



Caring for Patients,

ABA 2024

Caring for Each Other

ANNUAL MEETING
April 9–12, 2024 | Chicago, IL

ABA 2024

Caring for Patients, Caring for Each Other

The American Burn Association (ABA) Annual Meeting is the premier burn event of the year, offering innovative and exciting opportunities to help you reach your personal and professional goals. Help us kick off 2024 in style in Chicago on April 9–12.

Whether you're a seasoned professional looking to expand your network or a newcomer eager to explore cutting-edge techniques, ABA's multidisciplinary format offers something for everyone. Your in-person registration includes four days of inspirational speakers, thought-provoking panel discussions, expert leadership advice, networking opportunities and the chance to connect with exhibitors in our exhibit hall.

Mark your calendars and secure your spot—we look forward to seeing you in Chicago this spring!

April 9–12

Plenaries

Gather with all attendees for our four plenary sessions: Opening Ceremony, Presidential Address, Top 5 Abstracts, and ABA Research Paper Awards.

Educational Forums

Engage in focused conversations, share insights, and explore innovations by topic with speakers and attendees.

Correlatives

Learn the latest in burn research by attending an abstract presentation.

Sunrise Symposia

Participate in multidisciplinary interactive discussions around a specific topic. Space is limited to 50 attendees per symposium to make certain that every voice is heard.

Poster Sessions

Catch up on the most exciting new research in burn care. Take a minute to chat with the researchers themselves and ask them about their work and its implications.

Pre-Conference

Take a deep dive into specific educational topics within a hands-on, small group setting. Pre-conference programs require an additional registration fee.

SIG Day

Join your colleagues on Tuesday, April 9, for Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings. SIGs provide a unique opportunity for burn care professionals to connect directly with peers who share an interest or expertise in a specific aspect of burn care. Details of each meeting will be available in the spring.

Networking & Social Time

Connect and share with colleagues during receptions and social events! If you're new to the meeting, make sure to attend the New Member and First Time Attendee Orientation before the Welcome Reception.

Exhibit Hall

Explore the latest in burn care products, services and technology while taking the opportunity to network with exhibitors and colleagues.



Pre-Conference Courses

Pre-conference courses offer an opportunity to walk away from the conference with new skills and advanced knowledge in specific topics. Pre-registration is required and additional fees may apply; registration is not available onsite.

Monday, April 8, 2024

ABLS Live™

Elevate your emergency care skills with the Advanced Burn Life Support (ABLS™) Live Course, the premier educational resource offered by the ABA. Our live, immersive course equips you with the essential knowledge and hands-on experience you need to for burn patient care during the crucial first 24-hours. ABLIS is applicable to a wide range of professionals who treat individuals with burn injuries including first responders, nurses, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and physicians.

Burn Registrar Training

Join the ABA for the first ever in-person Burn Registrar Training event! This full day course will provide practical strategies that burn registry professionals can transfer from the classroom back to their burn center. The goal of this course is to equip burn registrars with the tools and resources to enhance the quality of data available through the Burn Care Quality Platform (BCQP), cover common medical terminology and ICD10 coding, and provide a deep dive into BCQP reporting functionality.

Designed and appropriate for burn registrars and data managers of all experience levels.

Science of Burn Excision Closure

This is a hybrid course with lectures and resources assigned for the attendee to complete on their own schedule before the course and a hands-on lab that teaches the basic and advanced skills necessary for acute burn care at the meeting. The course replaces and expands upon principles previously taught in the Advanced Burn Provider Course and incorporates traditional methods of excision and grafting with new technologies in development. It is strongly recommended that participants complete the Advanced Burn Life Support™ (ABLS) course as a prerequisite. In preparation for the course, participants will be enrolled in an online course where they will access lectures and materials to prepare for the course.

Tuesday, April 9, 2024

Rehabilitation Workshop: Putting Competency Skills into Action

This course will present lectures and laboratory educational sessions addressing core burn therapist competencies as identified by the ABA Burn Therapist Competency Tool. Didactic sessions will provide a review of current practice in areas relevant to burn therapists. Breakout segments will provide participants the opportunity for small group discussion and hands-on experience with skills identified as necessary to the practice of burn therapy. At the completion of this course, participants will have an improved understanding and skill set in key burn therapy practice domains.

ABLS™ Instructor Course

This four-hour course is the first step of becoming an ABLIS instructor. This course will focus on how to create a dynamic learning environment and best practices for teaching ABLIS Live. Participants must have been ABLIS Live certified for at least 12 months to qualify for this course. If you have only taken ABLIS Now, you are not eligible to take this course.

CBRN Exam Prep Course

This two-day course will review a new certification exam for nurses who care for patients with burns. There will be integrated opportunities for dialogue and analyzing case studies. The goal of this course is to help nurses have improved confidence when taking the Certified Burn Registered Nurse exam.

Tuesday, April 9, 2024

Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

ABA 2024 will feature hour-long SIG meetings throughout the day on Tuesday, April 9, to allow attendees to network and share resources with peers who share the same professional discipline or topic interest. Join us for interactive discussions from the following SIGs:

APRN/PA
Burn Camps
Burn Prevention/Epidemiology
Burn Survivor Reintegration/Psychosocial
Canadian
Disaster
Fire Fighters
Nursing
Nutrition
OT/PT
Pediatric Burns
Pharmacy
Physicians
Quality & Burn Registry
Reconstruction
Research

Times and locations will be available in the Spring.

Education Forums

Burn Leadership Bootcamp

Running a burn center involves not just patient care but being an administrator, a manager and a leader. Many practitioners are put in leadership positions in burn centers without any training in team building and leadership. Leadership skills, in all disciplines and on all levels, can increase productivity and effectiveness. The boot-camp curriculum addresses: how to assess your burn center gap analysis; measuring financial health of your center; having effective leadership & communication skills; quality improvement; developing relationships with your community; how to prepare for verification, and; how to develop a research program.

Fundamentals of Burn Care—The Healing Burn: From Wounds to Scars

Fundamentals of Burn Care provides education to those individuals who are newer to burn care, with < 5 years' experience. The multidisciplinary course will cover the basics of wound healing, scar formation and management including principles of wound healing, scar formation, and multidisciplinary involvement necessary to facilitation optimal wound healing.

Special Events

ABuRN Town Hall

ABuRN is a multidisciplinary group of ABA members committed to advancing burn care through collaborative research. At this multidisciplinary session, ABA leadership and clinical researchers will review the progress of current studies and discuss the status of future projects.

First Time Attendee Welcome

The ABA's Membership Advisory Committee (MAC) invites you to attend the First Time Attendee and New Member Welcome during the 2024 Annual Meeting. Take advantage of this opportunity to meet with experienced ABA members, network, ask questions, and connect with other first-time attendees and new members.

Opening Reception & Exhibit Hall

Enjoy food, drinks, and the company of your peers while collaborating with leading organizations in the burn field and companies that offer products and services that improve care and assist with support for burn injured patients and survivors.

Wednesday, April 10, 2024

Sunrise Symposia

Providing Aftercare in an Ever-changing Healthcare System

Moderators

Pam Peterson, RN, BSN
Sandra J. Cramolini, MHA, BSN, RN

Providing aftercare can be demanding given staffing transitions, resource limitations, system and policy changes, and the challenges of coordinating services across multiple care settings throughout the recovery continuum. Participants will work together to identify barriers to aftercare planning and delivery and discuss mitigation strategies, with an emphasis on collaborative care and partnership building. All burn care team members, survivors, and others in the burn community are welcome as all perspectives and experiences are valuable in crafting solutions to enhance our efforts and success in provision of aftercare to support reintegration and healing.

Shaping the Future of Burn Care: Training and Educating Advanced Practice Clinicians

Moderators

Kathleen Ewanowski, MPAS, PA-C
Mary Bruce, PA-C
Crystal Webb, MPAS, PA-C
Callie Thompson, MD

While acknowledging the increasing importance of APPs/APCs in the field of burn care, the evolution of their roles, and the benefits they bring to multidisciplinary teams, this session will explore the essential skills and knowledge required for Burn APCs/APPs to provide comprehensive, patient-centered care. Participants will review the formats and content of existing orientation/onboarding processes and consider ways to both expand and standardize these practices for centers that are creating and/or expanding their use of PAs and NPs. Lastly, this session will examine the necessary competencies required of Burn APCs/APPs.

Exploring Humanistic Aspects of Burns Care: Cases That Inspire Us!

Moderators

Jeffrey S. Farroni, PhD, JD
Alice Fagin, MD

Engage in narrative inquiry and reflect upon those times in which our work, or the work of those around us, inspired us and discuss in a candid and authentic fashion. Reflect on why these moments are impactful and why they inspire us to become a better provider, better colleague, and/or a better person. Session goals include: 1) build solidarity

within our community through shared experience, 2) identify the ethical or moral values that underly these cases, and 3) discuss their impact on the meaning and purpose of our professional practice.

U.S. Fire Administration Emergency Medical and Fire Service Burn Research and Prevention Programs

Moderators

William J. Troup, MBA
Greg Williams

Learn more about the U.S. Fire Administration's (USFA) research efforts to support the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Fire service agencies and responders as well as public education research initiatives related to burn care by EMS clinicians; education and outreach programs; burn prevention and initial care for the general public; research on firefighting operations and personal protective equipment to prevent on-duty fatalities and injuries from burns, and; related studies on firefighter occupational health.

Building Blocks: The ABC's of Program Development and Growth for the Burn Center

Moderators

Cassandra O'Rourke, OTR/L, BCP
Heather Garcenila, MSN, RN
Tamara Roberts, RN, BSN, MSN
Melissa A. Loughran, MSN, RN

The role of the Burn Program Manager is challenging and encounters a variety of obstacles within different types of burn centers (hybrid vs. single unit), hospital systems, and geographical locations. This symposium will focus on collaboration and support amongst burn program managers discussing the building blocks needed to either establish a burn program or build new programs within an established burn center.

Challenging Cases in Pediatric Burn Care

Moderators

Jong Lee, MD
David Greenhalgh, MD, FABA

Care of pediatric burn patients can present a unique set of challenges to a burn team. We will discuss problematic issues in the care of pediatric burn patients such as non-accidental trauma; difficult nutrition, including dysphagia; unique pediatric psychological issues including anxiety, pain, and pruritus; difficult pediatric resuscitation, and; difficult rehabilitation.

Wednesday, April 10, 2024

Burn Nurse Leadership and Management

Moderators

Laura S. Vey, RN

Gretchen J. Carrougher, MN, RN

What are burn nurse leaders and managers? What does it take to be “good” at these roles? How are they the same/different?

In this symposia, we will discuss fundamental principles of leadership and management and unravel what burn nurses need from their burn nurse leaders and managers in efforts to improve retention and recruitment. Conversely, what support do burn nurse leaders and managers need and from whom?

Mitigating Thermal Injuries in those Experiencing Homelessness: Strategies for Prevention, Intervention, and Support

Moderators

Giaconni M. Lewis, MD

Irma Fleming, MD

Daniel W. Chacon, BA

Explore comprehensive healthcare approaches for homeless populations by delving into critical issues such as increased readmissions, high ICU mortality rates, and the unique challenges facing homeless burn patients. Topics will range from immediate clinical care to addressing underlying social determinants of health. Participants will learn about strategies like telemedicine, as well as methods to improve follow-up care and reduce hospital readmissions. Join this session to enhance your understanding and improve outcomes for this population, and possibly transform your perspective on healthcare for the homeless.

The 4 U's - How Burn Teams Can Find Outpatient Post-discharge Resources for the Uninsured, Undocumented, Undomiciled, Unaccompanied Burn Patient

Moderators

Patricia Kalnberg, LCSW

Kelly McElligott, LCSW

Philip H. Chang, MD

A “4U” (uninsured, undocumented, undomiciled, and unaccompanied) burn patient is perhaps the most challenging patient for the burn team to arrange post-discharge follow-up care for, especially if they suffered a large burn injury and require outpatient physical therapy and psychological support. This session is designed for interested team members to share creative solutions burn teams have devised to address the needs of this particularly challenging patient group.

Don't Fall Short: Managing the Ins and Outs of Drug Shortages

Moderators

Rita Gayed, PharmD, BCCCP

Alexandra Dewitt, PharmD, BCCCP

Drug shortages are an age-old tale that has plagued the healthcare system for decades. Every medication that is in short supply changes typically used therapeutic options, affecting prescribers, pharmacists, and nurses, and ultimately the patient. Whether it is a critical care medication (e.g., continuous infusion sedative) or a burn care specific medication (e.g., topicals), shortage management strategies must be employed to ensure uninterrupted safe, effective patient care. In this symposium, recent drug shortages affecting burn care will be discussed, assessing how they are addressed operationally, what alternatives can be employed and how the changes are communicated to the multi-professional team.

Plenary

Speakers

Robert Cartotto, MD

Sharmila Dissanaikie, MD

Opening Ceremony, Awards, & Presidential Address

The 2024 ABA Annual Meeting officially begins with color guard presentation, pipe and drum corp, and national anthem performance, followed by the Leadership Award presentation. President Elect Sharmila Dissanaikie will introduce President Robert Cartotto's presentation on the value of compassion for our organization and in caring for our patients, burn survivors, and each other.

Education Forums

Firefighter I: Addressing the Behavioral Health Needs for the Firefighter and Burn Team

Course Directors

Phillip Tammaro, EMT

Jason Woods, MPS

Leaders in the fire service recognize the impact that cumulative job stresses and regular exposure to traumatic events have on the mental health of firefighters. This session will introduce fire fighters and burn care professionals to a peer support model for the fire service. Presenters will explore current efforts to increase access to behavioral health and peer support programs for both first responders and medical clinicians who are routinely exposed to incidents involving devastating injuries and tragic loss of life.

Wednesday, April 10, 2024

Data Driven Themes of Burn Prevention, Epidemiology Studies, and Advocacy

Course Directors

Rebecca Coffey, PhD, MSN, APRN
Clifford Sheckter, MD

Engage in a comprehensive review of studies in burn epidemiology, prevention, and advocacy over the past 60 years including examples from each category. Types of data highlighted during this session will include case studies, burn registries, NEISS, WISQARS, HCUP (NIS, NEDS) and other large database sources. Attendees will learn techniques for analysis including various types of regression, geo-mapping, cost-effectiveness analysis, and quality of life techniques. Tips for establishing partnerships for data pooling and analysis will be discussed. Finally, discuss how to use the results to design interventions to change behavior and policy.

From The Starting Line to the Finish Line: Creating Programs That Fully Support Our Nursing Staff, Pt 1

Course Directors

James T. Anderson
Natalie Fitzgerald, BSN, RN
Erin Horrax, BSN, RN, CCRN

Identify mechanisms to support nurses from on-boarding through a successful career within the burn center. It will provide insight in how to grow and support each staff member. Generational differences in needs for each nurse will be explored. Additionally, the day-to-day support of staff will be discussed so that environments can be created that allow for retention and career growth of nurses.

Rub a Dub Dub, What Bug is Growing in Your Tub? An update on the management of antimicrobial resistant gram negative infections

Course Directors

Patricia J. Faris, PharmD, BCPS, BCCCP
Rita Gayed, PharmD, BCCCP

Discuss the new guidelines from the IDSA on the treatment of resistant Gram-Negative infections and the updates on the clinical lab standards bacterial MIC breakpoints. Both guidelines were released in 2023. Dosing strategies along with considerations of stability, compatibility of various antibiotics with other medications will be discussed as limited access and altering infusion times may affect the pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of the antibiotics. An overlooked area of importance in treating infections include limitations with microbiology lab reporting and formulary management of antimicrobials. Utilization of case-based learning will re-enforce materials covered during the session.

Less Pain, More Gain – a New Spin on Old Pain Meds

Course Directors

Allison N. Boyd, PharmD, BCCCP
Kaylee M. Maynard, PharmD, BCCCP

The 2020 ABA Guidelines on Pain Management help address general pain management for patients with burn injury and identify areas that have more robust literature available. Pain management in our patient population is often complex and requires an individualized approach. The purpose of this session is to discuss a selection of clinical grey areas where less guidance and literature are available including acute pain management in patients receiving medications for opioid use disorder, administration of pain medications in an outpatient setting, pediatric pain management, and considerations for gabapentinoids and other therapies typically reserved for neuropathic pain.

Jeopardy

Course Directors

Jeffrey Carter, MD
Steve Kahn, MD

Show off your expertise in a lively game of jeopardy and learn a few new tricks along the way!.

Multidisciplinary Contracture Prevention

Course Directors

Audrey M. O'Neil, DPT, BT-C, CWS
Cassandra Rush, PT, DPT, WCC
Caitlin Sayers, BSN, RN
Natalie Fitzgerald, BSN, RN

This session will help the burn team improve methods to minimize burn scar contracture by utilizing a team dynamic. Therapist and nursing staff will describe how they can work together to improve splinting and positioning. There will also be education on gaining compliance and understanding of need for splinting and positioning by the entire burn team. Finally, learn how the team works together to get patient compliance with the utilization of splints and positioning.

Advanced Burn Reconstruction: Ears and Noses

Course Directors

Derek Bell, MD
Sigrid A. Blome-Eberwein, MD

Advanced burn reconstruction options and cases for ear and nose reconstruction with emphasis on prevention, specific problem solving and postoperative splinting, as well as patient selection and indication to refer.

Wednesday, April 10, 2024

Trauma Informed Care in the Burn Care Setting

Course Directors

Sheera F. Lerman, PhD

Carisa Parrish, PhD

Daniel M. Schneider, PsyD

Trauma informed care (TIC) is a framework that recognizes the psychological and social needs of trauma survivors during the process of recovery, with a goal to minimize re-traumatization and promote positive outcomes and growth. This session will provide the principles of TIC, discuss its application in burn care and discuss the benefits and challenges in using this framework in the pediatric and adult burn care settings.

Palliative Care in the Burn Center: Efficacy, Clinical Pathways, and Opportunities for Interdisciplinary Collaboration

Course Directors

Samuel P. Mandell, MD, MPH

Kimberly Roaten, PhD, ABPP

Explore evidence-based best practices in palliative care for all members of the interdisciplinary team. Then, discuss the collaboration between the Palliative Care and Burn Teams. The audience will be provided with a review of the literature regarding PC in burn care and existing clinical pathways. Speakers will discuss indications for PC involvement with burn patients and engage the audience in small group discussion to generate new ideas and creative strategies for early and effective consultation. Speakers will include burn surgeons, a psychologist, a palliative care physician, and a burn patient's family member to assure that the content is broadly applicable and informed by multiple clinical perspectives.

MAC FORUM – We Are Family: The Role of Mentorship in Building Strong Teams

Course Directors

Mary Bruce, PA-C

Deborah Knight, MOT, OTR/L

Kristen C. Quinn, CMHC, CCLS

Kimberly Roaten, PhD, ABPP

Renee Warthman, OTR/L, BT-C, CHT

Mentorship has been strongly documented in the business and education sectors with positive outcomes for years. Recently healthcare has been adding mentorship programs due to the success seen in these fields. Burn centers are struggling to find and retain burn care providers across all disciplines. The benefits of a structured mentorship program cannot be overlooked as a possible solution. Research shows these programs are beneficial not just for the mentee, but for the mentor and healthcare organizations as well. A structured mentorship program within a burn center can be beneficial to attracting and retaining staff.

Thursday, April 11, 2024

Sunrise Symposia

Aftercare Recruitment... It Takes a Village (or a Really Engaged Burn Team)

Moderators

Kristen C. Quinn, CMHC, CCLS
Kelly McElligott, LCSW
Daniel W. Chacon, BA

Facilitators will highlight innovative approaches to engaging burn survivors in aftercare. Special consideration will be given to the burn team and the unique relationship each discipline has with patients and their families, while focusing on how to use this relationship to promote aftercare programs. Attendees will be encouraged to share the wide berth of aftercare programs supported by their hospital or by local foundations. The role of an aftercare coordinator and the diverse implementation of this role will also be discussed.

Burn Fellowship Verification: Tips, Pearls and How to

Moderators

Arpana Jain, MD
Lucy Wibbenmeyer, MD, FABA

The American Burn Association has established standards for training of burn surgeons. Such standards are prescribed in accordance with the Burn Fellowship Verification, which has similar intention as the Burn Center Verification. Since its inception two years ago, several burn centers have successfully achieved fellowship verification. Other burn centers are considering verification process and have questions about this process. Also, there are few centers that are either unaware or ambivalent about this process. This session aims to fill this gap via an interactive session with fellowship directors who have successfully achieved fellowship verification.

Building Pediatric Burn Nurse Competencies for High-risk Patients in A Low Volume Center

Moderators

Keisha O'Neill, RN, MSN
Tiffany Smith, RN, BSN

Discuss opportunities on how to maintain pediatric nurse competencies in burn centers with high risk, low volume patients. This session aims to help burn team members who care for pediatric patients by exploring various ways to help educators maintain nursing competencies. We will encourage attendees to share what their burn center offers as well as learn about other centers. Attendees will learn about specific pediatric burn competency curriculums including education regarding classroom work, hands-on skills, and simulations.

How Prevention Methodology Changes Based on Social Determinants of Health

Moderators

Sarah D. Scoins, MSN, RN, CNS, CCRN, ACCNS-AG
Rebecca Coffey, PhD, MSN, APPRN

Learn how to adapt your prevention outreach program to meet the needs of your social determinates of health in your catchment area. This session aims to target the entire burn team and aim to identify positive ways to educate the community as whole based on specific burn injury patterns/etiologies related various cultures and practices.

Engaging with the Teenage Burn Survivors: Tips and Tricks

Moderators

Elizabeth Flores, BA
Tanya Sorkin, MSW

Adolescent burn survivors and their families are faced with particularly unique challenges post-injury. This demographic is already challenged with emotional and physical changes which are compounded by the trauma of burns. These problems are not limited just to survivors but affect family members, classmates, and friends. The purpose of this symposium will be to recognize some of the struggles, identify resources available, and discuss novel ways of involving adolescents and the people around them in the recovery process.

Effective Management of Screen Time on the Burn Unit

Moderators

Debbie Minter, MSPT
Laura van Houtryve, PT

The amount of time that both children and adults spend in front of their screen-based devices is often estimated at 7.5-11 hours/day. There have been many documented concerns related to excessive screen time and screen usage is often exacerbated during hospitalizations. Significantly for patients with burns, excessive screen time can lead to poor sleep hygiene, decreased physical activity and participation in therapies as well as poor posture/positioning with an increased risk of contractures. Participants will discuss multidisciplinary strategies for managing screen time on the burn unit to promote improved outcomes as well as barriers to implementation.

Thursday, April 11, 2024

How Can Rehabilitation Professionals Help Burn Survivors with Fear Avoidance Beliefs and Behaviours Following Burn Injury?

Moderators

Zoë Edger-Lacoursière, MSc, OT Erg.
Bernadette Nedelec, BSc OT(C), PhD, Erg., BT-C
Geneviève Schneider

Although the investigations of fear-avoidant beliefs and behaviours in burn survivors are very limited, there have been several reports specific to this population. Fear-avoidance is an important construct that may have a substantial impact on the long-term clinical outcomes of burn survivors, similar to what has already been demonstrated in other musculoskeletal conditions. Rehabilitation measures and interventions (BSFAQ) to evaluate and help burn survivors with fear avoidance beliefs and behaviours will be discussed in this session.

How Do We Protect Ourselves? Burnout in the Burn Center

Moderators

Natalie Fitzgerald, BSN, RN
Heather Garcenila, MSN, RN

Burn care has always been difficult. Patients stay with us for a long time and we become connected. But the work is hard and sometimes our outcomes aren't what we hoped for. The lack of appropriate staffing is an increased burden especially when the desire to do care that is beyond excellent. During this sunrise we will discuss tools to help our staff members manage their stress, especially tools we can use as a team. We will look at the benefits of debriefing, journaling, group outings, and other mechanisms that can minimize burnout.

Quality Improvement: The Role of the Burn Therapist

Moderators

Audrey M. O'Neil, DPT, BTC, CWS
Derek Murray, PT, MS, BT-C
Senja Collins, BS, PT
Sandra Fletchall, OTR/L, CHT, MPA

The involvement of burn therapists in the development of rehabilitation specific Burn Center Quality Improvement (QI) initiatives is imperative to achieving best patient outcomes. Therapist involvement in QI discussions within their centers allows selected measures to be relevant, feasible, and clinically meaningful within burn rehabilitation. This session aims to introduce the value of QI initiatives in rehabilitation

practice, outline a framework to develop, implement, measure, and report QI benchmarks, and discuss application of QI initiatives within burn rehabilitation across the continuum of care.

Break on Through to the OR side: Overcoming Barriers to Provide Safe and Effective Therapy in the Operating Room

Moderators

Gregory V. Andre, OTR/L
Jody Sabel, OT/L

Providing therapy services in the operating room can be intimidating, but the benefits outweigh the uneasiness of practicing in a new healthcare environment. This symposium will identify the services therapy can provide in the operating room, discuss safety measures and considerations when providing those services, explore common barriers and challenges therapists face and share solutions to overcoming these barriers.

Plenary

Presidential Plenary

Speaker

Robert Cartotto, MD

The Presidential Plenary will feature presentations on the value of compassion in burn and impact on survivors.

Education Forums

Firefighter II: The Rising Threat of Wildfires in North America

Course Directors

Quinn Kennedy
Jason Woods, MPS

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration reports wildfires caused \$81.6 billion in damage from 2017 to 2021, a nearly 10-fold increase from 2012 to 2016, when damages totaled \$8.6 billion. While we usually associate the threat of wildfire with the Western US and Canada, these incidents are increasing across North America and globally. This session will explore the threat of wildfires and their risk to our communities. Aside from destroying homes and the landscape of our communities, they can result in a burn mass casualty event or lead to a loss of life.

Thursday, April 11, 2024

Holistic Approaches to Discharge Preparedness

Course Directors

Daniel W. Chacon, BA
Kelly McElligott, LCSW
Kristen C. Quinn, CMHC, CCLS

Discharging patients is a standard of hospital care. However, ensuring that patients have the education and resources they need to safely and successfully discharge from the hospital can be complex. It can be a delicate balance for patients to feel empowered to continue their recovery at home and to ensure that both physical and emotional needs are met. In this session, we will explore various approaches that are utilized in the discharge planning process and explore ways to engage patients and their caregivers in aftercare programming.

From The Starting Line to The Finish Line: Creating Programs That Fully Support Our Nursing Staff, Pt 2

Course Directors

James T. Anderson
Natalie Fitzgerald, BSN, RN
Erin Horrax, BSN, RN, CCRN

Identify mechanisms to support nurses from on-boarding through a successful career within the burn center. It will provide insight in how to grow and support each staff member. Generational differences in needs for each nurse will be explored. Additionally, the day-to-day support of staff will be discussed so that environments can be created that allow for retention and career growth of nurses.

Advanced Airway Management and Mechanical Ventilation in the Burn Unit: Beyond Conventional Modalities

Course Directors

Alexis L. McQuitty, MD
Mark D. Talon, DNP, CRNA
Nathan Wright, MD
Madhu Subramanian, MD

Adult and pediatric burn patients may present with difficult airways and challenging mechanical ventilation. Part 1 of this forum will focus on advanced airway management with lectures, videos, and hands-on simulation. Topics include the benefits and complications of a tracheostomy, avoiding unnecessary intubations, controversies with extubation criteria, safe endotracheal tube exchange, and novel techniques to secure endotracheal tubes. Part 2 will be a review of the most up to date tools in management of the mechanically ventilated burn patient. The focus will be on modalities and adjuncts for patients that are difficult to manage based on conventional ventilator modalities.

Advanced Practice Providers in Burn Care

Course Directors

Megan Gernt, AGACNP-BC
Jenna Kesey, PhD, APRN, FNP-BC, CWS, CNE
Rosemary Paine, MSN, FNP-BC

The role of the APP in burn centers has evolved over time and continues to develop. Often, APPs are left to pioneer their role with limited direction or guidance. This educational forum aims to support APPs in understanding the different ways they can be of value to a burn center and how to develop their roles within burn centers. This collaborative session will allow APPs working in burn centers to share their experiences in an effort to find common ways to advance practice and to demonstrate to burn directors the utility of the APP role.

Ethical Issues in Cases of Patients Who Self-Harm

Course Directors

Julie A. Caffrey, DO
Monica L. Gerrek, PhD
Casey Kohler, MD
Jeffrey Litt, DO
John T. Schulz, III, MD, PhD
Kimberly Roaten, PhD, ABPP

Cases involving patients who self-harm with burns are ethical challenging. Should a patient who has attempted suicide by severely burning themselves be treated? If a patient repeatedly self-harms, is the team participating in that behavior if they treat the patient after every burn? We will discuss the ethical principles involved and share processes to help providers manage these cases.

Mobilization of the Complex Burn Patient

Course Directors

Trevor Glenn, OTR/L
Jason Redman, MPT
Audrey M. O'Neil, DPT, BTC, CWS

Mobilization of the complex burn patient can include patients with large TBSA injury and/or undergoing ICU critical care admissions. Mobilization and active therapy progression during the critical care phase of burn care can be intimidating and challenging for the burn rehabilitation team. Modifications must be made for open wounds, types of grafts (CEA, BTM, etc.) surgeon specific precautions, and associated traumas. This session aims to discuss strategies for the success of mobilization and active therapy progression within the Burn ICU setting including overcoming barriers to mobilization, treatment planning, progression and modifications based on graft placement.

Thursday, April 11, 2024

Business of Burn Care: Challenges in Coding & Compensation

Course Directors

Jeffrey E. Carter, MD
William Hickerson, MD
Steve Kahn, MD

Coding is the language of medicine and represents our patients, procedures, and the progression of care. This session will have 4 main components. The first component will provide a review of coding structure for the facility and the provider. The second component will explain how coding, modifiers, and documentation impact reimbursement. The third component will review changes in coding for 2023-2024. The last component will feature a panel to review complex cases and tackle coding challenges from the audience. This session is proudly supported by the Coding & Reimbursement Committee of the ABA.

Hypertrophic Scar – Beyond Function: Pain and Itch

Course Directors

Bonnie C. Carney, PhD
Taryn E. Travis, MD

Explore a range of topics useful to team members who care for patients with hypertrophic scar affected by pain and pruritus, symptoms that are notoriously difficult to treat. Discuss the prevalence and clinical importance of these symptoms from the point of view of the burn survivor, the pathophysiology of pain and pruritus in hypertrophic scars, pharmacologic approaches to treatment, lasers and surgical interventions for treatment, and research methodology for adequately capturing these metrics based on Burn Model System experience. Speakers will be from multiple disciplines including scientists, physicians, pharmacists, and burn survivors.

Immunological Response to Burn Injury: Time for an Update

Course Directors

Lauren Moffatt, PhD
Jeffrey Shupp, MD

In recent years there have been many new basic, translational, and observational clinical studies examining the immunological response to burn injury. It has been a while since we have brought these investigators together in one session to integrate these investigations and discuss paths forward to further understand the integrated adaptive and maladaptive immune response to thermal trauma. During the pandemic, while studying SARS-CoV-2, the scientific community accelerated research on inflammation, cytokine storm advanced knowledge in these areas. This session will integrate and summarize the state of the science of the immunological response to thermal injury.

The session will benefit researchers and clinicians by organizing multiple contemporary research findings while helping re-orient clinical applicability and translatability to patient care. Better understanding these topics could lead to improvements in the management of burn shock, burn related dysbiosis and the hypermetabolic response after burn injury.

The Year in Review: The Top Journal Publications

Course Directors

Tina Palmieri, MD, FABA

A favorite session among attendees. Editors from each of the top publications in burn care present and discuss major advances in published burn research throughout the past year. Journals represented include Journal of Burn Care & Research; Wound Repair and Regeneration; Journal of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery; and Burns.

Changing Places: Responding to Incidents Involving Hazardous Materials

Course Directors

Quinn Kennedy
Jason Woods, MPS

Industrial accidents, train derailments, accidents involving chemical tanker trucks that travel up and down our highways, and incidents involving chemical weapons require a unique response from specially trained Hazardous Materials Teams. More often than not, those responders that make up our Haz-Mat team are firefighters. These incidents not only pose a threat to human life, but they also have a long-term impact on our communities as well as the environment. This year's Changing Places will explore the specialized training, equipment, and tactics required to successfully mitigate these incidents.

Developing Critical Thinking and Evidence-Based Practice Skills for a Successful Burn Therapy Certification Application

Course Directors

Lisa Forbes, BMR(OT), MSc, BT-C
Renee Warthman, OTR/L, BT-C, CHT
Miranda L. Yelvington, MS, OTR/L, BT-C

Therapists who apply for burn therapy certification are required to utilize evidence-based practice, critical thinking, and writing skills to develop their certification submissions. This session will provide a brief update of the current process of BT-C application, and a workshop focusing on prospective case selection and tracking, the importance of integrating evidence into therapy practice, and strategies to strengthen documentation and critical thinking skills through the lens of the certified burn therapist.

Thursday, April 11, 2024

Across the Blue Curtain: The Integration of Anesthesia in Burn Care

Course Directors

Anjay Khandelwal, MD
Richard Mahon, DO

Explore strategies for the preoperative assessment and management of the burn patients including fasting guidelines, practice guidelines and options for the development of procedural sedation services, techniques for postoperative pain management including the use of regional anesthesia with demonstration of techniques. In addition the financial impact of these services will be discussed. This will be an interactive and engaging session accomplished by case presentations, demonstrations of techniques as well as group discussion and breakout sessions.

Inclusive Language and Disparities Research in Burn

Course Directors

David M. Burmeister, PhD
Giavonni M. Lewis, MD
Rachel M. Nygaard, PhD
Lucy Wibbenmeyer, MD, FABA

Learn how to incorporate inclusive language into their clinical and research practices. Then, review current updates in burn disparities research and gaps in the field.

Engaging Nurses in Process Improvement in Burn Care

Course Directors

Kathleen Hollowed, RN, MSN
Amanda Bettencourt, PhD, APRN, CCRN-K, ACCNS-P
Gretchen J. Carrougher, MN, RN
Annemarie O'Connor, MSN, RN, FNP-BC

Learn more about nurse-driven process improvement in burn care and how process improvement can improve patient centered outcomes in burn care.



SAVE THE DATE

2025 ABA Annual Meeting

April 8–11, 2025
Phoenix, AZ

Friday, April 12, 2024

Plenary

Top 5 Abstracts & ABA Research Paper Awards

Course Directors

Steve A. Kahn, MD

Kimberly Roaten, PhD, ABPP

The Top 5 Abstracts, based on the scores of reviewers, will be presented in this plenary after the 2024 Research Paper Awards ceremony. Authors will present their research and invited discussants will interview the author about the findings presented. You won't want to miss this annual favorite!

Educational Forums

Best in Category Posters

Course Directors

Steve A. Kahn, MD

Kimberly Roaten, PhD, ABPP

There is excellent research being done by many members in the burn community and due to limited space and time, some are presented in a poster format. During the poster rounds professors will award one poster for each category as "Best in Category." These top posters will be presented in a more formal setting during this session and judged by the Chairs of the Program Committee, Research Committee and Membership Advisory Committee. At the conclusion of the session, the judges will award the three top posters of the meeting.

Research 101: Tools for New or Interested Investigators

Course Directors

David M. Burmeister, PhD

Deborah L. Carlson, PhD

David M. Hill, PharmD, BCPS, BCCCP

Lauren T. Moffatt, PhD

Providers caring for patients with burn injuries face endless challenges that lack adequate answers. Many wish they could help find answers, but do not know how to begin. "What questions need to be answered?" "I have a hypothesis, but how to I test it?" "What is a data collection tool?" "Do I need informed consent?" "Did you say budget?" Conducting quality research does not have to be daunting. The Research 101 educational session is designed to give insight to new investigators, or those interested in participating in research, as they begin their journey.

Demystifying Mental Health Provider Billing and Establishing Standardized Evidence-Based Screening Measures

Course Directors

Nathan H. Brown, PsyD

Yulia Gavrilova, PhD

Kimberly Roaten, PhD, ABPP

Mikki J. Rothbauer, MSW, LICSW

Shelley A. Wiechman, PhD, ABPP

Mental health providers will have an opportunity to learn about mental health billing codes, when and how to use them, specific requirements for documentation, RVUs associated with each code, and evidence-based screening measures that can be used with burn patients. We will additionally discuss different funding models for mental health providers serving burn patients, ways of leveraging the ABA verification process to advocate for increased behavioral support, strategies for using trainees to increase service capacity, and common barriers encountered. The panel is represented by psychology and social work for diversity of information.

Addressing Challenging Burn Prevention Issues

Course Directors

Kenny Asselin, MBA, NRP

Rebecca Coffey, PhD, MSN, APRN

Karla S. Klas, BSN, RN, CCRP

Large-scale prospective randomized studies on burn prevention are mostly infeasible in the community setting. Hence, best practices in burn prevention are often guided by consensus of subject matter experts and driven by other more universal evidence-informed prevention strategies. Burn prevention is conducted by a variety of passionate persons including survivor advocates, fire service, public health, burn team members, and injury prevention/safety professionals. This can lead to opposing approaches to the same burn prevention issue, especially if there are differing expert opinions. This session will highlight trending controversial topics in burn prevention and discuss the benefits and risks to conflicting messaging.

Friday, April 12, 2024

Technology in Burn Care

Course Directors

Robel Beyene, MD
Patrick Duffy, MD
Stephen Gondek, MD, MPH
Anju Saraswat, MD
Anne L. Wagner, MD

From 3D printing and wound imaging, to algorithm guided resuscitation, virtual rehabilitation and generative AI (i.e. CHAT GPT, DALL-E), technology has endless potential to change the future of burn care. Here we will explore how modern technology is shaping and improving burn care.

Educating the Next Generation of Burn Surgeons to Fix the Leaky Pipeline

Course Directors

Laura S. Johnson, MD
Lauren B. Nosanov, MD

The burn community has long struggled with recruiting and retaining surgical trainees into the field of burn surgery, and subsequently challenges persist in filling open positions and meeting ongoing clinical needs. Exposure to burn-related curriculum as a medical student and adequate contact time in General Surgery and Plastic Surgery residencies are both problematic. Many who pursue fellowships in burn surgery do not go on to practice clinically in the field. This session will explore these trends and discuss potential solutions.

Multidisciplinary Approach to the Burn Patient with Substance Use Disorder

Course Directors

Mary Liz Bilodeau, RN, MS, ACNPC
Jeremy Goverman, MD

Explore a multidisciplinary approach to addiction and substance use disorder as it co-mingles with burn injury. Education will include pathophysiology, identification and screening of affected patients at the time of admission, management of substance dependence, multimodal pain control, rehabilitation and recovery programs. We will also include aspects related to treatment of the unique injury pattern often seen with SUDS-related burn injury.

Better Necks Time: A Collaborative Approach to Neck Contracture Management

Course Directors

Jody Sabel, OT/L
Haig A. Yenikomshian, MD

Neck contractures cause limited range of motion, pain, and poor aesthetic results which can lead to frustration for survivors and the burn care team. This session aims to address the comprehensive approach required to manage such contractures, addressing all aspects of the perioperative period. This session will discuss preoperative therapeutic interventions and candidate selection. The goal is to foster further collaboration between surgeons and therapists in navigating the complexities of this difficult problem.

PRO/CON Debates 2024

Course Directors

Victor C. Joe, MD
Laura S. Johnson, MD

Not all therapeutic decisions in burn care are informed by large prospective randomized studies. There are often opposing approaches to the same clinical problem. Burn care providers often disagree about various therapeutic interventions for the burn patient. This session will highlight four controversial areas in burn treatment. Experts from the burn team will debate these resolutions, defending their stance on a particular care plan or strategy. Audience polling will be used to identify the attendee biases before the debate and their positions after the debate to see if the presented arguments change opinions.

Double Double Toil and Trouble: Nonconventional Topical Agents and Their Uses

Course Directors

Patricia J. Faris, PharmD, BCPS, BCCCP
Asia N. Quan, PharmD, BCPS, BCCCP

Timely access post burn to immediate burn care may be limited geographically as well as economically. Cultural practices may also dictate when and what type of care is received. Often, topical applications of agents are the primary, if not only, burn care that many burn victims receive. The participants in this session will explore the diversity of topical treatments, ranging from burdock leaves to toothpaste and cabbage, the practices behind them, and potential medicinal properties of the agents.

Friday, April 12, 2024

Life over Limb: Amputations and Their Impact on Burn Survivors

Course Directors

Gretchen J. Carrougner, MN, RN
Karen J. Kowalske, MD
Samuel P. Mandell, MD, MPH
Barclay T. T. Stewart, MD, PhD

Amputations are a highly morbid surgical procedure that may be necessary to save a life. With burn injuries, the challenge of deciding when to amputate, at what level, how to reconstruct the residual limb and maximize functional outcomes increases significantly. Challenges exist in determining injury depth and finding healthy tissue to create a functional limb or potential site for a prosthetic. Decisions made at the time of acute operation may significantly impact options for later function as well as pain and quality of life for patients. This session will address these issues and provide opportunity to hear from burn survivors.

The Rising Threat from Domestic Violent Extremism: Preparing for Burn Mass Casualty Events

Course Directors

Jeffrey E. Carter, MD
Jason Woods, MPS

The bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City on April 19, 1995, was the deadliest act of homegrown terrorism in the United States. This attack resulted in 168 fatalities and close to 700 injuries. Incidents involving Domestic Violent Extremists (DVEs) increased by 357% between 2013 and 2021, posing the most lethal and persistent terrorism-related threat to the homeland. Burn centers must prepare to manage future Burn Mass Casualty Incidents (BMCI) resulting from attacks by Domestic Violent Extremist. This session will explore the rise in DVE activity and best practices for managing future BMCIs.

Using Implementation Science to Facilitate Evidence Based Practice, Quality Improvement, and the Spread of Innovation in Burn Care Systems

Course Directors

Bronwyn R. Griffin, TBC
Tina L. Palmieri, MD, FABA
Yvonne M. Singer, RN, BSc, PGrDip, CF, MPH

Implementing evidence-based practice changes or disseminating innovation within healthcare systems is complex and challenging. The aim of the US Department

of Defense funded TIER EFFECT Implementation Research Project is to facilitate system-wide uptake of evidenced-based burns first aid practice changes, across Sacramento County's Fire Departments, 911 Dispatch agencies, outreach groups and the UC Davis Emergency Department and Burn Centre. This forum will provide a birds-eye perspective of the TIER EFFECT project, unpack the project's underlying implementation science concepts, methodologies, and frameworks, and provide a road map to other multidisciplinary burn teams wanting to implement change within their local healthcare systems.

Hidradenitis Suppurativa

Course Directors

Julie A. Caffrey, DO
Sheera F. Lerman, PhD

Hidradenitis suppurativa is a complex medical condition that causes painful lesions that develop as a result of inflammation and infection of sweat glands. The chronic pain, infection, and inflammation as well as the multidisciplinary care needed to manage these patients, make burn providers the ideal medical team to care for these patients. This session will discuss a multidisciplinary approach to Hidradenitis management, improving surgical outcomes by evidence-based medical optimization including pre-surgical evaluation by psychologists and anti-inflammatory diet/nutrition.

Redefining Burn Disability: Current Challenges and New Concepts

Course Directors

Cindy Rutter, RN, BSN, LMFT
Haig A. Yenikomshian, MD

How we define disability profoundly affects who has claims to resources. As in other areas of medicine, disability in the context of burn survivors has been defined from a biomedical standpoint without much input from patient stakeholders. As we learn more about the challenges in aftercare, the way our burn community looks at disability needs to adapt. The purpose of this education session is to review the current ways disability is viewed in the burn community and to examine novel ways of understanding it from a philosophical perspective.

Registration Information

The ABA offers member discounts on Annual Meeting full registration rates. [Become a member](#) or [renew your membership](#) to take advantage of exclusive member deals. General registration for the meeting includes access to all education sessions, SIG meetings, the exhibit hall, and social/networking events. Pre-conference programming is not included in the general rates.

2024 Registration Fees

Pre-Conference: Monday, April 8–Tuesday, April 9

Space is limited for pre-conference sessions. Advance registration required by no later than 4/8/23.

COURSES & WORKSHOPS	DATE/TIME	MEMBER	NON-MEMBER
ABLS Live	April 8, 8 AM–5 PM	\$299	\$299
Burn Registrar Training	April 8, 8 AM–5 PM	\$339	\$549
Science of Wounds Excision and Closure	April 8, 1 PM–5 PM	\$449	\$599
CBRN Exam Review Course	Two Day Course April 8, 8 AM–5 PM April 9, 8 AM–3:30 PM	\$599	\$799
Rehabilitation Workshop	April 9, 8 AM–12 PM	\$49	\$79
ABLS Instructor Course	April 9, 8 AM–1 PM	\$349	\$349

Conference: Tuesday, April 9–Friday, April 12

REGISTRANT TYPE		EARLY-BIRD <i>Ends 12/18/23</i>	ADVANCE <i>Ends 2/14/24</i>	LAST CHANCE <i>Begins 2/15/24</i>	ONSITE <i>4/9–4/10/24</i>
Physician	Member	\$800	\$950	\$1,000	\$1,050
	Non-Member	\$1,000	\$1,050	\$1,150	\$1,250
Non-Physician	Member	\$650	\$775	\$825	\$875
	Non-Member	\$1,000	\$1,050	\$1,150	\$1,250
Student*	Member	\$300	\$350	\$375	\$400
	Non-Member	\$400	\$450	\$475	\$500
FIT (resident/fellow)**	Member	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Non-Member	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Fire Fighter	Member	\$275	\$275	\$275	\$275
	Non-Member	\$275	\$275	\$275	\$275

* **Students must submit a letter** from their faculty advisor confirming student status during the registration process. Students who work full-time and fellows do not qualify.

****Residents and Fellows receive one year of complimentary conference registration** through the ABA Fellows-in-Training Program. FIT membership approval must be obtained BEFORE conference registration: refunds will not be issued to new FIT members. Pre-con registration not included. Eligible residents and Fellows in the US/Canada only. If you have previously received free registration through the FIT program, please register using the Student (residents) or Physician (fellows) registration types. **APPLY NOW**

Day Rate

A day rate of \$275 for members and \$400 for non-members is available for no more than two days. The Friday day rate does not include a Closing Celebration ticket. Registration is required to attend SIG meetings, if you only plan to attend SIG Day, you may register for the Tuesday day rate.

Hotel

Conference registrants receive a special hotel rate while space is available—register now as the room block fills up quickly! Housing information is provided to attendees upon registering for the event.

Chicago Hilton
720 S Michigan Ave
Chicago, IL 60605

Billing

Registrants may request an invoice during registration. All invoices must be paid in full by April 1, 2024. Registrants with unpaid invoices will be required to pay onsite via credit card to gain entry.

Cancellation Policy

No refunds will be offered for any reason. Members may transfer registrations to other members of the same member type until April 1, 2024. Nonmember registrations are nontransferable.

Continuing Education



The American Burn Association is accredited with commendation by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to provide continuing medical education for physicians. This activity will be accredited for CME.



The American Burn Association is accredited as a provider of Nursing Continuing Professional Development by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation. This activity is accredited for nursing contact hours.



The American Burn Association is approved by the American Occupational Therapy Association to provide Continuing Education credits for Occupational Therapy Professional Development activities. This meeting will be approved for CE credits.

The American Burn Association will be submitting accreditation requests for approval to award contact hours for: dietitians, physical therapists, social workers, and psychologists.

Please visit the American Burn Association website for additional information.

