

The BurnNet

April 2017, Volume 36, No. 4

OUR GROUP MEETING

Thursday, **April 6**, 7:30-9:30pm

The Burn Recovery Support Group is a monthly meeting where survivors, families burn and significant others, discuss issues and raise questions related to their injury. For more info, call (916) 734-5596.

***WE HAVE A NEW MEETING ROOM!** Tower DCR North 1204 – First floor, near West Entrance



QUESTION AND ANSWER:

On social media, I am seeing fish skin is healing burns in Brazil. When will we start using this?



I have seen it too. It looks like an interesting idea; however, it is really too soon to expect it sold, if at all, in the United States. This is an early release of research information to stimulate interest and investors- not a proven treatment.

Despite how “new” it looks online, many skins have been used to temporarily cover wounds since the 19th century from a variety of animals. Any skin from another species is called a “xenograft”. The most common xenograft used in the U.S. is pigskin. Dr. David Greenhalgh shared that he has a colleague from Brazil whose hospital is located

near a frog leg plant; and this surgeon has published his results using frog skin. Essentially, anything that sticks to the wound will act as a temporary barrier until rejected- none of these skins are permanent. The skin either heals underneath the xenograft or, if treating a full-thickness (3rd degree burn), eventually a skin graft from the same person is needed. There is nothing miraculous about fish skin – it is just in the news right now.

Currently, the study has enrolled only 52 patients in Brazil- not a large study. And, it appears to include only partial-thickness (2nd degree) burns- which heal naturally in less than 2 weeks. So, the use of tilapia skin is not shortening the normal healing time. The article also describes silver sulfadiazine (SSD) and gauze as the primary treatment of burn wounds, which is not true here. In the United States, there are other products available that we use, which also protect until healing is complete. In fact, we do not routinely apply SSD to partial- thickness burns at all due to side effects. Ultimately, it will come down to cost-effectiveness. Will it be cheaper than what is already out there?

As the Burn Outreach Coordinator, I am more concerned that some people will soon start stories on social media on how slapping a raw fish on their burn was the best first aid treatment (FALSE!), all because a premature release of this study data.

~Deb Jones RN

ARE YOU RECEIVING THE BURNNET VIA E-MAIL?

Would you like to be on the mailing list to receive The BurnNet every month?

Email Deb Jones RN at debjones@ucdavis.edu



UPCOMING EVENTS



MAY 6 UCDAVIS FIRE 12TH ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER

UCD Fire Station 34, 625 Kleiber Hall Drive, Davis. Prepared by the UC Davis Student Resident Fire Fighters of Station 34. All proceeds go directly to the Firefighters Burn Institute. \$5 Pre-sale, \$7 at the door. Email ucdfire@gmail.com or come by Station 34 for tickets.



JUNE 10 TOUGH MUDDER TAHOE 2017

Team FFBI (Firefighters and Burn Nurses) will be running the rigorous 10-12 mile, 20+ obstacle Tough Mudder course at Lake Tahoe. They have pledged to collectively raise \$10,000 for the FFBI before the big day! To help support their fundraising goals, please click [here](#). Want to be a sponsor? Contact the FFBI at (916)739-8525 or staff@ffburn.org.



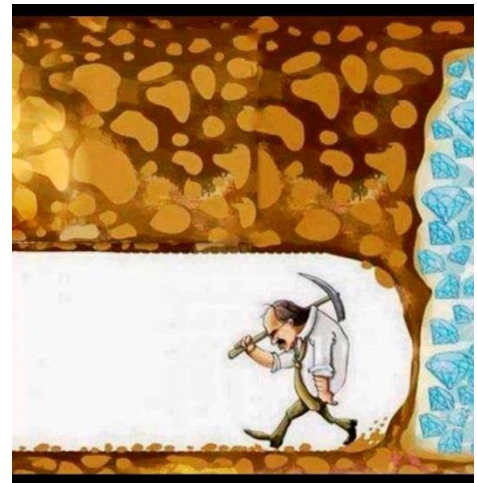
JUNE 24 6TH ANNUAL FIREFIGHTER'S "A TROPICAL AFFAIR"

The best tropical event of the year is BACK! Come and enjoy an evening with Sacramento's finest restaurants, breweries and wineries! This outdoor event will be held on The Lawn @ Shriners Hospital. Tickets on sale now! Early Bird Special – only \$40 each until April 30. Prices go up in May. Call FFBI at 916-739-8525 or www.ffburn.org

DON'T QUIT

When things go wrong, as they sometimes will;
When the road you're trudging seems all uphill;
When the funds are low and the debts are high;
And you want to smile but you have to sigh.
When all is pressing you down a bit-
Rest if you must, but don't you quit.
Success is failure turned inside out;
The silver tint on the clouds of doubt.
And you can never tell how close you are;
It may be near when it seems far.
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit-
It's when things go wrong that you must not quit.

~John Greenleaf Whittier



PHOENIX SOCIETY ONLINE LEARNING

Burn survivors and their families are able to participate in free online learning courses designed to empower, with the tools to handle questions, stares and social situations after a burn injury! Phoenix Society's Online Learning is a web-based program developed by burn survivors, family members, and burn care professionals. Enroll now at the following link:

www.phoenix-society.org/community/stayconnected/online-learning-community/

PRESSURE GARMENT ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

Patients who have problems with the fit or delivery of their garments can get help by calling the representative who fitted you first. In most cases, as a patient treated at UC Davis Regional Burn Center, that would be Heather Weidle of Enhance by Linda Reib. Her office phone number is 916-638-2508. Burn survivors should always act quickly anytime pressure garment problems are perceived. Do not be shy about this. Your recovery is dependent on being your own patient advocate.



Spring



SPRING FIRE SAFETY TIPS

As spring approaches thoughts turn to cleaning up from the long winter, making repairs around the home and enjoying the outdoors. Keeping a few safety thoughts in mind will help you make your spring experience much more enjoyable.

Inside the Home:

- Check and clean your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors
- Check your fire extinguishers
- Check for overloaded or damaged extension cords
- Prepare for storm related outages (make sure your flashlights and portable radios have batteries and that other supplies, such as bottled water, are stocked and available)
- Practice exit drills with your family so everyone knows what to do in case of an emergency
- Properly store household chemicals and never mix cleaning agents

Outside and Around the Yard:

- Make sure your address numbers are up and visible from the street
- Clean up yard debris. Cut back dead limbs and grasses
- Maintain a clear 'fire zone' of 10' around structures. Clean up leaves and debris and consider using stone or non-combustible mulches
- Check outdoor electrical outlets and other electrical appliances
- Get your grill cleaned and serviced. Check all propane tanks and lines for leaks and damage
- Keep 100' of garden hose with an attached nozzle connected and ready for use

In the Garage or Shed:

- Clean up and properly store paints, pool and yard chemicals
- Check fuels containers for leaks and make sure they are properly stored
- Have all power equipment cleaned, serviced and readied for use