MBC GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
APRIL 2, 2010, ISTANBUL, TURKEY

MBC General Assembly was held on April 2, 2010 at Harbyet Cultural Center, during the 16th meeting of the MBC in Istanbul, Turkey. Professors Pavel Brychta, EBA President, Peter Vogt, EBA General Secretary, and Gerard Beerthuizen, EBA President Elect, were invited to attend the first part of the Assembly.

SWA Gunn, MBC Honorary President, welcomed EBA’s representatives and praised the work accomplished by MBC since the last meeting in Athens. Prof. Michele Masellis presented his President’s Report, announcing the newly established ties with EBA, and the listing of Annals of Burns and Fire Disasters by PubMed. Prof. Brychta was then invited to address the Assembly. He reiterated EBA’s commitment to cooperation with MBC and welcomed the opportunity for EBA’s members to publish their work in Annals of Burns and Fire Disasters. AGREEMENT FOR FULL PARTICIPATION IN NIH PUBMED CENTRAL ARCHIVE was signed by both the MBC President and the General Secretary in presence of EBA’s representatives, who left the Assembly afterwards.

The General Assembly approved the proposal made to EBA at its Congress in Lausanne, Switzerland, on September 2-5, 2009, to extend utilization of BURNET to all EBA members. It also approved the proposal made by Prof. Masellis and seconded by Prof. Gunn to change the name of our association to EURO-MEDITERRANEAN COUNCIL FOR BURNS AND FIRE DISASTERS. The Assembly approved also the new Editorial Board and typographical format of Annals of Burns and Fire Disasters.

Prof. Masellis presented the decisions reached in the MBC Academy meeting that preceded the General Assembly, stressing the importance of BURNET as a technical tool for communication and research and the Academy as responsible for the scientific content to be included within this tool.

Prof. Bishara Atiyeh, MBC General Secretary, presented the various activities accomplished by MBC over the last two years, in particular the new cooperation with other organizations such as IAHM, EBA, ESPRAS, Wound International, WUWHS, and the National Burn Academy of India. Assembly was informed about the MBC course in Algeria in October 2010 and MBC’s participation in a Burn Conference in India in January 2011 and in the IPRAS Congress in May 2011 in Vancouver.

Dr Matilda Costa, MBC Treasurer, presented the 2009 financial statement and the 2010 budget, which were approved by the Assembly.

The new Representative of Slovenia, Dr Stritar, was introduced. Other Representatives were then asked to report on their activities.

New MBC Members were approved:
12 from Albania
11 from Tunisia
1 from Italy

New MBC Associated Members were approved:
1 from Uzbekistan
1 from Czech Republic
1 from Nigeria
1 from Brazil

MBC scholarships and J. Ioannovich Awards were approved:

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED YEAR 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CANDIDATES</th>
<th>PLACE OF ORIGIN</th>
<th>TRAINING</th>
<th>MEMBER REFEREE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr Besnik FASKAJ</td>
<td>ALBANIA</td>
<td>PALERMO</td>
<td>Prof. Conte</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Adrian MIDONI</td>
<td>REP. MOLDOVA</td>
<td>TOULOUSE</td>
<td>Prof. Costagliola</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Mahmoud OSAMA RABEE</td>
<td>EGYPT</td>
<td>PADOVA</td>
<td>Prof. Bassetto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Nikola OSTOJIC</td>
<td>SERBIA</td>
<td>PALERMO</td>
<td>Prof. Conte</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Petrou CHARALAMBOS</td>
<td>NICOSIA</td>
<td>PALERMO</td>
<td>Prof. Conte</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Marjana DRAGICEVIC</td>
<td>SERBIA</td>
<td>PALERMO</td>
<td>Prof. Conte</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NURSES

JOHN IOANNOVICH AWARDED YEAR 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CANDIDATES</th>
<th>MEMBER REFEREE</th>
<th>TITLE OF PAPER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr Shady HAYEK</td>
<td>Prof. B. Atiyeh</td>
<td>Burn Wound Cleansing: A Myth or Scientific Evidence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Rezarta KAPAJ</td>
<td>Prof. M. Deveci</td>
<td>The Role of Negative Pressure Wound Therapy in the Treatment of Fourth-Degree Burns</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dr Hayek’s full paper and Dr Kapaj’s abstract will be published in a coming issue of Annals of Burns and Fire Disasters.

Meeting was then adjourned.

Prepared by B. Atiyeh, MD  
MBC General Secretary  
April 11, 2010
SUMMARY. The term fourth-degree burn is not very often found in the literature, because it is usually associated with lethal injury. This kind of injury mostly occurs after high-voltage electric or severe fire burns. Their common characteristics are vital tissue exposure, such as tendon or bone, and challenging wound closure. The goal of reconstruction is to provide adequate soft tissue coverage and restoration of function. Several treatment modalities have been used to serve this purpose. Negative Pressure Wound Therapy is a relatively new treatment modality. Its mechanism of action is believed to be stimulation of tissue mitogenesis and growth factor elaboration due to the imposed tissue strain stimulation of mechanical evacuation of excessive interstitial fluid or oedema. The result is a well-perfused graft intake-ready granulation tissue. We present four patients suffering from fourth-degree burns of the extremities, treated with this negative pressure wound therapy. The patients’ ages ranged from 15 to 49 yr, with a mean of 27.5. They were all male. The TBSA ranged from 5 to 60% with a mean of 27.5%. The aetiology of the burns was a high-voltage electric burn in three patients and a hot press injury in one. Three patients suffered fourth-degree burns in the lower extremity and one in the upper extremity. Negative Pressure Wound Therapy was applied for 16-30 days (mean 24). Three split-thickness skin graftings and one reconstruction with two bipedicular local flaps were performed. Wound closure was completed in 36 to 50 days. The results were satisfactory, wound closure- and function-wise for both physicians and patients. Our longest follow-up has been three years. As a conclusion we may state that Negative Pressure Wound Therapy is a reliable tool in the treatment of fourth-degree burns.

Muhitdin Eski, Ismail Fiahin, Cengiz Açigel, Doçan Alhan, Rezarta Kapaj, Murat Polat

SUMMARY. Introduction. Burn wound cleansing is an integral step in every wound management protocol. Yet a lot of this practice is based on myth rather than real scientific basis. The literature is poor in scientific papers comparing the outcome of patients who underwent wound cleansing to that of patients who did not. Methods. A survey of wound cleansing practices was designed by the Mediterranean Council for Burns and Fire Disasters and distributed to members of different Burn Societies in Europe, Asia, and North America. Results: Responses showed wide inconsistencies in the methods of burn wound cleansing, the solutions used for cleansing, the added antiseptics or detergents used, and the frequency of cleansing. Conclusion. Wound cleansing and dressing is a process that should be based on evidence and not on ritualistic behaviour or personal preference. More clinical studies are needed to confirm or deny the positive or negative effects of any topical solution or dressing that is recommended to optimize burn wound healing.

Shady Hayek

16th MBC CONGRESS
MARCH 31-APRIL 3, 2010 ISTANBUL - TURKEY

The 16th MBC Congress was held in Istanbul, Turkey, on March 31-April 3, 2010. Venue of the Congress, chosen by Dr Mustafa Deveci, the local host, was the beautiful and well-equipped and centrally located Military Museum of Istanbul. More than 200 participants attended the Congress. Special guests were Pavel Brychta, EBA President, Gerard Beerthuizen, EBA President Elect, and Peter Vogt, EBA General Secretary. A special highly interesting and informative EBA session was organized, further strengthening ties and collaboration between MBC and EBA.

During the MBC General Assembly held for the occasion, the

AGREEMENT FOR FULL PARTICIPATION IN NIH PUBMED CENTRAL ARCHIVE OF ANNALS OF BURNS AND FIRE DISASTERS was officially signed by Prof. S.W.A. Gunn, M. Masellis and M. Masellis (left) and P. Brychta (right)

Prepared by B. Atiyeh, MD, FACS
MBC General Secretary