



UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

Harborview Medical Center
Burn Model System

Newsletter

Spring 2006

The Burn Center At Harborview Medical Center

In 2005, 579 people were admitted to our Burn Center. Of these, 167 were children 16 years old or younger. Our center has an 18-bed intensive care unit, 28-bed acute care floor, and an outpatient clinic – all housed on the 8th and 9th

floors of the medical center. The UW Burn Center is the single regional burn center in the Pacific Northwest—providing burn care for the people of Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana and Idaho. Dr. Nicole Gibran is the

director and Dr. Loren Engrav is the associate director. Attending physicians within the burn center are Drs. Nicole Gibran, Loren Engrav, David Heimbach, and Matthew Klein.

Burn Injury Information Group

A support group for those recovering from a burn injury meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month from 7-8:30pm in the

8th floor conference room, East Hospital at Harborview Medical Center. This group is open to all burn survivors and their families.

Upcoming meeting dates include: April 20, May 18, and June 15, 2006. This meeting is available free of charge.

Survivor Profile: Mark Bartman

Mark Bartman is a burn survivor. Mark was injured at the age of 12 in an electrical accident in which his parents and younger sister did not survive. Although not treated here at Harborview Medical Center, Mark has become a valued member of our Burn Survivor Support Group that provides peer counseling to patients. He is also a member of our Burn Survivor Advisory Group that provides guidance and feedback for current and future research projects. When asked about recovery, Mark responded, “Allow yourself to cry a little, laugh a little and continue to let all the caring people in this world interact in your life. The outcome will be far

more rewarding. I will admit that a positive attitude is difficult to obtain and retain following a burn injury, but the quality of life experiences that is possible is well worth the effort. Some days are more difficult than others, but as this life isn't a dress rehearsal, every moment of laughing, crying or happiness is indeed special and worth the effort.” For more information on the Burn Survivor Support Group, contact Dr. Wiechman Askay or Dr. Christina Graham at 206-731-4109. For information concerning the Burn Survivor Advisory Group, contact Gretchen Carrougner at 206-731-2866.

Research Update

Our research concerning barriers to return to work following a burn injury is nearly complete. We have found that a high percentage of survivors initially report barriers that concern physical functioning (e.g., using hands, standing for long periods of time), burn wound issues (e.g., open skin wounds, pressure garments), and working conditions (e.g. temperature, working outdoors). Cognitive issues (e.g., memory, judgment) were uncommon. Psychosocial issues (e.g., fear of the workplace, fear of leaving home, concern about appearance) were barriers for about half of the study participants, but did result in a large impact. It is important to understand barriers to return to work as identified by burn survivors so that we can develop appropriate treatment programs. The primary investigator for this project is Peter Esselman, MD.

Did You Know?

According to the National Fire Data Center, fireworks injure more than 11,000 Americans every year. More than half of these injuries occur during the first week of July. Even legal fireworks can be very dangerous.

Visit our websites at <https://depts.washington.edu/uwnidrr/> or <http://faculty.washington.edu/engrav/#BC> for more information.

