EBA – MBC

The European Burns Association (EBA) was founded in 1981 by leading burn specialists in Europe to encourage co-operation in the field of burn care throughout the continent. As a non-profit organization for the benefit of the public, the EBA promotes burn prevention and all other aspects of burn treatment, including reconstruction and aftercare in particular. Its mission is:

- To disseminate knowledge of and to stimulate prevention in the field of burn injury
- To encourage and co-ordinate research into scientific, clinical and social aspects of burn injury
- To promote education in all aspects of burns, including first aid, nursing and rehabilitation
- To co-operate in international disaster planning
- To facilitate exchange of personnel
- To co-ordinate and to publicize congresses relating to burn care throughout Europe.

Only two years after the founding of the EBA, in 1983, the Euro-Mediterranean Council for Burns and Fire Disasters (MBC), whose Annals are from now on published together with the EBA, was formed. The founding group of dedicated surgeons and burn specialists of the MBC shared the vision that countries around the Mediterranean sea have in common a historical and cultural heritage, and that therefore common health problems could be better addressed by a regional approach. This concept not only has proven effective but even more the MBC's Annals of Burns and Fire disasters has during the last 30 years consequently evolved into a PubMed listed open access journal providing the degree of openness and distribution of knowledge that is necessary in science. Both societies – the EBA and MBC – now are able to jointly distribute the valuable and further growing treasure of free scientific publications.

The participation of the EBA in the Annals is accompanied by a broad representation on the editorial and advisory board and reflects the friendship and the mutual and honest understanding of sharing science in burn care openly with the community.

According to the EBA constitution, expertise and knowledge can now be even better shared not only within Northern and central Europe but even more with the countries of the Mediterranean area. Burns specialists and scientists of all countries will benefit from this joint effort.

At this point I would like to thank in particular Prof. William Gunn, Prof. Michele Masellis, Editors, and Prof. Bishara Atiyeh, Executive Editor of the Annals of Burns and Fire Disaster for all the effort and enthusiasm in developing the Annals and preparing it as a joint journal. This is a milestone in the long-standing activities of both societies and will help to further overcome geographical borders to the benefit of all burn patients.

Peter M. Vogt, MD
President European Burns Association

The importance and necessity of individual efforts to achieve one's ideals and goals cannot be overemphasized. However, when two individuals or organizations share common goals and seek the same objectives, collaboration between the two becomes an unavoidable fatality. Continued individual pursuits in such circumstances amounts to wasting energy and may be regarded as futile competition.

The path of the Euro-Mediterranean Council for Burns and Fire Disasters (MBC) and the European Burns Association (EBA) were destined to come to a crossing. Both share in common the Mediterranean culture and spirit and both are dedicated and actively involved in the promotion and dissemination of scientific knowledge regarding best care practice in burn management.

MBC and EBA first came together in 2010 in Lausanne, a highly symbolic city for sportsmanship, fraternity, and international collaboration, at the initiative of my friend Prof. Wassim Raffoul. Fruitful encounters continued in Istanbul, The Hague, Palermo, and Vienna. With each encounter, the two organizations were brought closer together. Driven by the clear vision of Prof. Gerard Beerthuizen and Prof. Peter Vogt, past and present EBA Presidents, MBC and EBA are now united to make Annals of Burns and Fire Disasters one of the leading international journals in burns research and care. With the classical scientific approach of EBA and the global outreach of MBC towards low and middle-income countries in which most burn injuries unfortunately occur, a critical gap that has persisted for too long between theoretical research translated into prohibitively expensive burn care and practical, cost-effective, and reasonable care dictated by available resources may be finally bridged.

I am confident that this collaboration by free exchange of knowledge and experience will not only have a profound impact on harmonization and standardization of burn care across Europe and the Mediterranean region but will also have a more global effect making the utopic goal of "one world, one standard for burn care" a realistic goal that could possibly be reached in not a too far future.

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