF EDENBURGH

**AVOID INJURY**  
to Support your NHS  
this Autumn

Bonfire Injuries  
Log Burner Contact Burns  
Slips/ Falls  
Eye Injuries  
Powered saw Injuries  
Sari Flame Injuries  
Firework injury  
Stay visible on Roads  
Candle Flame Burns Diwali  
Pumpkin Carving Injuries  
Test your Fire Alarm  
Talk to Someone  
Steam Inhalation Scalds  
Hot water Bottle Scalds

As the nights draw in and the weather turns cold  
**BE SAFE AT HOME**  
**STAY SAFE AT HOME**

BAPRAS | THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF EDENBURGH | The Royal College of Emergency Medicine | ROSPA | BSSH

**AVOID INJURY**  
to Support your NHS this Xmas

Christmas Lights  
Log Burner Contact Burns  
Flammable Decorations  
Xmas Dinner Cooking Injuries  
Falling from ladders  
Hot food + drinks  
Hanging decorations  
Xmas Toy Injuries  
New Year Fireworks  
Open Fireplaces  
Candle Flame Burns  
Drink Responsibly  
Test your Fire Alarm  
Talk to Someone

As the weather outside is frightful  
and the fire isn't so delightful.  
Since we've got no place to go  
**STAY SAFE to be a Hero**

The Royal College of Emergency Medicine | BSSH | ROSPA | BAPRAS | THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF EDENBURGH

**AVOID INJURY**  
to Support your NHS this Winter

Hot food + drinks  
Ice Skating Accidents  
Skids/ Slips on Ice  
Freezer Defrosting Injuries  
Frost Burn Injuries  
Snowball Injuries  
Candle Flame Burns  
Radiator Burns  
Hot water Bottle Scalds  
Cooking Injuries  
Sledging Accidents  
Drink Responsibly  
Test your Fire Alarm  
Talk to Someone

As the weather outside is frightful  
and the fire isn't so delightful.  
Since we've got no place to go  
**STAY SAFE to be a Hero**

The Royal College of Emergency Medicine | BSSH | ROSPA | BAPRAS | THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF EDENBURGH

## Burns Therapist Interest Group

BTIG members have continued to communicate online via email. We had our first virtual meeting kindly organised by the BBA, on Zoom. This was well attended and members were able to discuss the effects of Covid on therapy services, the development of rehab prescriptions and education. The London and South East Burns network presented their therapy competencies and services nationally agreed to trial them where possible as they were comprehensive and could be adapted to suit most grades. A small working party has been working on rehab prescriptions, led by Jacky Edwards and the group is moving forwards producing a rehab prescription that could potentially double as a transfer document. The group are keen for this to be a useful document as well as to identify gaps in rehabilitation services.

We have no further date set to meet as a group, but plan to arrange a further one in the future. If you are a Physio or OT working in burns and would like to join us, please feel free to email me on [Amanda.dufley@nbt.nhs.uk](mailto:Amanda.dufley@nbt.nhs.uk)

*Amanda Dufley, BTIG Chair*

## Nurses Special Interest Group

**Message from the Incoming Nurses SIG Chair:**



I hope you are all well during this difficult time.

As a quick update regarding the Nurses SIG, I wanted to let you all know that I have been lucky enough to be elected Chair following the step down of Sara Boylin, and I think I speak for all in wishing her the best of luck in her new role.

I wanted to reconnect with you all following a great Burns Nursing during Covid webinar.

I understand it is difficult to commit to much at the moment due to the unknowns however if there are topics or ideas that you would like to run as webinars, I think it would be great to get some dates in the diaries for 2021.

Please do let me know if you have any webinar ideas for shared learning.

Look forward to working with you all in 2021

*Nicole Lee, Nurses SIG Chair  
Burns Matron, QVH – East Grinstead*

## Psychosocial Special Interest Group

The Psychosocial Special Interest Group has traditionally met formally twice a year for a day in Birmingham and more informally for an hour at the annual BBA conference. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Psychosocial SIG has adapted its ways of functioning, and we have held two virtual meetings so far this year, with a third one planned during November. We have been pleased to see that although not without their challenges, virtual meetings have enabled far more members to attend than usual. 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.

Understandably a focus of recent meetings has been to share best practice ideas for adapting to working within the restrictions placed by COVID-19. This has included the ongoing provision of psychological care, as well as how to maintain psychosocial screening and deliver psychosocial teaching within the Burns MDT. It has been heartening to hear how quickly and creatively psychosocial professionals have adapted their practice to ensure that the psychological needs of burns patients and their families continue to be identified and supported.

This year, the Psychosocial SIG has produced a guidance document to support professionals in rating levels of distress and risk as required by the new Burn Care Standards. We hope that this document will help provide a consistent approach across different services nationally. Over the past year, the Psychosocial SIG conducted an audit of psychosocial screening methods used across burns services nationally. This revealed that burns services continue to implement a range of screening methods, and that this is often influenced by the psychosocial resource available within individual services. The process of psychosocial screening continues to be a rolling agenda item for the Psychosocial SIG meetings.

In 2019, the Psychosocial SIG was approached by *Interburns* to be involved in a collaborative piece of work with *Interburns*, *Face Equality International*, and local organisations to support the development of a psychosocial training package for burns services in Gaza and The West Bank. Volunteers from the SIG membership have continued to be involved in this exciting initiative and it is hoped that this work can be expanded to other low and middle income countries in the future. This is a valuable opportunity for the knowledge and skills of the Psychosocial SIG to support psychosocial aspects of burn care internationally.

Finally the Psychosocial SIG members were very saddened to learn of the death of James Partridge, founder of Changing Faces and Face Equality International. James leaves a wonderful legacy from his campaign to end the stigma associated with a visible difference. He will be remembered for his warmth and generosity, as well as the huge impact he had on psychosocial burn care and research.

*Natalie Holman, Psychosocial SIG Outgoing Chair*

# Burn Club and Camps Special Interest Group

The last year, like for so many of us, has been a very turbulent period for Burns Clubs and Camps.

It started very positively in October 2019 with over 30 children from across the UK attending the national Jamboree camp for 8-13 years old and taking part in activities including, climbing, bike riding, canoeing and more. This year there was an added addition with 10, 15-17 year olds joining the three day camp and completing their closed water PADI scuba diving training. Following the success of this, the 10 young people travelled to Egypt in February 2020 to complete their PADI open water training, a worldwide and lifelong qualification. All thoroughly benefitted from the trip, and for two of them it was their first time ever on a plane.

October 2019 also saw the first national conference for parents held in London. Led by the Children's Burns Trust (CBT) and supported by the hospitals within the London and South East area, the day featured presentations by psychologists, physiotherapists, a consultant plastic surgeon and a mixture of older burns survivors and parents of burns survivors. Held at the Blizard Institute, Queen Mary University of London, some attendees travelled from as far as Wales and Manchester and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive and very constructive to build on to run again in the future.

From November – March many clubs facilitated various days out/Christmas parties/family weekends for club members enabling children, siblings and families to meet others who have had similar experiences, talk, boost confidence and have a bit of fun!

Some clubs had 2020 planned as a special celebratory year, the FAB club in Bristol were planning to celebrate their 20<sup>th</sup> year and had key fundraising events planned, the Scottish Burns Club had a special year planned as Mark Stevenson was retiring after establishing the charity and chairing it for almost 20 years, whilst the Family Burns Club in Yorkshire was launching as an independent charity.

However since March 2020, Covid has significantly impacted on the majority of activities, events and fundraising for all clubs in the UK. It has also been at times when we have been asked for more support from members. As a result, clubs have tried to provide some online support. Manchester Burns Club ran a successful online day for families, the Family Burns Club held a very well received online talk from an older burns survivor talking about their experience growing up with a burn injury and the Children's Burns Club ran a series of online workshops.

As it currently looks unlikely events will be up and running in early 2021, there is now a 'virtual family weekend' planned for January 2021 which is being facilitated by the CBT and several clubs across the country. This will include a variety of activities and workshops for children and parents.

Whilst this online support has had some success, it is a clear feeling that the greatest benefits from the clubs and camps are when we can actually physically bring people together, something that will need careful planning in the coming months/year, in both how they are run and funded.

At the Burn Clubs and Camps Zoom SIG meeting in June 2020, there was a great deal of discussion about how we can support families moving forward. It was agreed that families may benefit from a universal burns clubs web page that is easily found on search engines and has relevant contact details for regional and national clubs. It was also discussed that many children and families sign up to clubs when they return to consultant clinics and if these are more restricted in the future it would be helpful if clinical staff could refer children and parents more frequently to clubs. This seems to be especially important as there is the likelihood of increased anxiety once some normality returns to everyday life, amongst the general public and specifically some of our burns survivors and families, particularly related to school transitions.

The next Burn Clubs and Camp Sig is on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November at 13:30 by Zoom, after the Newsletter submission date but prior to publication. Anyone wishing to join the SIG should contact [martin.palmer@meht.nhs.uk](mailto:martin.palmer@meht.nhs.uk) for more details.

Finally to add, this year for Burns Awareness Day, clubs ran a variety of social media awareness posters and messages to promote the day. This is currently continuing with clubs promoting, their own advice, hospital, other charity and safety campaign and fire service information to try and help reduce an expected rise in accidents with people having more firework displays and Halloween events at home owing to Covid restrictions.

*Martin Palmer, Burn Clubs and Camps SIG Chair*

# Pre-Hospital Special Interest Group

A proposed burn management curriculum was sent to the Education Subcommittee and a very detailed review was received from Mr Ian King.

His comments will be incorporated into the next draft of the curriculum and will be circulated to BBA members for their comments especially from those active as first responders. This will take place in early December 2020.

Keep safe.

*Winston de Mello, Pre-Hospital SIG Chair*

## iBID and GIRFT

In addition to the regular reports and updates sent to burn services from the iBID office, it is perhaps timely to consider how the iBID is contributing to the Aims of the Association:

### **Clinical care**

The data put into iBID is now the sole source of information used to generate the NHS E quarterly Quality Dashboard (QD) reports used to monitor burn service activity and compliance with the set targets. A review of dashboard items undertaken by the Clinical Reference Group (CRG) agreed changes in December 2019 for utilisation from April 2020 but these have not been put in place because of the pandemic. It is currently the plan to use these from April 2021 although some work needs to be done to make burn specific PROMS and Rehabilitation Prescription operational.

The GIRFT process of deep dive visits to services has been happening virtually and is near completion. Burn specific metrics beyond those used in the QD are being tested with services for future incorporation in peer review assessments alongside web based Burn Care Standards assessments. The timetable for the final report has slipped and is now May 2021.

### **Research**

The database is providing data to support research into burn provision and care on several fronts. There have been many requests for data and over 500 articles, presentations and papers in peer review journals produced. There are at least five PhDs underway which are dependent on the data from iBID.

### **Prevention**

A separate report regarding the activity of the Prevention Subcommittee is included in this Newsletter. The annual National Burn Awareness Days (NBAD) have all relied on the injury causation information from iBID which has shown a significant reduction of injury numbers over recent years. Hopefully this will continue.

*Ken Dunn, iBID MD*

## Treasurer's Update

### **Membership Fees 2021:**

I am pleased to confirm that there will be no increase to membership fees for 2021 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.

# The Scar Free Foundation



The last few months have undoubtedly been a unique time for everyone and The Scar Free Foundation has also felt the impact of the COVID-19 crisis. Back in March, lockdown presented the Foundation with an array of new challenges as we were forced with the difficult yet necessary decision to pause much of our funded research. We are however, pleased to report that we have started to recommence our scar free projects as we begin to return to some form of normality.

## The Scar Free Foundation UK Burns Research Network

The UK Burns Research Network is a collaborative and patient focused programme which seeks to spearhead the development, testing and delivery of future anti-scarring therapies for patients who have sustained serious burns injuries. We are delighted to share with you some research highlights over the last few months.

Our BOSS II clinical trial began in October and will develop a new Objective Scar Assessment Tool for use in scar-relevant clinical trials. The study is led by Professor Naiem Moiemem and will follow 60 patients with a burn injury over a period of 18 months in three different centres. The study will use proven tools to assess scar severity. These include a Cutometer to measure the pliability of skin and a special camera to measure pigmentation. These tools will be used to create a single, combined score of the scar. This stage of the study will prove the reliability of the score by matching the predictions of scarring against the eventual clinical outcome for each patient. These tools will then form a collective validated global scar scale to be used for patients with burn injuries.

Our CARE Burn Scales project, which seeks to detect the changes in patient reported outcomes over time following a burn injury: testing the responsiveness of the CARE Burn Scales, concluded this summer. The research team, led by Professor Di Harcourt from the University of the West of England, collaborated with 15 different NHS Burn Services across England, Wales and Scotland to target a sample of participants that was diverse in terms of location, demographic characteristics and burn injuries. The results from this two-year study showed that all four CARE Burn Scales were responsive to change over time. During the course of this project, the CARE Burn Scales were recommended in the BBA National Standards for Provision and Outcomes in Adult and Paediatric Burn Care for use in all NHS Burn Services.

## Scar Free Activity



Each year, we bring together our Scar Free Ambassadors – those with a lived experience of scarring - at our annual Involvement Reception. This year however, we have had to do things a little differently, swapping an in-person event with regular video catch ups throughout the lockdown period. As a special surprise for our Ambassadors, The Foundation's Patron Her Royal Highness The Countess of Wessex made a surprise appearance on one of the calls. The Countess spoke to the Ambassadors about how they have been coping during lockdown, whilst also sharing how she has personally felt the impact of the measures put in place to protect everyone. We also recently held our annual update event, which for the first time ever took place entirely virtually. Here we heard from Scar Free researchers and one of our Ambassadors on their experience during lockdown and how our scar free projects are progressing.



## National Burn Awareness Day 2020

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October

National Burn Awareness Day 2020 took place on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October and I am pleased to bring an overview of the campaign activity this year.

Our key messaging for this year highlighted new data from the International Burn Injury Database (iBID), showing a clear link between children living in the most deprived areas of England and Wales and those who are admitted to a Specialist Burns Service. The campaign also continued to promote the vital message of the importance of good first aid post burn.

With Bonfire night approaching and organised firework displays being unable to take place due to Covid-19 restrictions, we are all concerned that injuries from fireworks may increase this year. We continue to raise awareness about this issue. As ever, the media insist on real-life case studies to support any press coverage, and this year was no different. At the time of writing we are in discussions with ITV Granada and BBC London on news stories which feature a burn survivor.

During 24.09.2020 – 21.10.2020 the Children's Burns Trust website received an increase in traffic (users) of 148% compared with the same period in 2019. There was also an increase in page views of 75%. This shows the shift to online activity which occurred due to Covid-19.

Social Media played a key role leading up to and on the day. Again, the social activity including the promoted posts are driven through the Children's Burns Trust social channels. During the 24.09.2020 – 21.10.2020 the Children's Burns Trust Facebook page reached 279,770 people (increase of 42% from 2019) and had engagements (likes, comments, shares ) of 22,196 (increase of 4% from 2019). Looking at a 28 day overview prior to and after the day, the Children's Burns Trust Twitter account had 72,400 impressions (increase of 20% from 2019) and the @CBTofficial Twitter handle was mentioned 202 times (increase of 6% from 2019).

The #BeBurnsAware has appeared in over 2,328 conversations, an increase of 29% from 2019.

During the day there was engagement across the burns community - hospitals, Fire & Rescue Services, families, childcare professionals, burn survivors and other charities.

*Alison Tweddle, Children's Burns Trust [www.cbtrust.org.uk](http://www.cbtrust.org.uk)*

# Obituary: Dr James Partridge OBE

## *Honorary Member of the British Burn Association*



James Partridge, founder of the UK not-for-profit organisations Changing Faces and Face Equality International, died on the 16th August 2020, aged 67, due to an infection whilst receiving treatment for cancer.

James was born in Chipping Sodbury, Gloucestershire and was educated at Clifton College, Bristol. Aged 18, he was in a car accident that left him with 40% burns to his face and body, resulting in a five-month hospital stay and a further five years of extensive, complex and gruelling surgeries. His care at QMH, Roehampton in London was led by Jim Evans, a surgeon trained by Sir Harold Gillies (heading a team including John Gowar, Tim Millward and John Clarke), wonderfully assisted by nurses, physios and OTs.

James spent what would have been his gap year in hospital, before attending Oxford University and graduating in politics, philosophy, and economics in 1975. He spent his university holidays undergoing plastic surgery. He went on to study for an MSc in medical demography at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine before becoming a health economist in the NHS at St Thomas' Hospital and at Guy's Hospital.

It was at James's interview for his role at St Thomas' where a panel member posed the question, 'I see you've had quite a lot of plastic surgery, Mr Partridge; do you think you'll be needing some more?' To which James responded, 'Do you think I need some more?' James's characteristic ability to disarm probing questions with charm and eloquence ensured he landed the job.

This skill later formed the basis of the pioneering psycho-social support that he advocated for burns survivors (and anyone with a facial difference from any cause). He spent many years working with the burn care community to formulate this approach as a routine and integral part of the gold standard in specialised burn care.

In the aftermath of James's accident, he recalled, 'I resisted being a passive player in social interactions or a passive recipient of ridicule.' It was these experiences that later inspired him to write his first memoir, *Changing Faces: the Challenge of Facial Disfigurement*, which he referred to as 'the book I wished I could have had' when recovering and adjusting to life with a facial difference. The book was written against the backdrop of the Piper Alpha disaster and the King's Cross and Bradford City fires in the late 80s. Published in 1990, its success encouraged James to found the charity Changing Faces in 1992, and he set out to 'innovate and promote new forms of psychosocial help for people with disfigurements and their families, and eventually seek to challenge public attitudes towards them.

This later became the 'face equality' campaign, a movement which James spearheaded, and made global in 2018 with the idea of creating an alliance, Face Equality International, to give a collective voice to like-minded organisations all over the world.

In his 25 years at the helm of Changing Faces, James led the development of the specialist therapeutic FACES package, comprising: Finding Out, Attitude, Coping with feelings, Exchanging and Social skills training. He played a pivotal part in the National Burn Care Review in the late 1990s, influencing burn care provision in England and Wales and articulating the emotional needs of burns survivors and their families. It revolutionised how burn care was delivered in the UK. In the 2013 Review, this holistic approach was embedded at each stage of the care pathway and Changing Faces developed training to ensure that every member of the burn care team from the cleaner to the surgeon was confident in dealing with disfigurement. Now, in 2020, this has become business as usual - no patient or their family needs to cope with a disfigurement on their own. It is with thanks to the work of James, that the landscape of modern burn care is shaped around holistic rehabilitation, recognising the psychological impact of facial disfigurement.

James released his second book in June this year: 'Face It: Facial Disfigurement and My Fight for Face Equality'. It is a memoir, manual and manifesto, tracking his experience as a burns patient in the 1970s and his life's commitment to improving the lives of people with facial differences.

*Obituary kindly produced by Phyllida Swift, Communications Co-ordinator, Face Equality International*

# BBA Grant Reports

## BBA Travel Grant to visit the Fiona Stanley Hospital, Perth – *Mr Chris Lewis, Plastic Surgery Registrar, Royal Victoria Infirmary*

I chose Perth as the location for my international burns fellowship and gained exposure to adult and paediatric burns at the Fiona Stanley Hospital and Perth Children's Hospital respectively. Both are located in the Perth metropolitan area and house the Burn Service of Western Australia, serving the entire state. Fiona Stanley Hospital opened in 2015 and has 783 beds while Perth Children's Hospital opened in 2018 and has 298 beds. Western Australia is the largest state covering 2.5 million km<sup>2</sup> and a population of just under 3 million people. With just one adult and paediatric burn centre, the next available service is located 1700 miles away. The unit also receives referrals from Overseas.



Fiona Stanley Hospital, Perth

Given the size of Western Australia, referrals may come an extremely long distance from the far North including Broome and Kununurra, posing logistical and clinical management challenges. It was common for resuscitation periods to be completed en route to the burn centre or in a peripheral hospital before transfer by the Royal Flying Doctor Service, which may be delayed due to other emergencies or weather conditions. The health service is well set up with telemedicine, allowing the burn service to link in with peripheral emergency departments by video to provide support for burn assessment and initial management. This facility also proved invaluable in the provision of telehealth MDT clinics both for rural patients and during the COVID health crisis.

I was predominantly based at the adult burn centre, which has ten individual cubicles and two separate burn ICU beds. The State Burn Service is led by Professor Fiona Wood with comprehensive support from burns-dedicated staff including a Consultant microbiologist, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, clinical psychologists and social workers. The burn ward is well equipped with adjoining gym, burns dressing clinic and outpatient department.

The unit is busy, seeing burns of varying aetiologies and patients from a multitude of backgrounds. In particular, Western Australia has the largest number of Indigenous Australians in the country, a group which are unfortunately over-represented in the burn population. Due to their rural location, many Indigenous Australians often present late following their burn injury and coupled with their medical co-morbidities, social and cultural beliefs, can mean that their inpatient care is complex.

There was a half day burn operating list each day followed by a daily Consultant-led multidisciplinary clinic and a daily laser operating list. The medical team included six burn Consultants, one RMO (junior SHO), a service registrar (senior SHO), a training registrar and burns fellow. Theatre lists gave the opportunity to see and learn new approaches not used in my daily practice, both for acute burn care and reconstruction. There is a large volume of both clinical and laboratory-based research projects affiliated with the burn service, which fellows are encouraged to become involved with. I was actively involved in statewide burn education to rural hospitals and various industries, teaching burn first aid and repatriation to Perth.

I would like to thank the British Burn Association for their financial support to attend this fellowship. It was a fantastic opportunity to participate in a cohesive and dynamic team providing high quality burn care to West Australians. It has certainly helped develop my surgical and holistic approach to burn care and has exposed me to aspects of burn management that I would not have routinely seen in the UK. I would also like to thank Professor Fiona Wood and all of the burn service staff at Fiona Stanley Hospital and Perth Children's Hospital for their friendship and support.

# BBA Research into Methods of Preventing Burn Injuries in the Home Grant: Safe Tea – a Multimedia Campaign to Prevent Scalds to Young Children from Hot Drinks – *Professor Alan Emond, Centre for Academic Child Health, Bristol Medical School and Professor Alison Kemp, Division of Population Medicine, Cardiff University (Children’s Burns Research Network)*

## The SafeTea campaign Evaluation Report



Scalds from hot drinks are one of the commonest causes of burn injury to children aged less than 5 in the UK. SafeTea was a national campaign supported by the BBA, which aimed to reduce hot drink scalds to young children, and to improve first aid given to children with burns. The campaign was run on social media from October 2019 to January 2020, supported by a dedicated website, and reinforced by burn prevention interventions from health professionals working with the families of young children.

Prior to the campaign launch, professional groups working with children (burns teams, GPs, health visitors, nurseries, and childminders) were briefed about the campaign and the resources available. Charities and organisations working in the injury prevention field signed up to act as Ambassadors to cascade out SafeTea messages in blogs, e-news and via Twitter. The campaign launch on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2019, National Burns Awareness Day 2019 (NBAD), achieved considerable publicity and media coverage. The social media campaign involved two months of paid posts on Facebook, a cascade of tweets on Twitter, and one month of paid adverts on Mumsnet. The website [www.safetea.org.uk](http://www.safetea.org.uk) hosted two custom-made videos: one on prevention of hot drink scalds and one on burns first aid, and materials for parents and professionals to download, including leaflets, posters, social media and email banners, a reach chart, fridge magnets, and activity sheets for group work. A grant from the BBA paid for over 500 packs of these printed materials to be sent out to professionals, on request, to use when working with families.



A mixed methods evaluation carried out from March-May 2020 concluded that SafeTea benefitted from being launched on National Burns Awareness Day 2019, and from the two ‘case studies’ that attracted media interest. Of an estimated 9,550 Facebook users per day, 84% were women between 25 and 44 years old. A scald prevention video was viewed 154,000 times and the first aid video 245,000 times. SafeTea impressions on Twitter totalled 196,400, with an average engagement rate of 0.78%. During the first week of SafeTea straddling NBAD, there were 1,200 Twitter conversations including #SafeTea, potentially reaching up to 1.2 million Twitter users. 19,059 unique webpages were viewed,

and the majority of social media referrals to the website (96.5%) originated from Facebook. Qualitative feedback from parents relating to the two campaign videos was very positive, and 87% of professionals surveyed rated the campaign materials as ‘excellent’ or ‘good’.

The SafeTea campaign was successful and appeared to reach over half a million of the target audience of parents of young children and professionals working with these parents. The limited resources available for the campaign suggest that it was cost effective and had a good reach. Linking the prevention messages to first aid advice was effective. Social media proved to be an efficient way to deliver burn prevention messages to young parents and childcare professionals.

The paper containing the full results of the evaluation has now been published in Injury Prevention and can be found [here](#). Materials can still be downloaded for free from the SafeTea website: [www.safetea.org.uk](http://www.safetea.org.uk)

Many thanks to the BBA for supporting the campaign!

# 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: 10.1177/205951311690012



# Articles from the Burn Community

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

## The CARE Burn Scales

The impact of a burn injury and subsequent scarring on a person's physical, social and psychological well-being can be extensive and enduring (Attoe & Pounds-Cornish, 2015). Whilst some people manage the challenges they face very well, others struggle to make the adjustment. Furthermore, parents/carers supporting a child with a burn can also experience significant trauma and psychological difficulties. Consideration of the wide ranging impact of burn scarring on the lives of patients and their parents/carers is vital in order to effectively assess their post-burn adjustment and identify any support needs. In addition, good burn care provision and practice must be driven by outcome measures that can be reliably implemented and evaluated and include those reported by patients. Patient Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs) are tools to help health professionals identify the needs and therapeutic progress of patients and their family members.

We have conducted a programme of work to develop and validate the CARE Burn Scales – a suite of four age-appropriate burn-specific PROMs (see Griffiths et al, 2019; 2020). Specifically:

- **Child Form** (for children aged < 8 years, parental proxy measure)
- **Young Person Form** (for young people aged 8 to 17)
- **Adult Form** (for adults aged 18 and over)
- **Parent Form** (for parents of children aged <18)

Psychometric testing has previously demonstrated the scales' construct reliability, internal consistency reliability and validity with other scales. We have recently completed a multi-site study, funded by The Scar Free Foundation, that found all four scales were responsive to change over time. The full study results are being prepared for publication.

The scales are now freely available for use clinically and in research. To access the scales please go to:

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

References:

- Attoe, C. & Pounds-Cornish, E. (2015). Psychosocial adjustment following burns: an integrative literature review, *Burns*, 41, 7, 1375-1384
- Griffiths, C., Guest, E., Pickles, T., Hollén, L., Grzeda, M., White, P., Tollow, P. & Harcourt, D. (2019). The development and validation of the CARE burn scale—adult form: a Patient-Reported Outcome Measure (PROM) to assess quality of life for adults living with a burn injury. *Journal of Burn Care & Research*, 40(3), pp.312-326.
- Griffiths, C., Guest, E., Pickles, T., Hollén, L., Grzeda, M., Tollow, P. & Harcourt, D. (2020). The development and validation of the CARE Burn Scale: Child Form: a parent-proxy reported outcome measure assessing quality of life for children aged 8 years and under living with a burn injury. *Quality of Life Research*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11136-020-02627-x>

Contact: Dr Catrin Griffiths, Centre for Appearance Research, UWE, Bristol ([Catrin.Griffiths@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:Catrin.Griffiths@uwe.ac.uk))



## Supporting Adult Burn Survivors during COVID-19 and Beyond

2020 has been a most unusual year as we all know, but fortunately at Dan's Fund For Burns we have been able to continue to offer practical, financial and emotional support to adult burn survivors. We were pleased our weekly moderated online live chat was already up and running as it proved to be a welcome and necessary part of survival for some burn survivors during these difficult times. With several burn survivors receiving letters during lockdown telling them they were considered 'high risk' and must isolate for 12 weeks, the weekly chat provided an opportunity to connect with other burn survivors to ask questions, have a chat and share their feelings during this very uncertain time. There was an increase in the number of participants overall and some burn survivors started joining regularly which has created a nice, safe, supportive community. With all our moderators being burn survivors themselves, DFFB is happy to offer this adult burn peer support option every Wednesday evening, 7.30-9.00pm, on our Adult Burn Support UK (ABSUK) website, <https://adultburnsupportuk.org/>.

Dan's Fund is always striving to find new ways to offer support to adult burn survivors and we have been fortunate enough this year to receive a 3-year grant for the further development of our ABSUK Project. This enables us to move on to our next stage of development, which is a nation-wide Befriending Database Service. We would like to build a database of burn survivors who can offer peer/befriender support to other burn survivors who may be struggling. For this, we will collaborate with a member of the St Andrews Psychological Therapies team to develop a training workshop for selected burn survivors, identified through burn services, who can act as peer supporters. This is an exciting new project that we have been able to present at recent meetings of the BBA Psychosocial SIG and the Burns Therapy SIG. We welcomed thoughts, ideas and suggestions of best practice for setting up and administering this service at these meetings. We are also happy to hear thoughts from the wider burns community regarding the development of a UK befriender database. Please do get in touch via email to [info@dansfundforburns.org](mailto:info@dansfundforburns.org) or phone 07526 847699.

# Letter to RCSEng's Annals Journal & Bulletin Journal from Tim Burge

## Burns and Coronavirus

Sir,

Professor Westaby is to be commended for his insights on how the experience of cardiac surgeons might inform others in managing coronavirus infections<sup>1</sup>.

Coming from a burn surgery background (including intensive care at the USAISR Burns Unit in San Antonio, Tx) and having managed a 'Covid-hot' ward (in Leeds) early in the outbreak I would endorse most of his suggested management strategies.

As a simple surgeon it appears to me that the elderly Covid-19 patients (the largest group with fatal outcomes) are not hugely different from elderly smoke inhalation patients without significant cutaneous burns:

- they have an inflammatory pneumonitis without (initially) significant bacterial infection.
- they have limited cardiac reserve and their hearts cannot maintain perfusion for long in the face of the non-physiological pressure gradients inherent in positive pressure ventilation and the effects of sedation.
- they are prone to ventilator induced lung injury and pneumothoraces.
- they are relatively tolerant of hypercapnia.
- they are relatively intolerant of high fluid loads and inotropic support attempting to maintain blood pressure.

The big killer is 'cascade disease' (the cytokine storm) and judicious use of steroids etc. clearly has a place (but not for all).

In the 'burns world' it is generally recognised that it is easy to intubate these patients, much harder to get them extubated alive.

The keys are surely to:

- avoid intubation if possible.
- try all available positional adjuncts (sitting, prone etc.).
- encourage CPAP – it can be harder work for the staff than intubation, but it is worth it.
- make decisions based more on subtle clinical measures of organ perfusion (particularly cerebral) rather than on numeric values such as ABGs or MAP. If they are still talking sense, they probably do not need intubation.
- not drive their hearts to the point when they just 'run out of gas'.

If the predicted second (or third) waves occur surgeons are going to be needed to help on the front line. Simply following 'normal' ITU guidelines may not be appropriate. There is enough evidence from the first wave, in many countries, to suggest that different strategies may maximise overall numbers surviving. The greatest good for the greatest number should be our priority.

**Timothy Burge**, Consultant Burns and Plastic Surgeon.

1. Westaby S. A cardiac surgeon's perspective on the treatment of coronavirus. *Bull R Coll Surg Engl* 2020; **102**: 256-263

# Evaluation of Firework-Related Harm in Scotland



In 2019, the Scottish Government launched a public consultation on the use and sale of fireworks ‘A consultation on fireworks in Scotland: Your experiences, your ideas, your views’. This was undertaken in response to fireworks being used as weapons against emergency service workers. The 14 week consultation closed on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2019 and received over 16,000 responses[1]. 87% of respondents supported a ban on the public sale of fireworks or an increase on regulation of fireworks (94%)[2]. The epidemiology and aetiology of firework-related injuries were routinely collected in the United Kingdom from 1997-2005[3], and Northern Ireland until 2015[4]. There has been no routine collection of firework-related injuries in the UK and NI since.

The report (available at <https://www.cobis.scot.nhs.uk/firework-related-harm-in-scotland/>) seeks to describe the incidence and consequence of firework-related injury in Scotland:

- Study 1: A firework injury survey of all Scottish Emergency Department and Minor Injury Units during bonfire night 2019
- Study 2: Health economic and epidemiological review of firework-related presentations and admissions to NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde 2008 – 2019
- Study 3: Health economic evaluation of a paediatric firework injury
- Study 4: Review of literature relating to firework particulates and their health impact

The evidence of firework-related harm in Scotland remains evident and substantial. Those most affected are young, male and from areas of greater social deprivation. The health economic costs relating to the treatment of firework-related physical harm to one Scottish NHS Health Board is ~40,000/year. A study of the national health economic costs would be beneficial. The short and long-term health effects from exposure to firework-generated particulates warrants investigation.

In tandem with the Scottish Government Firework Working Group, a multiagency educational group has created a firework safety campaign to coincide with bonfire night 2020. The Scottish SPCA coordinated the development and hosting of educational material for primary and secondary age children: <https://www.scottishspca.org/our-work/campaigns/firework-safety>. The campaign encourages children to be safe, kind and smart and to learn firework safety from Ben who sustained a firework burn when he was 4 years old[5](Figure 1). The effectiveness of this educational intervention will be evaluated by researchers from the University of Edinburgh.

**Be Safe. Be Kind. Be Smart.**

Hi! I'm Ben.



Figure 1 multiagency campaign 2020: ‘Be Safe. Be Kind. Be Smart.’

*Eleanor Robertson and Stuart Watson, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, Care of Burns in Scotland (COBIS)*

## References

1. Scottish Government, C.S., *Fireworks Action Plan Promoting the safe and appropriate use of fireworks in Scotland*. 2019. p. 16.
2. Scottish Government, *Fireworks in Scotland: analysis of responses to consultation*. 2019.
3. Department of Trade and Industry. *Fireworks Injury Survey 2005*. 2005; 26]. Available from: <https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20070603172612/http://www.dti.gov.uk/consumers/Safety/fireworks-policy/statistics/page29032.html>.
4. Stevenson, P.T., Kieran, *Firework Injury Statistics 2015, Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety Northern Ireland*. 2015.
5. RoSPA. *Ben's Story*. 2016 28.10.2020]; Available from: <https://www.rospa.com/Your-Stories/November-2016/Ben>.

# Activities of Interburns / Centre for Global Injury Policy & Research (CGBIPR / NIHR Global Health Research Group on Burn Trauma

Despite the major impact of Covid-19, we continue to build on our international work through a combination of face to face and remote training, publications and development of online programmes and tools. A summary of our comprehensive integrated approach to burn care and prevention is available to read here <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.burns.2020.05.029>.

Seven participants from Ethiopia and Malawi successfully completed a one-year programme in Implementation and Improvement Science for Nurses which culminated in them identifying and delivering quality improvement initiatives for their burn service. Three have gone on to become mentors in a new programme supporting nurse mentees from Africa and the Middle East.

Advanced Burn Care (Surgery) was successfully delivered in Ethiopia in early March to a group of talented young surgeons from eight countries in Africa. Interburn's wide network was well represented by a faculty of highly experienced burn surgeons from India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa, Ethiopia and the UK. Programmes in 2021 include Essential Burn Care (EBC) and Training of Trainers for EBC and Basic Burn Care (BBC) in Tanzania and Advanced Burn Care (Nursing) in Malawi.

In January, Interburns developed and delivered a new course for DG ECHO of the European Commission to train rapid response Burn Assessment Teams (BAT) as part of the European response to burn mass casualty incidents. Collaborative work with the WHO on developing recommendations for burn mass casualty events has also recently been completed: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.burns.2020.07.001>



Participants in ABC Surgery, held in Addis Ababa, March 2020.



Community level health workers in Nepal trained in burn prevention.

In spite of the restrictions brought about by Covid 19, our partners in Ethiopia, Nepal and the occupied Palestinian Territories have successfully designed and delivered community burn prevention programmes using social and mass media and household level dissemination. Community participatory research and prevention initiatives in three districts of Nepal have seen burn injuries fall from 27 and 11 in 2017/2018 across 3 project districts, to 0 and 1 in 2019/20.

The CGBIPR was awarded a further one-year funding by the NIHR to continue its portfolio of work including the development of an implementation guide for the WHO Global Burn Registry, a study to evaluate steel racks for cookers to prevent paediatric burns in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, and an academic writing workshop and mentorship programme to support quality improvement initiatives.

We continue to develop online content to enable wider access to burn-related programmes and tools including the redesign of a planned face to face workshop on Implementation and Improvement Science for Burn Clinicians which was to be held in Jordan, into an interactive online course. This will sit alongside the EBC online which is currently free to access through [www.interburns.org](http://www.interburns.org).

With funding from Interplast Australia and New Zealand we are also finalising work on a web-based app to support implementation of our participatory service evaluation tool, the DAT. The DAT guides burn teams through self-assessment against agreed operational standards. We hope the app will encourage burn teams to conduct annual self-assessment, carry out gap analysis and create a quality improvement scorecard for measured quality improvement initiatives.



Burn prevention images accompany a Nepalese calendar.

*Tom Potokar, Director of Interburns, Chair in Global Burn Injury Policy & Research, Director NIHR Global Health Research Group on Burn Trauma*

## Rehabilitation at Home

Our new *Rehabilitation At Home* service has been set up in response to our Rehabilitation Centre being unable to accept new inpatients during the Covid-19 pandemic. Our team has evolved to deliver rehab and support to a range of survivors who need a bespoke programme, or do not have ready access to hospital via video call. More than 20 participants, over a 6-month trial period have received a tailored timetable in this way. This virtual rehab has spanned over 2 to 4 months for each patient, including elements of the following: physiotherapy, psychotherapy, family, intimacy and sleep therapy, dietician support, patient advocacy, and survivor-to-survivor support. We also give training and support of in-home agency care staff, tailored to the specific needs of patients. Early analysis of outcome measures for mental health, physical impact of scars, mobility, independence, and well-being (CARE, POSAS, Brisbane and 'Your Health Today' alongside qualitative discussions) indicates incredible impacts in double figure percentage improvements.

**Inpatient rehab is still open for referrals**, and we continue to start discussions about suitability, timings and assessments ready for when we can deliver hands-on and face-to-face rehabilitation again. Patient feedback, and feedback from referring burns services remains excellent:

One patient who suffered severe disabilities following an explosion at work, told us *"It's been over a year since I was at the KPF for rehab, and it really did help me so much at a critical time in my recovery. This past year has been the hardest time in my life, bar none. I would hate to think where I would be if I hadn't had the opportunity to go the Rehabilitation Centre when I did. I just wanted to say thank you and express my gratitude to the team for everything you've done for me through your fantastic work"*.

Our close work with other burns experts continues. Dr Greg Williams of The Farjo Hair Institute is still providing hair transplant surgeries, although they have inevitably reduced in number because of social distancing measures. However, we are still keen to receive new referrals.

We are delighted to welcome Assistant Professor Ciaran O'Boyle from Nottingham Burns Unit as a new member of our Board of Trustees.

**Please call 0300 365 0055 to ask any questions about our services, to refer patients, or to share experiences in this challenging time. 0300 365 0055 is also our Survivor Support Line, so please pass this to adult survivors of burns or those who have experienced severe scarring from trauma incidents.**

### **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 Board of Trustees 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



## Changing Faces

Changing Faces is the UK's leading charity for everyone with a scar, mark or condition on their face or body that makes them look different.

We provide the UK's only free counselling and wellbeing services for children, young people and adults with visible differences who have appearance-related mental health issues, including a support and information line, self-help materials, online support forum, peer group chat, FaceIT@home online support programme using CBT (cognitive behavioural therapy) approach, and 1-1 counselling.

Coronavirus has disproportionately impacted people with a visible difference: over 40% say their mental health has got worse since March. People who have worked hard to battle the anxiety of being out in public and leaving home find these worries are returning. Some struggle with pandemic-related challenges like facemasks, video calls, and other health issues.

*"How do we keep going into and coming out of isolation? For years, I have had to force myself to face up to the anxiety and go out my front door. I can start to feel that anxiety coming back - just the thought of going out the other day made me think about who would see my scars, what would they think?"* Tulsı, burns survivor and Changing Faces ambassador.

In response to Covid, we quickly moved our counselling services online, so we can continue to support as many people as possible during the pandemic and created bespoke Covid-19 self-help materials for our community.

We continue to put the voices of the visible difference community at the heart of our work. Our campaigners, youth action group, and ambassadors, regularly give broadcast interviews, write opinion pieces, speak to politicians, and share their experiences to raise awareness and call for change.

*"My scars are part of my bigger story; they don't define me. Now I want to be the person to inspire that little child who might be sat alone, wondering why there isn't anyone out there to look up to. I know when you see someone you can relate to; it helps you feel like you're not alone anymore."* Tatyana, burns survivor and Changing Faces campaigner.

If you'd like to access support, refer a patient or client, please visit [www.changingfaces.org.uk/adviceandsupport](http://www.changingfaces.org.uk/adviceandsupport)

If you'd like to share your story, please email [communications@changingfaces.org.uk](mailto:communications@changingfaces.org.uk)

## Children's Burns Trust

### Business as Usual

As a small charity the [Children's Burns Trust](http://www.childrensburnstrust.org.uk) has been able to weather the challenges of Covid 19 fairly well. 2020 has seen some changes to the way we deliver our support, not least the closure of our London office and a move to remote working. New contact details are shown below.



We continue to concentrate on our three key areas, and some of the ways we have done this in 2020 include:

- **PREVENTION** between March and June we worked closely with the Child Accident Prevention Trust to promote Child Safety Week. Lessons learnt from that campaign informed our approach to this year's [National Burn Awareness Day](#), which saw a marked increase of online activity. Social media played a key role leading up to and on the day. A full report of our work around the day has been provided to the BBA Prevention Subcommittee. Later in October we secured TV news items on BBC London and ITV Granada promoting the dangers of fireworks and are extremely grateful to Joe and Rosie-May, both of whom have suffered firework injuries and were willing to share their experiences. We also presented at the Trick or Treat ASB Digital Day – an on-line event virtually attended by practitioners from the Community Safety Landscape (Housing, Police, Fire & Rescue Services, Local Authorities, Health Professionals and Lawyers).
- **REHABILITATION** as we were unable to run any face-to-face support and rehabilitation interventions this year, we have been working closely with Burn Care Professionals to develop an on-line family event which is planned for early 2021. We also launched a private Facebook Group where parents and carers of children with a burn or scald injury can communicate and support one another. This has proved extremely popular.
- **SUPPORT** data from iBID continues to show a clear link between paediatric burns and social deprivation – we continue to provide support families whilst their child is an in-patient/requiring on-going treatment. If you would like to know more about the grants available, please don't hesitate to [contact us](#).

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

Alison Twedde, Operations Manager, Children's Burns Trust

5 Wythwood, Haywards Heath RH16 4RD; [Alison.Twedde@cbtrust.org.uk](mailto:Alison.Twedde@cbtrust.org.uk) 07802 635590