A LETTER FROM THE CHAIR
Injury Wars: Take PREVENTION With You

With the recent launch of an iconic film release, we are surrounded everywhere by starships, rebel cries, wise advisors giving insightful messages on challenging journeys, and heroes defeating enemy foes. In musing on my three-year “journey of duty” as Chair of the Burn Prevention Committee (BPC), I am struck by the many similarities of our modern day “Injury Wars” involving the Rebel Alliance (i.e., BPC) fighting against strong Imperial forces (i.e., the enemy empire called “Injury”). Or as Yoda might say: a journey from which much we must learn!

It all starts with a cause so worthy that it ignites a deep passion, inspires life-long dedication, and rallies those strong in character (clearly not mission for me). Our evil foe is the Injury Empire, a disease of epidemic proportions that continues to dominate our world despite advances in technology and safety regulations.

1. Developing a clear and well-planned strategy: Over the past 3 years, the Burn Prevention Alliance’s (BPC’s) strategic goals have been outlined in a series of ABA Board reports and editorials, including: a) TGIF – Time to Get Injury Focused: Raising the Bar on Burn Prevention; b) Burn Prevention is a Team Sport: Taking Responsibility for Prevention; c) The ABA Challenge: What Have YOU Done for Burn Prevention Lately?; d) Malting Burn Prevention “Hi Home”; e) Prevention is the Vaccine (and Cure) for the Epidemic Disease of Injury. Find them at www.ameriburn.org/PreventionNews.php

2. Recruiting skilled troops: Prevention does not have enough manpower! Why? Very few healthcare-related degree core curriculums currently include training on injury epidemiology and prevention strategies.2 We absolutely must change this!

3. Building alliances: An extensive network of organizations and professionals with varied expert skill sets is essential to fighting evil Injury forces. The Rebel Prevention Alliance has prioritized providing training by multiple methods, including developing Fact Sheets, hosting a special Friday Forum, creating awareness campaigns, publishing newsletter and journal articles, and offering educational sessions at the ABA Annual Meeting (see Prevention Schedule on last page)2

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- Prevention in Tanzania
- Emerging Trends
- People’s Choice
- Prevention Schedule

Editor: Kelsey Viega

CONTRIBUTORS
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- Carol Horvitz
- Anne Kuijs
- Jennifer Radics-Johnson
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Jennifer Radics-Johnson to Chair Prevention Committee

Jennifer Radics-Johnson, MBA, CFRE, has been appointed to the position of Chair of the ABA Burn Prevention Committee and will begin her reign at the conclusion of the 48th ABA Annual Meeting. Radics-Johnson serves as the Executive Director for the Alisa Ann Ruch Burn Foundation and is a great proponent of prevention. "Jennifer not only has an extensive background in managing non-profit foundations, but also has a special talent for revitalization and making them prosper," states Karla Klas, out-going Committee Chair. "She is a charismatic leader with keen insight into building collaborative networks, acquiring mutually beneficial solutions, and finding creative opportunities for expansion and growth. Jennifer embodies a deep passion for preventing burn injuries that clearly inspires and guides her work. Her proven leadership, talents, and successes in multiple regional and national burn initiatives make her a superb choice as Chair for the Burn Prevention Committee," continued Klas.

Congratulations to our new Chair Jennifer Radics-Johnson on her recent marriage ceremony!

2016 American Burn Association Burn Prevention Award

Congratulations to Phil Tammaro, for winning this year's prestigious American Burn Association Burn Prevention Award. Tammaro is a Professional Fire Fighter with 22 years of experience on the Billerica Fire Department as both a line Fire Fighter and Fire and Life Safety Educator. He is widely regarded as a national expert on burn prevention, survivor support and re-integration of burn survivors. He is well-known throughout the country for his work with the Phoenix Society in developing a Fire Fighter component of the Phoenix SOAR Program as well as leading the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) National Youth Firesetting Database project, now known as YFIRES.

Phill's journey from victim to survivor to advocate began when he was just a toddler. In 1971, at the age of two he suffered 3rd degree burns on over 35% of his body from an explosion in his home. Growing up he spent many years at the Shriners Hospitals for Children in Boston as a patient undergoing numerous skin grafts and reconstructive surgeries to maintain full use of his legs. Tammaro played football and lacrosse in high school never allowing his injuries to hold him back. Then he went on to become a career Fire Fighter in his hometown where he has proudly served since 1993. He uses his personal and professional experiences to educate and increase awareness on the dangers of fire and its lasting effects. Tammaro is a long-time volunteer at the Shriners Hospital-Boston and played an integral role in developing the hospitals SOAR Program. Because he is a former patient and Fire Fighter, his time at the hospital is an inspiration to countless children and families. He also spends time at the Burn Center at the Mass General Hospital as both a patient and peer supporter. His last surgery related to his burn injuries was in 2010, 30 years after the fire. Phill's dedication to prevention and commitment to burn survivors led to Tammaro's appointment as the 3rd District Burn Coordinator for the IAFF Charitable Foundation Burn Fund based in Washington, DC. Tammaro is a Massachusetts Certified Public Fire & Life Safety Educator I, past Director of the Student Awareness of Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) Program for the town of Billerica. For the past 7 years he has served on the ABA Burn Prevention Committee, most recently as Vice-Chair of the Burn Prevention SIG.

Again, congratulations to Phill Tammaro on this much-deserved award!

Emerging Burn Injury Trends: Learning from Each Other

The Burn Prevention Committee's network provides an opportunity for sharing about burn injury trends that others are seeing. Through this collaborative network, ongoing dialogue occurs regarding if it is a local phenomenon or emerging national trend, and strategies for what might be done to address it. Examples of identified burn injury trends that the BPC is currently discussing include:

- Home medical oxygen-related injuries
- e-Cigarettes, hover boards, and other lithium-ion battery device-related injuries
- Drug-manufacturing related injuries, e.g., hash oil, methamphetamine
- Glass-fronted gas fireplace related injuries

"If you are interested in joining the conversation on one or all of these topics, please contact the Burn Prevention Committee Chair."

Congratulations to our new Chair Jennifer Radics-Johnson on her recent marriage ceremony!

STOP DROP AND ROLL

on over to the BURN PREVENTION BOOTH! 111 and vote for your favorite ‘People’s Choice’ poster. The winner will receive a ‘traveling trophy’. Visitors can spin the ‘roulette’ wheel for a chance to win some great prizes!

Burn Prevention Booth Hours:

Tuesday, May 3 • 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, May 4 • 9:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, May 5 • 9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

The burn prevention booth will be an exciting place to visit at this year’s ABA! Visitors who come by will get an opportunity to view and vote on the burn prevention posters and answer prevention questions for a chance to enter a fabulous prize drawing.

Put this booth on your “must visit” list at this year’s ABA meeting! Our team is committed to making your stop worthwhile!

A Letter from the Chair (continued from page 1)

strategically expanding our collaborative network to help spread the word, increase awareness, educate the public (and our own!), change behaviors, influence societal norms, and cultivate a culture of safety. The success of this is demonstrated in the revitalized National Burn Awareness Week; National Scalp Prevention Campaign, and multi-disciplinary agency representation on the APC. Come join the crusade with us to seek new and innovative ways to prevent burn injuries from occurring all over the world (see pages 6 and 8)!

4. Stockpiling ammunition reserves...in the form of data! There is a relative paucity of burn prevention data, which is complicated by fragmentation of multiple existing data sources. This is a targeted focal area of the Prevention Alliance, who has purposefully built a number of new resources to help address the issue, such as Research and Data Subgroup. The Burn Data Sources list Annual Best Burn Epidemiology/Prevention Paper, YFIRES database, etc. (see page 3).

5. Responding quickly to new threats: Ad hoc and specialized task groups have been established to address emerging injury threats (e.g., Empire attacks (yikes... A Death Star!), such as burn injuries from glass-fronted gas fireplaces, the Fire Challenge, and smoking on home medical oxygen.

6. Remembering, honoring, and seeking guidance from those who have come before us, i.e., leaders who have skillfully prepared us for these current injury Wars. See the ABA Opening Ceremony program book for the long list of wise Jedi Knights-Masters Prevention Award winners who led with a clear prevention-focused purpose, drive change, and shared revolutionary vision and insight well-ahead of their time. These wise counselors continue to guide us on our challenging journey of burn prevention, and offer timely injury Prevention advice of “Do” or “Do not”. There is no “try”. Everyone, including our own, must believe in Prevention. Or in the words of Yoda, “That is why you [we] will fail.” In every part of your life and work, walk the walk, talk the talk, and make Prevention a force to be reckoned with!

In my dwindling last days as Chair, I leave you with final acumen on your journey to overcome our enemy foe Injury. A farewell as Chair, but forever yours in prevention, Christel S. (Atkins) Klas, BSN, RN, CCRP Chair, ABA Burn Prevention Committee
Prevention of Childhood Burn Injuries in Mwanza Region, TANZANIA

Anne Kuijs, Coordinator Rehab and Outreach, Pediatric Burn Unit, Sekou Toure Regional Referral Hospital

In 2013, with the support of the ELMA Foundation and Weill Cornell Medical College, New York, Sekou Toure Regional Referral Hospital (SRRH) established the first pediatric burn unit to serve the northwestern Tanzania Lake Zone region. The eight-bed unit has treated over 580 patients thus far, while educating over 150 local providers in burn care and identifying opportunities for burn prevention and community outreach.

With the burn unit successfully incorporated into the SRRH health system, we aim now to develop a unique, culturally-appropriate, and community-based burn prevention and outreach initiative in the Lake Zone region that ultimately would be a model for other regions throughout Tanzania. Despite suffering a large burden of childhood burn injury, Tanzania currently lacks any national burn prevention programs.

We initially explored the concept of burn prevention in 2014 and 2015 by attending the ABA Annual Meeting, including the Burn Prevention Committee meeting and workshops, as well as, networked with multiple ABA members. Ultimately, we determined the most effective way to convey the burn prevention message was through local theatre that educate the audience through song, dance and drama. Over 4,000 villagers have learned about prevention of burn injuries and appropriate first aid for burn injuries.

A long-term burn prevention project initially would target the Mwanza city area with a population of 1.4 million people. The sustainability of this project is built on its partnership with long-standing governmental and non-governmental organizations working in the region. We envision that a consortium leadership will create multiple layers of vertical and horizontal involvement, ensuring real-time and future project development. We ultimately aim to lobby with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education for nationwide adoption of our Primary Prevention Strategy to fill the void in community burn education that currently exists.

With the interest in advancing burn prevention in developing countries, the ABA Burn Prevention Committee has added an "International Burn Prevention” subcommittee to explore partnerships and opportunities. Please see Prevention Schedule on last page for more information on International Outreach with an emphasis on Prevention and Care with a Global Focus.

The Problem of Youth Firesetting in the U.S.

Young firesetting causes significant numbers of injuries, deaths, and property damages every year. Tragically, the victims are most often children. It is a preventable behavior that often causes long-lasting negative effects, and must be addressed. Despite its magnitude, the issue of youth firesetting has been largely minimized and/or misunderstood.

In 2011, the IAFF, with funding provided through DHS/FEMA’s Grant Program Directorate for Assistance to Fire Fighters Grant Program- Fire Prevention and Safety Grants, convened a group of firesetting intervention professionals to discuss the problem of youth-set fires in the United States (U.S.). This group was unanimous in their opinion that fires set by youth were underreported across the U.S. and agreed that there was a need for a centralized database. The IAFF committed to providing support and leadership to seek grant funding for a task force to further explore the national needs in this particular segment of the fire problem. Through the combined effort, and over the course of five years of diligent work, the Youth Firesetting Information Repository and Evaluation System (YFIRES) has come to be.

"For decades, youth firesetting has been a significant concern within the fire service," said Harold Schaitberger, IAFF General President. “But without valid and reliable data on this issue, effective fire service and community based intervention has been difficult. Thus this national database (YFIRES) will serve as a much needed resource to help develop youth firesetting intervention programs and will greatly enhance everyone’s effort in managing cases at the local level.”

YFIRES is a project that creates a centralized data collection tool to assist youth firesetting intervention services in a number of disciplines (fire, mental health, law enforcement, family services). YFIRES assembles a body of information that will enhance the national understanding of youth firesetting behavior and help in developing evidence-based intervention strategies. The database allows registered users to input details about each individual firesetting case they encounter. Personal details such as information on the child's home life or mental health status are recorded for deeper understanding. To protect confidentiality, this type of data is only accessible to the approved case managers. A specific select subset of non-identifying data are shared in the national database to gain better insight into this complicated issue. This raises awareness and sets the foundation to have an objective view to determine the true scope of the nationwide problem of youth firesetting.

Since pilot testing of the YFIRES database in January 2015, organizations/agencies from throughout the U.S. have been utilizing the database system to track youth firesetting incidences in their communities. More than 65 programs, based in the fire service, law enforcement, juvenile justice, mental health, and the burn prevention community have signed-up to use this important tool. The YFIRES database is now ready for a nationwide launch, with the goal of having every youth firesetting intervention program throughout the U.S. collect and share compatible data by 2018.

For more information about the Youth Firesetting Information Repository and Evaluation System (YFIRES) or to register a youth firesetting intervention program, visit www.yfires.com.
Shriners’ Hospitals for Children Northern CA, Sacramento Metro Fire and Sacramento Sierra Arson Task Force Deliver 6-Day Training

Sedric Ketchum, Certified Fire Instructor for the State of California, Office of the State Fire Marshal’s Office, Contract Instructor for the U.S. Fire Administration-National Fire Academy and Youth Firefighter Prevention & Intervention Specialist

The Willow Fire was allegedly sparked by a local boy who played with a lighter taken from his family toolbox. When the blaze got out of control, it resulted in 7,022 scorched acres in North Fork before it was put out more than a month after its origin on July 25, 2015.

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■ This also year, a child playing with a lighter caught an apartment fire in Fresno, CA.

■ In Merced, a 3 year old playing with a lighter caught his house on fire killing his 2 year old sibling.

■ Something had to be done. Shriners Hospitals for Children Northern California, Sacramento Metro Fire and Sacramento Sierra Arson Task Force joined together to host a 6-day Youth Firefights, Prevention and Intervention Course. While the journey to deliver this program has been challenging, it has always been delivered exclusively on campus in Emnmitus, MD – started in late 2012, it took some time to put everything into place and the course was finally delivered in September 2013.

■ The main topic of the course was, “Community Risk Reduction” to reduce the number of youth set fires through intervention, prevention and education as it starts with our children and emphasizes the danger in how we don’t change-and/ or stop their firesetting behavior NOW, these youth will become our next generation of adult firesetter- arsonists causing devastation within our communities.

■ The course framework guides practitioners through the process of developing a comprehensive strategy to combat the misuse of fire and incendiary devices by youth. The specific focus is on how identification, intake, screening, disposition and follow-up are used to mitigate youth firesetting behavior. It also empowers students with knowledge on how to develop, implement and evaluate a youth firesetting prevention and intervention program.

■ Following the standard, pre- and post- testing – ICS-100, 200 level training and one pre-course assignment – were required of the students. During the week, 20 participants from California, Oregon and Washington, were given opportunities to meet with State of Cali- fornia Fire Marshal, Chief Tonya Hoover, and Dr. David Greenhslagh, Chief of Burns Surgery, who both addressed and welcomed the class and had a brief Q&A session. Leslie Hill-Soleo, a licensed clinical social worker and an expert in youth firesetting behavior also addressed the class and shared her experiences in child psychology showing the other side of families’ dynamics. Additionally, students visited the Sac- ramento Youth Detention Facility to see first-hand troubled youth and learned about a ‘mentor’ program that seems like a well-rounded rehabilitative tool to reintegrate the youth back into society as productive, law-abiding citizens.

■ Not only does the course include tools to identify children and youth involved in firesetting, it teaches how to develop programs to meet the needs of these youth and provide resources through edu- cation and referrals and collaboration with coalition partners. The course also provides students with an aptitude to analyze national trends in youth firesetting and compare those trends to the statistics from their home communities. Programs like these will provide inter- vention and prevention, and help keep accurate statistics on not just fires that are handled criminally but for the youth that are at different levels of firesetting in the community.

■ Preventing firesetting through fire safety education and raising awareness in the community by forming partnerships between local fire departments and private sector organizations is the first course of action. Teaching our children from preschool through high school and training parents and caregivers and all who work with children about the dangers of fire will help alleviate this national problem.

■ To address the challenge of preventing fire-related injuries before they happen, the Children’s Burn Foundation offers two highly successful prevention and education programs – Careful, That’s Hot! And L.A. Troupe Safety Smart. The programs provide practical, actionable knowledge in a format that is age-appropriate and culturally relevant.

■ Careful, That’s Hot! is a series of programs designed for parents and caregivers of young children who lack the ability to prevent burns. It is presented at child-care facilities, Head Start programs and parent- ing classes in the greater Los Angeles area. The program is taught by bilingual health educators.

■ The success of Careful, That’s Hot! is evident by the changes caregivers make after attending the presentations. Internal independent evaluations reported that 98% of participants made at least one change in their home to prevent burns. And 100% of respondents reported sharing learning information that they learned from the program with family and friends.

■ The Foundation’s L.A. Troupe Safety Smart program consists of a two-person theatrical group that provides interactive fire safety and burn prevention education for young children in kindergarten through 3rd grade. In each 30-minute performance, children are entranced by the story of Scatterbrained Wanda, who hopes to make her house “fire safe” for inspection by the fire marshal, Inspector Danger. Children learn the sound of a smoke alarm, how to crawl low under smoke and get out of the house, what to do if fire gets on their clothes, and to never play with matches.

■ Children are also encouraged to create fire escape plans with their families, locate meeting spots, and to test smoke alarms monthly.

■ The program reaches more than 63,000 children annually through the public school district.

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To become burn safety smart, children need to learn the basics of fire safety and prevention. The Children’s Burn Foundation offers two highly successful prevention and education programs – Careful, That’s Hot! and L.A. Troupe Safety Smart. These programs are designed to educate children about the dangers of fire and help them become fire safety advocates.

To learn more about the Children’s Burn Foundation and their programs, visit www.childburn.org.

For more information contact Tanya Sorkin, Chief Program Director of the Children’s Burn Foundation at tanya.sorkin@childburn.org.