



———— 2026 ANNUAL MEETING ————

Burn Care Ne>t

Leading Burn Care into Tomorrow



ABA 2026 Annual Meeting

Leading Burn Care into Tomorrow

Join the American Burn Association's (ABA) 2026 Annual Meeting in Orlando, April 14–17, and experience “*Leading Burn Care into Tomorrow.*” Hosted at Rosen Shingle Creek, a full-service luxury hotel just minutes from the airport and amusement parks, this premier event sparks new ideas and connects you with leaders in burn care while advancing your expertise, network, and practice.

Arrive early to take full advantage of **pre-conference programs on Monday and Tuesday**, including Advanced Burn Life Support® (ABLS) courses, Certified Burn Registered Nurse (CBRN) Exam Prep, hands-on workshops, and Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings. These sessions provide in-depth learning and focused networking opportunities—plan ahead to maximize your experience.

Over four days, engage with inspiring speakers, interactive panels, and expert insights, staying at the forefront of burn care innovation. Explore the exhibit hall, connect with peers, and discover the latest products and technologies shaping the field.

Spaces fill quickly. **Reserve your spot today** and be part of advancing burn care this spring!



2026 Annual Meeting Features

Pre-Conference

Dive deep into specialized topics in an interactive, small-group setting. *Note: Pre-conference programs require an additional registration fee.*

Plenaries: Keynote Sessions & Awards

Join all attendees for three plenary keynote sessions: Opening Ceremony and Presidential Address; Presidential Plenary; and Top Five Abstracts. Gain insights from leaders shaping burn care.

Educational Forums

Engage in focused conversations, idea sharing, and innovation exploration by topic.

Correlatives: Featured Research

Discover the latest burn research through abstract presentations that explore key findings and insights.

Sunrise Symposia

Join interactive, interdisciplinary discussions on key topics. Limited to 50 attendees per session—secure your spot by arriving early to ensure your voice is heard.

Poster Rounds – Wednesday and Thursday

New format for 2026! Research posters are presented in one of three categories:

- **Quick Shot:** the highest-scoring posters presented in a large group setting
- **Traditional Printed Posters:** printed posters presented in the exhibit hall
- **Electronic Case Study Posters:** e-posters presented in the exhibit hall

Discover the latest breakthroughs in burn care research and discuss findings directly with the researchers to explore the impact of their conclusions firsthand. Top-scoring Traditional Printed Poster presentations in each category earn a spot in the Best in Category Session on Friday morning. Don't miss the chance to see cutting-edge research in action.

Special Interest Group (SIG) Day

Connect with colleagues on Tuesday, April 14, during Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings offered in 19 different disciplines and topic areas from pediatrics to reconstruction. SIG sessions provide a focused space to share insights and collaborate with peers who share your interests or expertise in burn care. Full meeting details will be available this spring in the event mobile app. Plan ahead to join the discussions that matter most.

Networking & Social Time

Build connections with colleagues at receptions and social events. First-time attendees and new ABA members are invited to the **First Time Attendee and New Member Welcome** before the Welcome Reception in the Exhibit Hall.

Exhibit Hall & New Ways to Learn

Discover the latest products, services, and technologies in burn care while connecting with exhibitors and fellow attendees.

Enhance your experience by attending engaging Sponsored Symposia or exploring the Innovation Theater, both offer unique learning opportunities, insights into the latest products and services, and a chance to connect with leaders in burn care.

Closing Celebration

Enjoy an evening of delicious food, refreshing drinks, and the company of familiar friends and new connections.

At-a-Glance Schedule

Monday, April 13

8:00 AM–5:00 PM	Advanced Burn Life Support® (ABLS) Live Course (Pre-Con)
8:00 AM–5:00 PM	Certified Burn Registered Nurse (CBRN) Exam Prep Course Part 1 (Pre-Con)
8:00 AM–5:00 PM	Committee Meetings (<i>invite-only</i>)
8:00 AM–12:00 PM	Transforming Burn Care Through Quality Improvement: A Hands-On Workshop (Pre-Con)
1:00–5:00 PM	Burn Rehabilitation: Putting Competencies into Practice (Pre-Con)

Tuesday, April 14

8:00 AM–5:00 PM	Special Interest Group (SIG) Meetings
8:00 AM–5:00 PM	Quality & Burn Registry Workshop (Pre-Con)
8:00 AM–3:30 PM	CBRN Exam Prep Course Part 2 (Pre-Con)
8:00 AM–12:00 PM	ABLS Instructor Course, Option 1 (Pre-Con)
8:00 AM–12:00 PM	ACT in Action: Practical Tools for Enhancing Psychological Flexibility in Survivors and Clinicians (Pre-Con)
1:00–5:00 PM	Fundamentals of Burn Care: A Team Approach to Scar Management (Pre-Con)
1:00–5:00 PM	ABLS Instructor Course, Option 2 (Pre-Con)
4:00–5:30 PM	ABuRN Town Hall
5:00–5:30 PM	New Member and First-Time Attendee Welcome
5:00–7:00 PM	Opening Reception in Exhibit Hall

Wednesday, April 15

6:45–7:45 AM	Sunrise Symposia
8:00–9:30 AM	Opening Ceremony and Presidential Address

Continued from Wednesday, April 15

9:30 AM–7:00 PM	Exhibit Hall Open
9:30–10:00 AM	Refreshment Break in Exhibit Hall
10:00 AM–12:00 PM	Educational Forums and Correlatives
12:00–2:00 PM	Lunch in Exhibit Hall
12:30–1:30 PM	Poster Rounds
2:00–4:00 PM	Educational Forums and Correlatives
4:15 – 5:30 PM	MAC FORUM: Burn Care Unscripted: Sharing Unexpected Moments, Creative Solutions, and Pearls for Resilience
5:30–7:00 PM	Networking Reception in Exhibit Hall

Thursday, April 16

6:45–7:45 AM	Sunrise Symposia
8:00–9:30 AM	Presidential Plenary Session
9:30–10:00 AM	Refreshment Break in Exhibit Hall
9:30 AM–2:00 PM	Exhibit Hall Open
10:00 AM–12:00 PM	Educational Forums and Correlatives
12:00–1:30 PM	Lunch in Exhibit Hall
12:30–1:30 PM	Poster Rounds
1:30–2:00 PM	Passport to Prizes in the Exhibit Hall
2:00–4:00 PM	Educational Forums
4:15–5:30 PM	Educational Forums

Friday, April 17

8:00–9:45 AM	Top 5 Abstracts & Research Paper Awards
10:00 AM–12:00 PM	Educational Forums and Correlatives
10:00 AM–12:00 PM	Best in Category Posters
12:15–1:45 PM	Lunch and Learn Education Forums
2:00–4:00 PM	Education Forums
4:15–5:30 PM	ABA Business Meeting
7:00–11:00 PM	Closing Celebration

Pre-Conference Courses

Enhance your skills and gain advanced knowledge in specialized topics with pre-conference courses. **Pre-registration is required, and additional fees apply. On-site registration is not available.**

Monday, April 13

Advanced Burn Life Support® Live Course

Elevate your emergency care skills with the Advanced Burn Life Support® (ABLS) live course, for comprehensive training on burn patient care during the crucial first 24 hours. This immersive course equips you with essential knowledge and firsthand experience using a combination of lectures, case studies, and assessments. ABLS applies to a wide range of professionals who treat individuals with burn injuries, including first responders, nurses, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and physicians.

Burn Rehabilitation: Putting Competencies into Practice

Part of the ongoing ABA Annual Meeting Rehabilitation Pre-Conference Sessions, this course combines lectures and labs to address core burn therapist competencies outlined in the ABA Burn Rehabilitation Therapist Competency Tool (BRTCT-2) (Parry et al., 2017), which also supports ABA Verification Criteria (7.7).

Didactic sessions will highlight current practice, while breakout groups offer discussion and hands-on learning to help participants strengthen their knowledge and skills across key burn therapy domains.

Certified Burn Registered Nurse (CBRN) Exam Prep Course – Day 1

Prepare for the Certified Burn Registered Nurse (CBRN) exam with this comprehensive two-day course. Through interactive discussions and case study analysis, you will deepen your knowledge of burn care and gain practical insights. The course aims to boost confidence and readiness, equipping nurses with the tools needed to succeed in achieving CBRN certification.

Transforming Burn Care Through Quality Improvement: A Hands-On Workshop

This four-hour interactive program introduces key quality assurance and performance improvement (QA/PI) principles aligned with ABA verification standards, combining expert-led instruction, case studies, and small group collaboration. Participants will gain practical skills using quality improvement (QI) tools such as fishbone and driver programs, process mapping, and the PDS cycle to identify inefficiencies, set measurable aims, and design data-driven projects tailored to their clinical environments. By the end of the workshop, attendees will have established the foundation of a QI project, ready to implement at their burn center, fostering collaboration across disciplines and driving meaningful improvements in patient care.

Pre-Conference Courses (cont'd)

Tuesday, April 14

Advanced Burn Life Support® (ABLS) Instructor Course

This four-hour course is the first step to becoming an ABLIS Instructor. It covers creating a dynamic learning environment and best practices for teaching the ABLIS Live course. Participants must hold ABLIS certification for at least 12 months; completing the ABLIS Now online course alone does not meet this requirement. Two different options available, AM and PM.

Fundamentals of Burn Care: A Team Approach to Scar Management

Fundamentals of Burn Care is tailored for individuals with less than five years of experience in the field. Professionals within the burn team work together to prevent and remediate post-burn scar formation. The full scope of how each discipline approaches this challenge is often not fully understood by other team members. This session will fill this gap by providing an interdisciplinary approach to scar management. By considering the medical, therapeutic, and reconstructive approaches to scar, attendees will gain a well-rounded understanding of the importance of a team approach for optimal post-burn outcomes.

Quality & Burn Registry Workshop

This comprehensive, full-day course is designed to provide burn registry professionals with practical strategies and hands-on experience to elevate their skills and effectiveness in burn care data management. Participants will gain valuable insights and tools to enhance the quality of data reported through the Burn Care Quality Platform (BCQP) and explore the platform's advanced reporting functionalities.

ACT in Action: Practical Tools for Enhancing Psychological Flexibility in Survivors and Clinicians

This interactive workshop introduces Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) as a trauma-responsive, evidence-based approach to supporting burn survivors and clinicians. Through a mix of didactic content, case studies, role plays, and small-group practice, participants will explore ACT's core processes, acceptance, cognitive defusion, present moment awareness, self-as-context, values clarification, and committed action, and apply them across ages and contexts. Emphasis is placed on practical tools to reduce avoidance, support adjustment, address trauma and pain, and foster resilience, while also helping clinicians enhance their own flexibility, prevent burnout, and strengthen professional fulfillment.

Certified Burn Registered Nurse (CBRN) Exam Prep Course – Day 2

Prepare for the new Certified Burn Registered Nurse (CBRN) exam with this comprehensive two-day course. Through interactive discussions and case study analysis, you will deepen your knowledge of burn care and gain practical insights. The course aims to boost confidence and readiness, equipping nurses with the tools needed to succeed in achieving CBRN certification.

Tuesday, April 14

Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

On Tuesday, April 14, the Annual Meeting will host hour-long SIG meetings, giving attendees a focused opportunity to network and exchange resources with peers in their discipline or area of interest. Don't miss these interactive discussions with the following SIGs:

- Advanced Practice Providers (APRN/PA)
- Burn Camps
- Burn Prevention/Epidemiology
- Burn Program Leaders
- Burn Psychosocial
- Burn Reintegration
- Canadian
- Disaster
- Fire Fighters
- Nursing
- Nutrition
- Occupational Therapy/Physical Therapy (OT/PT)
- Pediatric Burns
- Pharmacy
- Physicians
- Quality & Burn Registry
- Reconstruction
- Research
- Substance Use Disorder

Times and locations will be available in the spring via the mobile app.

Special Events

ABuRN Town Hall

The ABA Burn Research Network (ABuRN) is an interdisciplinary group of ABA members committed to advancing burn care through collaborative research. ABA leadership and clinical researchers will review the progress of current research studies and discuss the status of future research projects.

New Member & First-Time Attendee Welcome

The ABA's Membership Advisory Committee (MAC) invites you to the New Member and First-Time Attendee Welcome at the 2026 Annual Meeting. This is a great opportunity to meet experienced ABA members, network, ask questions, and connect with fellow first-time attendees and new members.

Opening Reception & Exhibit Hall

Enjoy food, drinks, and great company while collaborating with leading organizations and companies in the burn field. Connect with those offering products and services that enhance care and support for burn-injured patients and survivors.



Wednesday, April 15

Sunrise Symposia

Burn Nursing Staffing Models and Competencies

Moderators

Sylvia Dao, MSN, MPA, RN, NE-BC
Rhoda Palacio, MSN, CBRN
Amanda Venable, RN, CBRN, CCRN
Natalie Fitzgerald, BSN, CBRN

During this symposium, learners will discuss various strategies for organizing and managing nursing teams in burn care units, covering topics such as patient acuity-based staffing, team composition, shift planning, and workload balancing. The course will discuss competency management, including assessing, developing, and maintaining the specialized clinical skills required for burn care. You'll explore aligning staffing strategies with patient outcomes, ensuring high-quality, safe, and efficient care for burn patients.

Challenging Issues in the Management of Morbidly Obese Burn Patients

Moderators

Jong Lee, MD, FABA
Tina Palmieri, MD, FABA

The management of morbidly obese burn patients can present a unique set of challenges. The successful management of an interdisciplinary team approach is extremely important to the outcome of morbidly obese burn patients. Plan to discuss the challenges faced in the management of morbidly obese burn patients, such as difficult resuscitation, difficult wound coverage, airway management, nutrition, prevention of pressure injuries, and difficult rehabilitation.

Child Abuse Reporting in Pediatric Burn Patients: Overdone or Not Enough?

Moderators

Melissa Brown, LICSW, CCM
Mary E. Bruce, PA-C
Anjay Khandelwal, MD, FABA
Kathleen Romanowski, MD, FABA

Despite mandatory reporting laws and increased education, child abuse and neglect remain both under- and over-reported in burn patients. Variability within state law, professional perspective, and training, as well as implicit bias, systemic, and psychosocial factors, contribute to this phenomenon. Critical thinking skills informing decision-making are essential to ensure ethical and fair reporting practices. This session will examine the risks and consequences of reporting extreme behavior in families, hospitals, and Child Protective Services (CPS). Moderators will facilitate discussion on challenging CPS cases, outcomes, and professional perspectives, encouraging open dialogue and shared learning, to generate ideas about preventing over- and under-reporting.

Discharge: Strategies for Preparing Patients and Families for the Transition

Moderators

Lindsay Burnett, AG-ACNP, MN, NP, RN, CBRN,
Tamara Roberts, MSN, CBRN
Lisa McMurtrey, BSN

Going home after a burn injury is a high-stress time for both patients and their families. With so much information being provided, it can become overwhelming. The goal of this session is to discuss effective strategies for preparing patients and families for discharge. You'll explore ways to communicate essential information and provide resources in a clear and supportive manner. Additionally, the session will emphasize the importance of engaging future burn care providers by equipping them with skills to foster positive communication, ensure comprehensive discharge planning, and enhance the long-term well-being of burn patients and their families.

Wednesday, April 15 (cont'd)

Doing More with Less: Innovative Strategies for Burn Rehabilitation

Moderators

Jody Sabel, MSOT/L
Deborah Knight, MOT, OTR/L, BT-C

In response to increasing financial strain and the need to “do more with less,” this symposia will focus on innovative and adaptable splinting, positioning, and treatment techniques. Presenters will share creative, cost-effective strategies that minimize waste with the use of readily available materials while maintaining patient safety. The session will address challenges such as supply shortages and growing pressures to cut costs while sustaining high-quality care. Through case-based examples and interdisciplinary dialogue, you’ll explore practical solutions and actively participate in discussions to exchange ideas and strategies applicable across diverse clinical settings.

Engaging the Next Generation of Burn Care Providers

Moderators

Gabriela Arguello, MS, OTR/L
Lindsay Burnett, AG-ACNP, MS, NP, RN, CBRN

Healthcare in general is facing challenging times with increased vacancies, and burn care is no exception. It is crucial to develop effective strategies for recruiting and retaining burn care providers, ensuring they are equipped with the necessary resources and support to thrive. Beyond recruitment, the industry must focus on engaging these professionals by fostering a culture of continuous learning, collaboration, and innovation in burn care. By providing opportunities for growth and advancement, you can inspire future generations of providers to dedicate themselves to improving outcomes, enhancing patient care, and pushing the boundaries of burn care excellence.

Ethics Involved in Burn Research

Moderators

Monica Gerrek, PhD
David Greenhalgh, MD, FABA

Using realistic scenarios, this symposium gives you an open opportunity to evaluate current research practices and expand your knowledge of ethical considerations related to research. Topics to be discussed include the role of industry in influencing burn research, the application of AI in research, plagiarism, and data fabrication. Knowledgeable and experienced researchers will lead the session, guiding the discussion through topics that can sometimes be complex.

How to Create a Robust PI/QI Process in Burn Care: Lessons in Building a Culture of Learning, Safety, and Accountability

Moderators

Syed Saquib, MD, FABA
Barclay Stewart, MD, MPH, PhD
Carolyn Blayney, BSN, RN, CBRN
Kimberly Zaky, CEN, CPEN, RN, TCRN

This session will emphasize the importance of a comprehensive Performance Improvement (PI) and Quality Improvement (QI) process in optimizing the care delivered to burn patients. You’ll then review some of the barriers in creating a robust PI program, including securing buy-in from invested stakeholders, cultivating a non-punitive culture of learning, and ensuring action plans are followed through with proper loop closure. Finally, participants will strategize ways to create strong Burn PI programs that can achieve long-lasting, meaningful reforms.

How to Heal the Achilles Heel

Moderators

Francesco Ergo, MD, MRCS, MSc
Elizabeth Slater, MD

The exposed Achilles presents a vexing problem for burn surgeons. You’ll participate in a robust discussion on the current treatment options, dermal matrices, possible flaps, and even the debate over the stiff ankle in the setting of prolonged exposure, concluding with reconstructive options. Bring your challenges and solutions. This session is designed for sharing, learn from the speakers, and from each other as you explore management strategies together.

Psychotherapies That Work for Burn Survivors: Exploring a Path Forward

Moderators

Nathan Brown, PsyD
Kimberly Roaten, PhD, ABPP
Mikki Rothbauer, LICSW, MSW

Mental health personnel on the burn unit often lament the limited evidence base for psychotherapy with burn survivors. Recent research has suggested that Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and Motivational Interviewing may be a good fit for this population. This symposium explores how psychotherapeutic modalities, such as CBT, EMDR, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, Brief Psychodynamic Therapies, Exposure Therapy for visible difference, and narrative therapy, can address body image, grief, PTSD, and identity challenges in burn recovery. The session also encourages discussion on a research agenda to identify what works, what doesn’t, and where future study is needed.

Wednesday, April 15 (cont'd)

The Game of Tetris: How to Use What Is Thrown Your Way to Build or Rebuild a Prevention Program

Moderators

Erin Horrax, BSN, CCRN, RN
Sarah Scoins, MSN, RN, ACCNS-AG, APRN, CBRN, CCRN

In this symposium, the moderators aim to bring together multiple members of the leadership and interdisciplinary burn team to discuss creative ways to address prevention needs in the community. Resources are often limited for this aspect of serving our regions—lack of funds and FTE for prevention leads teams to have minimal impact. Collaborating with community partners with more resources can help grow the possibilities of a program. Moderators will explore how teams have partnered with others to expand their reach.

Whose Role Is It Anyway? Navigating the Legal and Practical Boundaries of Burn Support

Moderators

Daniel Chacon, BA
Matthew Cunningham, JD
Jill Sproul, MS, RN

Burn centers often encounter survivors or family members who raise questions about how the injury occurred, who is responsible, or what their rights are moving forward. These are natural concerns, yet many providers feel unsure how to respond. This interactive session will explore the gray zones surrounding legal conversations in burn care and guide participants through common moments of discomfort and hesitation. While it does not advocate for or against legal involvement, it will highlight why legal concerns often surface early in care and what's at stake when they are avoided. You'll reflect together with the moderators on institutional policy, professional scope, and survivor-centered care.

Plenary

Opening Ceremony, Awards, & Presidential Address

Speakers

Jeffrey Carter, MD, FABA
Leopoldo Cancio, MD, FABA

The 2025 ABA Annual Meeting officially begins with color guard presentation, pipe and drum corps, and national anthem performance, followed by the Leadership Award Presentation. President Elect Leopoldo Cancio will introduce President Jeffrey Carter, who will deliver a presentation on the theme of "Leading Burn Care into Tomorrow," highlighting how collaboration, discovery, and forward-thinking approaches are shaping the future of burn care and improving outcomes for patients.

Education Forums

Burn Edema: What's Lymphatics Got to Do with It?

Course Directors

Dana Nakamura, OTR/L, CLT, BT-C
Cody Thornburg, PT, DPT, CLT

An understanding of burn edema and its consequences is critical to successful management and treatment. To provide the best care, you need a working knowledge of the lymphatic system and the role it plays in effectively managing edema that develops due to burn injury. Special management techniques can help restore circulation, prevent lymphatic overload, decrease limb and truncal volume, decrease risk of infection due to increased diffusion distance, decrease pain, and facilitate healing. It is critical to understand why some treatment techniques lead to reaccumulation of fluid, increased pain, and decreased mobility and function. This session will cover the etiology of edema, edema assessments, management interventions, and precautions/contraindications.

Firefighter I – The Increasing Threat of Wildland Urban Interface Fires

Course Directors

Matt Ricks
Jason Woods, MPS

This course explores the growing threat of wildland urban interface (WUI) fires in the United States, examining the 2023 Maui Fire and the recent Palisades and Eaton fires in Los Angeles. Panelists will examine the causes, behavior, and impacts of these fires, highlighting the increasing frequency and intensity of WUI events due to climate change and urban expansion. You'll gain insights into emergency response, risk assessment, and the potential for burn mass casualty events.

Wednesday, April 15 (cont'd)

Addressing Pain, Withdrawal, and Discharge Planning in Burn Patients with SUD

Course Directors

Derek Bell, MD

Kaylee Maynard, PharmD, BCCCP

This session explores why patients with burn injury and substance use disorder may self-discharge and how to build strategies that improve retention and trust in care. You'll review acute toxicity and withdrawal of different substances of abuse, including opioids, benzodiazepines, stimulants, psychedelics, and new psychoactive substances, sharpening your ability to recognize symptoms and reduce time to treatment. Special considerations for pain and sedation will be covered, with a focus on effective pharmacotherapy management. The session also examines controversies around therapy selection, interpretation of urine drug screens, and approaches to linking patients to care after discharge.

Assessing and Applying Frailty Assessment in Burn Care: Bridging Science, Practice, and Policy

Course Directors

Kathleen Romanowski, MD, FABA

Shawn Tejiram, MD, FABA

Frailty is a critical yet often overlooked factor in burn outcomes, especially among older adults. This session defines frailty, reviews both general and burn-specific scoring systems, and shows real-world examples of their use across the burn care continuum. Experts will discuss how frailty assessment informs decision-making, rehabilitation, and survivorship. You'll also hear about current multicenter research from the Older Adult Burn Research Group (OABRG), with insights into emerging data and opportunities for collaboration. Designed for an interdisciplinary audience, this session bridges science, clinical care, and policy.

Burn Leadership Bootcamp

Course Directors

David Harrington, MD

Annemarie O'Connor, MSN, RN, FNP-BC, CBRN

Helping run a burn center is not just about patient care, but also about 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; how to do quality improvement; developing relationships with your community; how to prepare for verification; and how to develop a research program.

Burn Reconstruction 101

Course Directors

Eduardo Gus, MD, MSc, FABA

Elizabeth Slater, MD

Despite optimal acute burn care, many patients are left with long-term functional and cosmetic sequelae. These outcomes can often be improved through surgical and non-surgical burn reconstruction methods, which follow well-established principles. Burn Reconstruction 101 is an interdisciplinary and beginner-friendly course tailored to learners with limited experience in burn reconstruction. It is designed for general surgeons, plastic surgeons, therapists, nurses, and other burn care team members who manage burn patients but are not familiar with long-term reconstructive strategies.

Expanding Capacity & Capability for Burn Disasters

Course Directors

Jeffrey Carter, MD, FABA

Jason Woods, MPS

What happens when a burn disaster strikes? The session begins with a simulation of an actual disaster using the ABA Disaster Hotline, Nevada Bed Board, and Resource Information Tracking Medical Communications Application, followed by a panel of leaders, including the disaster chair, deputy chairs, firefighters, representatives from the U.S. Armed Forces, RITN, and pediatric surgery, presenting their perceived roles in disaster response. This program concludes with audience Q&A.

Healing Without Bias: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Anti-ableist Amputation Care in Burn Injury

Course Directors

Rebecca Altschuler, PhD

Karen Kowalske, MD

Kimberly Roaten, PhD, ABPP

Ableism is embedded in the medical model of rehabilitation and has created implicit bias in healthcare providers, leading to the assumption that quality of life is worse for people with disabilities. Literature has identified a social model of disability that deemphasizes "correction" of physical disability. This forum gives you an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of ableism in the care of burn survivor amputees and practice creative problem-solving for the rehabilitation process. Additionally, this forum will review the impact of ableism on patient outcomes post amputation, using an interdisciplinary panel of burn care team members.

Wednesday, April 15 (cont'd)

Managing Pediatric Burns at an Adult Hospital: Lessons from a Complex Multisystem Injury

Course Directors

Theresa Chin, MD, MPH

Mehrdad Jalili, MD

Syed Saquib, MD, FABA

This educational forum will focus on the interdisciplinary management of pediatric burn patients at an adult hospital – a relevant scenario for many verified burn centers. This session will feature presentations by burn team members across the clinical spectrum on complex pediatric burn care, followed by a panel discussion along with case presentations. Participants will gain actionable clinical insights and discuss system-level solutions for pediatric burn care.

What Would You Like to Know? Ask Us: Burn Survivors & Caregivers

Course Directors

Elizabeth Flores, BA

Cindy Rutter, RN, BSN, LMFT

Haig Yenikomshian, MD, FABA

Hear the voice of burn survivors and caretakers relating their experiences in both the acute and outpatient burn setting, and discuss ways that the clinical care can be improved. Before this session, you can submit questions that you want to ask this year's panelists. Through a collaborative discussion, course directors will tackle topics such as transitions of care, communication, empathy, and other topics related to burn injury care. The ultimate goal is to create more empathetic and understanding members of the interdisciplinary burn team, leading to a better experience for the burn survivors and caregivers.

Burn Care Unscripted: Sharing Unexpected Moments, Creative Solutions, and Pearls for Resilience

Course Directors

Emily Eschelbach, BSN, RN, CBRN, CCRN

Arpana Jain, MD, MBA, FABA

Mark Johnston, RN, BSN, CBRN

Karla Klas, RN, BSN, CCRP

Presented by the Membership Advisory Committee, this session highlights the human side of burn care: highlighting the often-unforeseen challenges, the creative problem-solving that happens in the moment, and the inspiring resilience of both patients and professionals. Through shared stories and moments of humor, it fosters camaraderie and connection, offering value for all members of the burn community.



Thursday, April 16

Sunrise Symposia

Amplifying Family Voices: Building Parent-Family Advisory Councils in Pediatric Burn Care

Moderators

Mulualem Gebrewold, MSN, RN
Carrie Tully, PhD
Elizabeth Waibel, NP

This session showcases the development and impact of a Parent-Family Advisory Council (PFAC) in a pediatric burn program. Presentation authors, including a PFAC member, will share practical strategies for building meaningful partnerships with families, centering caregiver voices in program design, and co-producing solutions to improve care. You will learn how to launch or strengthen PFACs within your own institutions, including guidance on recruitment, compensation, and sustaining engagement.

Breaking Barriers: Cultural Competence and Language Access in Ethical Burn Care

Moderators

Ashley Honea, LCSW
Andria Martinez, OTR/L
Anna Goff, PhD, HEC-C

This session explores the critical intersection of language access and ethical burn care delivery. You will examine how communication barriers impact treatment outcomes, informed consent, and patient autonomy across diverse populations. Plan to discuss practical strategies for creating culturally responsive care environments, utilizing interpretation services effectively, and developing multilingual resources. Through collaborative discussion, attendees will gain insights into how language accessibility fundamentally shapes quality of care, patient dignity, and ethical practice. Join to strengthen your cultural competence toolkit and transform how we approach linguistic diversity in burn treatment settings.

Bubbles & Burn Care: Establishing Sustainable Child Life Programs to Deliver Value-based Care for Pediatric Burn Patients

Moderators

Carey Lamphier, BSN, RN
Lindsey Harris, CCLS

This interactive group discussion will focus on establishing and growing child life services within burn units serving pediatric patients in primarily adult hospitals. Guided by the Association of Child Life Professionals' value proposition, you will examine how to create sustainable child life programs to enhance emotional safety, reduce trauma, and provide family-centered care for children facing burn injuries. Facilitators will share insights from their experience building a child life program within a primarily adult, ABA-verified, Level 1 Trauma hospital. Plan to explore challenges encountered with staffing, data collecting, relationship building, and institutional buy-in, and what was done to overcome them.

Burn Camps Without Borders? Exploring Burn Camp Exchanges as a Tool for Recovery or a Risk to Continuity

Moderators

Daniel Chacon, BA
Margot Merinsky, MSW
Cindy Rutter, RN, BSN, LMFT

Burn camp exchange programs – regional, national, or international – are an evolving practice in the burn community. While often rooted in collaboration and cultural enrichment, these programs also raise important questions about purpose, process, and impact. In this session, you'll explore the structure, goals, and considerations surrounding camp exchanges, including camper selection, preparation, and post-program reintegration. Through open discussion and shared experiences, examine both the opportunities and challenges related to implementing or sustaining an exchange model. This session is designed for burn camp professionals interested in reflecting on how such programs align with broader psychosocial and programmatic goals.

Thursday, April 16 (cont'd)

Burn Center Leadership: Achieving a High Yield from Requests of Hospital Leadership

Moderators

Lisa McMurtrey, BSN
Callie Thompson, MD, FABA
Tam Pham, MD

Navigating the healthcare organizational landscape can be challenging, and burn centers have unique needs that may be overlooked in strategic planning. In this session, you'll learn how to present requests effectively and leverage your position to achieve desired outcomes as a burn center leader.

Dressed to Heal: A Hands-on Approach to Wound Dressing Techniques

Moderators

Nicole Pachon, RN, BSN, CBRN
Ashley Rampulla, RN, BSN, CBRN
Natalie Fitzgerald, BSN, CBRN

As burn care providers, mastering the art of dressing application is essential for optimal patient outcomes. Properly applied dressings aid in pain management and also enhance comfort and mobility. However, certain anatomical areas present unique challenges in maintaining dressing integrity. Join this interactive session where you'll learn about various dressing techniques tailored to these complex regions. Through hands-on demonstrations, you'll gain practical skills to navigate these challenges effectively, ensuring both patient comfort and dressing efficacy.

Figuring out Frostbite: Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy Approaches

Moderators

Breanne Brandt, OTR/L
Lisa Nelson, OTR/L
Katherine Ohlinger, PT
Therese Whalen, OTR/L

While medical clinical practice guidelines from the ABA exist for frostbite management, approaches for occupational and physical therapy are not as clearly defined. With ongoing changes in winter seasons in North America, regions that have not experienced many of these injuries in the past are encountering more cases without clear guidelines or evidence to support therapy interventions. This session will provide an interdisciplinary forum to discuss current therapy practice, share resources that have guided practice, suggest new ideas for treatment interventions, and identify research opportunities to guide occupational and physical therapy practice with frostbite injuries.

Fueling the Burn Team: Igniting Passion, Pride, and Purpose

Moderators

Rosalee Unwin, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC, CBRN
Holly Shears, BSN, CBRN
Annette Newman, RN, MS, CCRN-K

Burn care is a field that demands resilience, empathy, and deep commitment. This session will explore how members of the burn team can strengthen their connection to the passion, pride, and purpose that fuel their work. Through group discussion, you'll discuss ways to increase staff engagement and team cohesion in burn care settings. Share common challenges that impact engagement and explore the unique stressors faced by burn team members. This session also highlights the role of outreach efforts in building a positive, connected team culture.

Nervous System Regulation Toolbox: Developing Inpatient Support for Wellness

Moderators

Haley Feller, OTD, OTR/L
Bobbi Marie Pollard, LCSW

Acute burn injuries involve a painful, complex recovery and often long hospital stays. Currently, pain associated with burn injuries is managed through pharmacological methods; however, a rise in literature demonstrates the importance of non-pharmacological pain strategies in healing the entire person, not just the injury. This session aims to educate on techniques to engage the parasympathetic nervous system to empower individuals hospitalized due to burn injuries to improve their wellness during their hospital stay. Plan to discuss barriers and strategies surrounding the integration of non-pharmacological techniques into the acute hospital setting using a holistic, interdisciplinary approach.

Perioperative Management of Large Acute Pediatric Burns: A Team-based Approach

Moderators

Daniel Arango, MD
Michael Erickson, DO, FABA
Brian Masel, MD
Mark Talon, CRNA

This session brings together anesthesiologists, surgeons, nurses, respiratory therapists, and technicians to discuss the common and not-so-common issues that are encountered in the perioperative care of large TBSA acute pediatric burn patients. Engage in an interdisciplinary approach to the discussion of issues, including pre-operative optimization, airway management, vascular access, monitoring, fluid and blood management, and post-operative care. By involving all aspects of this care, learn how to break down our silos and walk away with a deep insight into the challenges and concerns of various colleagues.

Thursday, April 16 (cont'd)

Rise and Shine: Innovating by Using Tech and AI in Burn Prevention and Outreach

Moderators

Karla Klas, RN, BSN, CCRP
Rebecca Coffey, APRN-CNP, PhD, CBRN
Clifford Sheckter, MD, MS, FABA

The landscape of public health education is rapidly evolving, and burn prevention and outreach are no exception. You'll explore the transformative potential of leveraging accessible, affordable, no-cost, and low-cost technologies to amplify burn prevention efforts and expand outreach to wider audiences. Through shared discussion and audience interaction, you'll dive into practical applications of electronic surveys, online registrations, QR codes, gamification platforms, and how AI can enhance content creation and outreach strategies. Discover how these innovative tools can amplify your prevention efforts, optimize resource allocation, maximize reach, and foster the integration of evaluation metrics into your programming.

Plenary

Presidential Plenary

Host

Jeffrey Carter, MD, FABA

Keynote Speaker

[To Be Announced]

The Presidential Plenary is a signature highlight of the ABA Annual Meeting, bringing the community together to explore timely issues and bold ideas that are shaping the future of burn care. Hosted by ABA President Jeffrey Carter, MD, FABA, this session will feature a distinguished keynote speaker and leaders from across the field who will share insights, inspire new thinking, and spark dialogue on advancing patient care and professional practice.

Details on the keynote address and plenary theme will be announced soon, plan to join this dynamic session designed to challenge perspectives and encourage collective growth across the burn care community.

Education Forums

Evolving Strategies in Pediatric Fluid Resuscitation

Course Directors

Jason Heard, MD
Rohit Mittal, MD, FABA

Explore the evolution of pediatric burn fluid resuscitation, from formula-based approaches to physiology-driven strategies and emerging paradigms. You'll examine the use of crystalloids and colloids—including albumin and FFP—within the context of capillary leak and glycocalyx injury. Key topics include fluid creep, resuscitation endpoints, and the limitations of traditional formulas. You'll also explore interdisciplinary communication and the dyad between the burn surgeon and pediatric intensivist in delivering effective, individualized care.

Firefighter II: Returning the Firefighter to Work Post Burn Injury

Course Directors

Jim Fisher, FF
Hans Ramsden, MEd, FF

Firefighters place themselves in harm's way in the performance of duty, protecting their communities every day. Regardless of personal protective equipment, training, or experience on the job, smoke and fire can overcome any firefighter and lead to a long and difficult battle for survival. A burn injury can significantly impact a firefighter's life in numerous ways. Without exception, burns are life-altering. They can also be career-changing or life-ending injuries. Explore the complexities of treating a burn-injured firefighter and best practices for ensuring that they can return to duty.

Bridging the Gap: Establishing Fresh Frozen Plasma Protocols and Describing Its Use in Burns Through Collaboration with Hospital Blood Banks

Course Directors

Jeffrey Shupp, MD, FABA
Shawn Tejiram, MD, FABA

Fresh Frozen Plasma (FFP) is increasingly recognized for its role in burn resuscitation, yet its use is often limited by logistical and institutional barriers. You'll explore how building strong relationships with hospital blood banks can facilitate FFP access and implementation. Presenters will review current FFP literature, share institutional protocols, and provide insights from blood banking professionals to address common challenges. By bridging the gap between clinical teams and transfusion services, this session aims to empower burn centers to integrate FFP into burn care strategies more effectively.

Thursday, April 16 (cont'd)

Business of Burns

Course Directors

Brenda Boschetto, BS
Jeffrey Carter, MD, FABA
Taryn Travis, MD, FABA

Join the most knowledgeable coding experts in burn care for professional coding education vital to your success. They'll map out the latest coding updates for physicians and nonphysicians, review changes in reimbursement, test your knowledge through live polling, and provide solutions that support system sustainability and access to burn care.

Challenging Cases in Burn Nutrition

Course Directors

Aryn Cruz, RD, LDN, CNSC
Kate Wallace, MS, RD, LD, CNSC

This session explores complex scenarios that push the boundaries of nutritional care in burn patients, presenting difficult cases involving severe burns, comorbidities, and complications that require advanced clinical judgment and interdisciplinary coordination. You'll examine how to tailor macronutrient and micronutrient strategies, manage metabolic demands, and navigate feeding tolerance issues. Speakers will share insights on evidence-based practices, innovations in metabolic monitoring, and personalized nutrition care. Ideal for dietitians, pharmacists, and all members of the interdisciplinary burn team, this session offers practical takeaways for optimizing outcomes in even the most challenging burn care situations.

Ethics Bowl

Course Directors

Alice Fagin, MD, FABA
Casey Kohler, MD
Anna Goff, PhD, HEC-C
Arpana Jain, MD, MBA, FABA

In this lively and interactive session, complex cases will be presented and teams of burn professionals will debate the case in relation to ethical principles, including ethnic and religious competency. Teams will compete in a debate-style forum to tease out the ethical considerations in a series of complex cases. Following the arguments, ethicists will then weigh in on the cases and the teams' reasoning.

Focusing on PI/QI for PT/OT: How to Present Rehabilitation Non-fatal Complications Case for Verification, an Interdisciplinary Perspective

Course Directors

Rebecca Coffey, APRN-CNP, CBRN, PhD
Derek Murray, PT, MS, BT-C
Audrey O'Neil, DPT, BT-C, CWS

Successful verification is critical to upholding quality in burn care. The gravity and complexity of the process can be daunting and challenging to navigate. Several years on the verification review committee have demonstrated consistent challenges with process improvement overall, but focally in the nursing and therapy arenas, and non-fatal complications cases, particularly rehabilitation. This session will inform the burn community on how to best engage these facets for enhanced program operations and increased likelihood of successful verification. The goals are to clarify process improvement and the rehab non-fatal complication case so that centers have a defined template to follow.

Integrating Psychology into Pediatric Burn Care: Program Development and Interdisciplinary Collaboration

Course Directors

Nicole Caraballo, PsyD
Andrew Gill, PhD
Babetta Mathai, PhD
Carisa Parrish, PhD
Carrie Tully, PhD

During the 2025 ABA Meeting, data on psychological screening rates from five pediatric burn hospitals were shared, revealing factors influencing these rates. This educational workshop highlights the program development and quality improvement initiatives that support the integration of psychology and psychological services into pediatric burn care. Also, this workshop expands on factors that can promote or be barriers to psychology screening rates (e.g., FTE, consult process) in these pediatric hospital settings, as well as highlights ways that psychologists have integrated into pediatric burn teams to support interdisciplinary collaboration and positive patient outcomes.

Thursday, April 16 (cont'd)

New Frontiers in Burn Pain Management

Course Directors

Sheera Lerman, PhD
Shelley Wiechman, PhD

Burn pain management is rapidly evolving, with new research and clinical practices emerging to address complex patient needs. Recent studies support the safe and effective use of ketamine in burn care, including among patients with co-occurring substance use disorders (SUD). These patients present unique challenges, and innovative approaches for effective, safe pain management will be discussed. Additionally, a growing number of burn patients could benefit from nonpharmacological pain management techniques; however, the demand for such interventions exceeds the availability of mental health professionals, highlighting the need for bedside nurses and rehabilitation therapists to be equipped with brief, evidence-based techniques. Newer psychotherapies, such as Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) and Mindfulness-Based Cognitive Therapy (MBCT), have shown promising outcomes in managing both acute and chronic burn pain. This course responds directly to the needs of frontline providers and mental health clinicians seeking practical, advanced interventions.

Strengthening Civilian Burn Center Readiness for Large-Scale Combat Operations: A National Imperative

Course Directors

Ellie Curtis, MD
Mark Fisher, MD
Alicia Williams, MD, FABA

In the event of large-scale combat operations (LSCO), the United States will face a significant surge in complex burn injuries, many of which will be transferred to civilian burn centers due to limited military infrastructure. While ABA-accredited burn centers deliver most national burn care, few are adequately prepared for the volume, acuity, or prolonged nature of LSCO-related injuries and numbers. This session will examine current readiness gaps and define the critical role of ABA professionals in operationalizing coordinated civilian-military surge responses.

Formalizing the Debrief: How to Deal with Trauma on the Burn Team

Course Directors

Sarah Stoycos, PhD
Haig Yenikomshian, MD, FABA

Debriefs, a formalized intervention for team members after a traumatic event, have been shown to be an effective tool to decrease burnout. This is a very effective tool in high acuity burn care, where many traumatic events occur. Despite the efficacy, debriefs are underused and often done ineffectively. As a result, team members are not getting the psychological support that they need. The purpose of this session is to train you and your team members on how to conduct debriefs to discuss traumatic events in a structured and supportive manner, thereby creating better team dynamics and reducing burnout, which ultimately enables teams to provide better clinical care.

Fuel the Fire of Residency Training in Burn Care

Course Directors

Abraham Houg, MD, FABA, MSE
Philip Chang, MD, FABA
Cherry Song, DO, FABA

Many burn centers use residents to treat patients, drawing on residents from general surgery, plastic surgery, anesthesia, EM, or other specialties. With a diverse cohort of trainees, a single cohesive education model might be insufficient. In this session, presenters share experiences from faculty and participants to explore best practices in terms of resident education: i.e., curriculum, length of optimal rotation, learning environment (BICU, OR, clinic), number of residents, appropriate specialties, and other topics related to resident education. An effective burn education curriculum must be carefully designed to accommodate the diverse backgrounds, skill levels, and specialty-specific needs of rotating residents. Establishing clear criteria for specialty-specific participation will help define which residents benefit most from burn rotations and at what stage of their training, and help address the challenges in standardizing burn education across institutions needed to create high-quality and consistent resident training nationwide.



Thursday, April 16 (cont'd)

Measure What Matters: Burn Therapy Outcome Measures in Pediatric Burn Recovery Across the Continuum

Course Directors

Sarah Eilerman, PT, DPT
Lauren Justice, MOT, OTR/L, BCP, BT-C
Kerry Mikolaj, PT, DPT
Nichole Schiffer, MOTR/L, CHT, BT-C
Elizabeth Villanueva, OTD, OTR/L, CHT

Objective assessment during pediatric burn therapy is essential for identifying deficits, tracking progress, supporting reimbursement, and enhancing interdisciplinary collaboration. However, implementing standardized tools in children is challenging due to variability in tolerance, engagement, cognition, development, mobility, occupation, and time limitations. You'll review available outcome measures across the continuum of pediatric burn care, including the domains of gross and fine motor skills, adaptive function, sensory processing, sensation, and oral motor abilities. Psychometric properties and validated age ranges will be discussed. Case studies will support practical application and highlight current gaps in standardized assessments used within the pediatric burn population.

Nurse Driven Protocols Improve Burn Patient Outcomes

Course Directors

Rebecca Coffey, APRN-CNP, CBRN, PhD
Pamela Garlinghouse, DNP, APRN-CNS, AGCNS-BC, CCRN
Sylvia Dao, MSN, MPA, RN, NE-BC
Haleigh Deroeck, MSN, RN

In this session, you'll explore nurse-driven protocols that improve burn patient outcomes. Learn how to develop, implement, and evaluate these protocols, engage the interdisciplinary team, apply evidence and research to guide practice, and refine protocols using outcome data to maximize impact.

Refining the Craft: Practical Magic in Pediatric Procedural Sedation

Course Directors

Amanda Fields, MSN, RN
Danielle Webster, MD, MS

Pediatric Procedural Sedation for burn care outside the operating room is a craft that, when properly tailored, delivers effective, "just right" analgesia and anxiolysis while minimizing sedation-related complications and cumulative medication exposure – safeguarding the developing brain. You'll learn to help craft individualized sedation strategies, your "magic potions," to deliver safe, effective, and high-quality procedural sedation in the pediatric burn unit.

The Burn Model System: Advancing Recovery Through Collaboration

Course Directors

Huan Deng, PhD
Elizabeth Flores, BA
Kara McMullen, MPH
Caitlin Orton, MPH
Jeffrey Schneider, MD

With advances in clinical care, the survival rate after burn injury has significantly increased, following a great need to understand and address survivors' long-term rehabilitation needs. The Burn Model System (BMS) program began in 1994, aiming to improve care and outcomes through research for people with burn injuries. Review the BMS structures, research projects, and dissemination efforts to integrate BMS findings into clinical practice and develop resources for survivors. You'll leave this course with expanded capacity for collaboration on BMS research and using BMS resources to support patients living with a burn injury.

The Year in Review: The Top Journal Publications

Course Directors

Tina Palmieri, MD, FABA

A favorite session among attendees, this session brings together editors from the top publications in burn care to present and discuss the major advances in published burn research from the past year. Journals represented include *Journal of Burn Care & Research*, *Wound Repair and Regeneration*, *Journal of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery*, and *Burns*.

Friday, April 17

Educational Forums

Top 5 Abstracts & Research Paper Awards

Course Directors

Angela Gibson, MD, PhD, FABA
Amanda Bettencourt, RN, PhD, CCRN-K, ACCNS-P, APRN

The Top 5 Abstracts, selected based on reviewer scores, will be presented in this plenary session following the 2026 Research Paper Awards Ceremony. Authors will highlight their research, and invited discussants will interview them about the findings presented. This annual favorite is not to be missed!

Best in Category Posters

Course Directors

Angela Gibson, MD, PhD, FABA
Amanda Bettencourt, APRN, RN, PhD, ACCNS-P, CCRN-K

Outstanding research from the burn community is often shared in poster format due to limited space and time constraints. During the poster rounds, moderators will select one poster in each category as "Best in Category." These top selections will then advance to a formal session, where they will be evaluated by the Chairs of the Program Committee, Research Committee, and Membership Advisory Committee. Following the session, the judges will present awards to the three best posters of the meeting.

Bridging Care: Navigating Discharge Planning and Integrating Aftercare Foundation Support

Course Directors

Ashley Honea, LCSW
Joya Neal, RN, BSN, ACM
Jill Sproul, MS, RN
Cindy Rutter, RN, BSN, LMFT
Joe Pick, FF (Retired)

Join as course directors explore the critical impact of transitioning from hospital to aftercare support for patients and family members through local and national foundations. This interactive session identifies key transition points where individuals encounter challenges, highlighting support gaps that can lead to complications and readmissions. Featured speakers include foundation aftercare representatives and interdisciplinary burn care team members presenting evidence-based interventions bridging institutional and community care. You'll examine how nonprofit support enhances discharge planning, addressing psychosocial needs, healthcare continuity, and housing stability. Leave equipped with actionable tools to strengthen discharge protocols and reduce readmissions.

Common Challenges in Pediatric Burn Care

Course Directors

Jong Lee, MD, FABA
Robert Sheridan, MD, FABA

Caring for pediatric burn patients presents unique challenges. You'll explore common challenging issues in the care of pediatric burn patients, such as pain, anxiety, pruritus, non-accidental burns, difficult nutrition, including dysphagia, difficult resuscitation, and complex rehabilitation. Gain practical tools and tips to address these challenges and aid in the management of pediatric burn patients.

Race Against Time: New Antibiotics and Antifungals for Resistant Pathogens, Tools for Diagnosing and Access to Compassionate Use Therapies

Course Directors

Janie Faris, PharmD, BCPS, BCCCP
Rita Gayed, PharmD, BCCCP
Nicole Moreno, PharmD, BCPS, BCCCP

Deaths from drug-resistant infections now surpass 1.4 million per year. Despite global awareness about the issue of increasing resistance, there is still limited innovation in the treatment of antibiotic and antifungal infections. Burn patients are at significant risk for both bacterial and fungal infections due to immune suppression and loss of the primary barrier to infections. Learn about new antibiotics and antifungals in development and/or in clinical trials for the treatment of these infections.

The Hand Burn Challenge: Not All Hands Are Created Equal

Course Directors

Jody Sabel, MSOT/L
Sarah Stoycos, PhD
Haig Yenikomshian, MD, FABA

Hand burns are complex and frustrating, challenging for both the patient and the clinical care team. Long-term hand function is the ultimate goal and is essential for both work and basic life. In this session, we plan to discuss best practices in an interdisciplinary approach to hand burns, focusing on cases that providers encounter. You'll use vignettes, including the pediatric treadmill injury, the non-compliant patient, the patient who refuses amputation, and the under-resourced patient, to work through best practices in these scenarios.

Friday, April 17 (cont'd)

Changing Places: Rescuing the Rescuer

Course Directors

Jason Woods, MPS
Phillip Tammaro, EMT

"Mayday, Mayday, Mayday" are the words that send a chill down every firefighter's spine. This urgent distress signal signifies that a firefighter is in immediate, life-threatening danger – lost, trapped, injured, or facing imminent death. Entrapment in rapidly escalating fires, structural collapse, or flashovers can lead to extensive and significant burn injuries due to prolonged exposure to extreme heat, flames, and superheated gases, often resulting in extended inpatient treatment, scarring, mobility challenges, and even death. Receive a hands-on interactive demonstration of the difficulties associated with rescuing a downed firefighter.

Empowering Burn Care Teams: Building Competency in Addressing Intimacy and Sexuality Concerns

Course Directors

Rebekah Allely, OTR/L
Sheera Lerman, PhD
Cindy Rutter, RN, BSN, LMFT
Keturah Sloan, RN, MSN, AGACNP-BC

This educational forum highlights the critical knowledge and skills gap in discussing intimacy and sexuality with burn patients. In a survey of 117 burn team members, 91% of burn care professionals recognized this as a priority need. Yet, only 18% of teams reported addressing these concerns, and 97% noted a lack of institutional training programs. To address this need, a pilot training was developed and implemented. Hear how this training benefited the burn team through skills and confidence to initiate and engage in sensitive conversations.

High Stakes in the Sky: Evaluating the Risks and Responsibilities of Helicopter Transport in Burn Care

Course Directors

Stephen Gondek, MD, MPH
Anne Lambert Wagner, MD, FABA

This session examines helicopter transport for burn patients, balancing its life-saving potential against inherent risks and costs. Gain insights from an interdisciplinary panel, including a helicopter medic who is also a surgeon, a crash survivor medic, and experienced burn surgeons. The discussion will encompass real-world experiences, data-driven analyses, and ethical considerations, aiming to empower burn care providers to make informed decisions regarding air transport, ensuring patient safety and optimal outcomes.

Printing a Path to Recovery: The Role of 3D Scanning and Printing in Burn Rehabilitation

Course Directors

Eric Braden
Christopher Whitehead, PT
Miranda Yelvington, PhD, OTR/L, BCPR, BT-C

As 3D scanning and printing technology advances and becomes more accessible, its potential in burn rehabilitation continues to grow. This course provides a comprehensive introduction to the fundamentals of 3D scanning and printing, tailored explicitly for burn therapists. Gain an understanding of the current state of 3D printing in burn care, learn practical strategies for integrating 3D printing applications into clinical practice, explore both current and emerging uses in burn rehabilitation, and engage in hands-on learning to build confidence with the technology.

The Different Shades of Global Burn Engagement

Course Directors

Chiaka Akarichi, MD, FABA
Rebecca Coffey, APRN-CNP, CBRN, PhD

Globally, 11 million burn injuries resulting in medical attention occur, resulting in 180,000 deaths annually. Among those injured, approximately 90% of deaths occur in low – and middle-income countries. Burn injuries have a significant physical, psychosocial, and economic impact on those injured and the low- and middle-income countries wherein the burn injury occurs. More attention has been focused on developing optimal frameworks for international engagement, including direct service delivery, research, advocacy, care standardization, and capacity strengthening. Support for international burn care and prevention efforts can be provided via government and non-profit organizations, academic institutions, or even on an individual level. Leave with the confidence to explore different strategies for impacting the delivery of burn care in the international arena.

Verification Committee Updates 2026

Course Directors

J. Kevin Bailey, MD, FABA
Tam Pham, MD

Join this Lunch and Learn to review recent updates to the ABA's Verification Criteria. This brief presentation will outline key changes in the 2022 Criteria and address common challenges burn centers face during the verification process, including documentation, team engagement, and quality improvement alignment. Gain practical tips to support a successful site visit, whether pursuing initial verification or re-verification. The session will conclude with a Q&A to address specific concerns. Ideal for program leaders, coordinators, and interdisciplinary team members.

Friday, April 17 (cont'd)

ABA Pro/Con Debate

Course Directors

Jason Heard, MD

Kathleen Romanowski, MD, FABA

Not all therapeutic decisions in burn care are informed by extensive prospective randomized studies, including burn resuscitation. There are often opposing approaches to the same clinical problem. Burn care professionals often disagree about various therapeutic interventions for the burn patient. This session will highlight four controversial areas in burn resuscitation. Experts from the burn team will debate these resolutions, defending their stance on a particular care plan or strategy. Audience polling lets you reflect on your own biases before and after the debate, seeing how evidence and discussion may influence your perspective.

Advancing Procedural Sedation: Best Practices and New Research in Burn Wound Care

Course Directors

Amber Kohler, NP-C

Naveen Kukreja, MD

Michael Martz, CRNA

Amanda Meyer, PA-C

Burn patients experience extreme pain and anxiety, often exacerbated by repeated wound care. Effective pain and anxiety control is a critical component of burn care, essential for promoting healing, reducing psychological trauma, and preventing long-term consequences such as contractures and post-traumatic stress disorder. Achieving this level of care requires a comprehensive, interdisciplinary approach supported by institutional leadership. Currently, no standardized approach exists across the ABA for managing sedation and pain control in burn patients. This session highlights innovative sedation practices and policies from burn centers nationwide, focusing on strategies tailored to the unique needs of burn patients. Emphasis will be placed on minimizing opioid use and exploring effective sedation methods outside the operating room. You'll gain insights into successful, patient-centered approaches that improve care and safety in the burn population.

Burn Jeopardy

Course Directors

Jeffrey Carter, MD, FABA

Steven Kahn, MD, FABA

In this engaging, burn-themed version of the favorite trivia game, Burn Jeopardy pits teams of 3 individuals (maximum one physician per team) against each other, competing in a series of questions covering burn care and the ABA. The top 3 teams advance to the Final Burn Jeopardy round. Dr. Vimal Murthy, a prior Jeopardy contestant, serves as the judge, with a second judge serving as the score keeper. Drs. Carter and Kahn take turns asking questions and keeping the cadence of the session intriguing, fun, and educational.

Laser Therapy: Program Development, Insurance Challenges, and Future Success

Course Directors

Chelsea Gamero, BSN, RN

Lisa McMurtrey, BSN

Ruth Rimmer, PhD, CLCP

Haig Yenikomshian, MD, FABA

Fractional carbon dioxide laser therapy is an established treatment for burn scars. While there is evidence that laser treatment helps with pain, tightness, and itch, the treatment is underused. The increase in insurance denials for this treatment prevents burn survivors from having laser treatment or leaves a survivor with costly medical bills. The purpose of this session is to discuss setting up a feasible laser program in the current landscape and offer strategies for implementation. Learn how to focus on navigating the complex insurance world, foundational support, and working with hospital systems for coverage to increase the capacity of this treatment.

Friday, April 17 (cont'd)

So You Think Can Wrap

Course Directors

Chiaka Akarichi, MD, FABA

Rebecca Coffey, APRN-CNP, CBRN, PhD

Bring your creativity, skills, and competitive spirit to this interactive contest combining education and hands-on practice. After a brief overview of burn wound cleaning, dressing application, and splint/cast fabrication, teams will compete in timed challenges using patient actors with simulated injuries. An interdisciplinary panel will judge technique, function, appearance, creativity, and durability as teams advance through elimination rounds. Expect spirited teamwork, practical learning, and plenty of fun; team pride and flair are encouraged.

Wounds That Don't Show: Addressing Secondary Trauma, Compassion Fatigue, and Moral Distress

Course Directors

Anna Goff, PhD, HEC-C

Ashley Honea, LCSW

Kimberly Roaten, PhD, ABPP

Burn care creates a perfect storm for psychological distress - repeatedly causing necessary pain during wound care, witnessing extreme suffering, and forming intense connections with patients during lengthy recoveries. This course provides a comprehensive overview of secondary traumatic stress, compassion fatigue, burnout, and moral distress among burn care professionals. This session will clarify key distinctions between these overlapping concepts, examine unique manifestations in burn care settings, and describe opportunities for preventing and mitigating these responses in the interdisciplinary team. Plan to engage in small group discussions to develop practical strategies for recognition, prevention, and intervention at both individual and institutional levels.

Current Initiatives in Pediatric Burn System Development

Course Directors

Roselle Crombie, MD, MPH, FABA

Kathleen Romanowski, MD, FABA

Renata Fabia, MD, PhD

Hear about updates on building strategies to develop an integrated system of pediatric burn care in North America, addressing challenges, opportunities, and an action plan. A panel will discuss a completed survey on pediatric burns and share an analysis of access to pediatric burn care using geospatial modeling. The incoming President of the American Burn Association and the President of the American Pediatric Surgical Association will discuss a new partnership between the organizations to provide more unity in pediatric burn care, followed by audience discussion and Q&A.



Registration Information

The ABA offers member pricing on Annual Meeting full registration rates. [Join or renew your membership](#) prior to registration to unlock member rates. General registration covers all education sessions, Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings, the exhibit hall, and social/networking events. **Pre-conference programming fees are additional.**

Registration Fees

Pre-Conference: Monday, April 13–Tuesday, April 14

Space is limited for pre-conference sessions. Advance registration is required by March 10, 2026.

Course & Workshop dates and times can be found on [page 3](#).

COURSES & WORKSHOPS	MEMBER	NON-MEMBER
Advanced Burn Life Support (ABLS) Live Course	\$299	\$299
Certified Burn Registered Nurse (CBRN) Exam Prep Course <i>Two Day Course</i>	\$599	\$799
Transforming Burn Care Through Quality Improvement: A Hands-On Workshop	\$99	\$199
Burn Rehabilitation: Putting Competencies into Practice	\$49	\$79
Advanced Burn Life Support (ABLS) Instructor Course <i>AM & PM Options</i>	\$349	N/A
ACT in Action: Practical Tools for Enhancing Psychological Flexibility in Survivors and Clinicians	\$99	\$199
Quality & Burn Registry Workshop	\$349	\$549
Fundamentals of Burn Care: A Team Approach to Scar Management	FREE	\$199

Conference: Tuesday, April 14–Friday, April 17

REGISTRANT TYPE		EARLY-BIRD <i>Ends 12/17/25</i>	ADVANCE <i>Ends 2/18/26</i>	LAST CHANCE <i>Ends 4/12/26</i>	ONSITE <i>4/13–4/17/26</i>
Physician/ Corporate*	Member	\$799	\$999	\$1,049	\$1,099
	Non-Member	\$999	\$1,099	\$1,199	\$1,299
Allied Health Professional	Member	\$649	\$799	\$849	\$899
	Non-Member	\$999	\$1,099	\$1,199	\$1,299
Student**	Member	\$299	\$349	\$399	\$449
	Non-Member	\$399	\$449	\$499	\$549
Fellow in Training (FIT) (resident/fellow)***	Member	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Non-Member	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Firefighter		\$299	\$299	\$299	\$299

* **Corporate/Industry employees** must register at the Corporate rate, regardless of clinical training, degree, or discipline.

** **Students must submit a letter** from their faculty advisor confirming student status during registration. Full-time employees and fellows are not eligible.

*** **Residents and Fellows** can receive **one year of complimentary conference registration** through the ABA Fellows in Training (FIT) Program. FIT membership approval must be obtained **BEFORE** conference registration; refunds will not be issued to new FIT members. Pre-conference registration is not included. If you have previously received free registration through the FIT program, please register using the Student (residents) or Physician registration types. [APPLY NOW \(Click here.\)](#)

Day Rate

Day rate is available for up to two days.

REGISTRANT TYPE	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY/THURSDAY/FRIDAY*
Member	\$179	\$299/day
Non-Member	\$399	\$399/day

*Not included: closing party ticket

Guests

Guest passes are available at a rate of \$249 per individual. These passes provide access to all open receptions and the closing party and can be added during the registration process. Please note: children are not allowed in the exhibit hall at any time.

Hotels

Conference registrants can access special hotel rates while space is available – register early as room blocks fill up quickly. Housing information will be provided in your registration confirmation email.

Rosen Shingle Creek

9939 Universal Blvd
Orlando, FL 32819

Cancellation Policy

To request a refund, you must contact ABA at registration@ameriburn.org by Monday, March 16, 2026. Approved refunds will be processed within three weeks of the original request and are subject to a \$100 cancellation fee. After March 15, 2026, all sales are final and no refunds will be issued.

Members may transfer registrations to another member of the same type by **Monday, April 6, 2026**, free of additional charge, by contacting registration@ameriburn.org. Nonmember registrations are **nontransferable**. Full cancellation policy details are available on the ABA website.

Continuing Education



The American Burn Association is accredited 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 will be 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.



SAVE THE DATE

2027 ABA Annual Meeting

April 13–16, 2027
Chicago, IL



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