



UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

## Burn Model System Newsletter

Fall 2011



### The American Burn Association

The American Burn Association (ABA) is dedicated to improving the lives of everyone affected by a burn injury through patient care, education, research, prevention and advocacy.

The ABA has more than 3,500

members world-wide and includes physicians, nurses, occupational and physical therapists, psychologists, researchers, social workers, firefighters, burn survivors and hospitals with burn centers.

Dr. Nicole Gibran is the current

President of the American Burn Association. Under her leadership, the ABA, Burn Model System researchers and NIDRR staff are working hard towards new collaborations to advance knowledge and research to benefit burn survivors and their families.

### The Phoenix Society

The Phoenix Society is committed to the vision of ensuring that every burn survivor, their loved ones, and caregivers have the necessary support on their roads to recovery.

They believe that support from someone who has truly "been there" can provide the hope needed for recovery of mind, body, and spirit.

The Society sponsors the annual

World Burn Congress that brings together over 650 burn survivors, families, care givers, professionals and firefighters. Visit their website at [www.phoenix-society.org/](http://www.phoenix-society.org/).

### Provider Profile - Nicole Gibran, MD.

Dr. Nicole Gibran is the current President of the American Burn Association and is the Medical Director of the University of Washington/Harborview Burn Center.

Dr. Gibran received her MD degree and completed a surgery residency from Boston University. She then came to the University of Washington (UW) in 1990 to complete a 1-year fellowship at the UW Burn Center and a NIH Trauma Research Fellowship (1991-93). Dr. Gibran became assistant professor in 1994, associate professor in 1999 and professor of surgery in 2004. In 2002, after a national search, Dr. Gibran accepted the position of Burn Center Medical Director.

She has authored over 130 publications in professional journals

and mentored 19 UW burn fellows, many of whom are now burn center directors. Aside from caring for patients in the Burn Center, Dr. Gibran is focused on improving patient safety and quality outcomes through an active Quality Improvement program.

Dr. Nicole Gibran is truly a leader in the field of burn care and research.



### Research Update

With funding from several foundations and agencies (over 7 million to date) - to include the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Dr. Gibran has focused much of her laboratory research on the role of nerves in wound repair and scarring. Gibran says, "The bulk of my research is to try and understand the process by which proteins that the nerves produce influence wound inflammation." Wound inflammation is an integral and necessary part of wound healing and ultimately, scar formation after a burn injury. Currently, Gibran is looking at identifying both genetic and biological cell markers that are involved in hypertrophic scarring (the raised, red scar that often develops after a burn injury).

Dr. Gibran is also involved in several clinical trials involving burn patients. She is very interested in both itching and scar formation. She sees these two areas of study as being related with potentially some common causative factors.

### Did You Know?

The next American Burn Association meeting will be held in Seattle, Washington in April 2012. Visit the ABA website at [www.ameriburn.org/](http://www.ameriburn.org/) to learn more about this opportunity.

### Visit our website at

<https://depts.washington.edu/uwnidrr/> for more information.

To reach the UW/HMC Burn Center Clinic, call 206-744-5735.