



2018 was an important year for Interburns and its strategic partner the **Centre for Global Burn Injury and Policy Research (CGBIPR)** at Swansea University. I am delighted that we continue to strengthen our links with the global burns community towards reducing preventable death, disability and suffering inflicted by burns, one healthcare worker at a time.

Tom Potokar, OBE, Director of Interburns

Burns: *'the forgotten global public health crisis'*

The majority of burns occur in poor countries where healthcare professionals have little or no training in burn care. Treatment is often delayed or inadequate, and there is little hope of follow up or rehabilitation.

Much of the suffering, death and disability caused by burns can be prevented and limited resources should not be a factor that affects good quality burn care.

Interburns works with local partners in Asia, Africa and the Middle East, to help find sustainable solutions and improve standards. Our approach is collaborative, holistic and focuses on local needs in low resource settings.

- ❖ Burns affect more than 11 million people each year.
- ❖ 95% of burn injuries occur in poor countries.
- ❖ 70% of those affected, are children

We believe that all burn patients can receive good quality care despite limited resources.

In 2017, Interburns, in partnership with the CGBIPR, was honored to receive grant funding to establish a *Global Health Research Group in Burn Trauma*. This is a unique partnership between a well-established international NGO and a specialist academic centre focused on burns in a global setting. Details can be found at www.interburns.org and <http://globalburns.org/>

We would like to express gratitude to all our funders who enable us to continue this important work.



About Interburns

Interburns is an **international volunteer network** of expert health professionals working to transform global burn care and prevention.

We focus where the need is greatest and offer a range of tools and training programmes designed to assess, plan, improve and monitor burns services in low resource settings.

We support clinical fellowships at **Interburns Training Centres (ITC)** at Indore, India and Kirtipur, Nepal.

We have also developed practical solutions such as:

- ✓ Internationally accepted *Standards in Burn Care*
- ✓ *Quality improvement toolkits* for assessing health care facilities



Participants from Ethiopia, Nepal, Bangladesh, Ghana, Malawi, Nigeria, the Occupied Palestinian Territories and the UK, at the EBC and BBC training of trainers course.

October 2018, Addis Ababa.

Interburns Training Courses: ABC. EBC. BBC.

We aim to improve the skills of ALL healthcare workers who come into contact with the burn injured patient in resource poor settings. Content is developed ‘from scratch’ by local and international teams and is often delivered by local faculty in the local language. Materials are constantly adapted to meet new challenges and find joint solutions to common problems.

Flagship programmes are:

Advanced Burn Care (ABC)			Essential Burn Care (EBC)			Basic Burn Care (BBC)		
A week long course for staff working in specialist burn units.			A one day course for staff at intermediate, level II health care facilities			For primary healthcare workers or non health care professionals		
ABC Nursing	ABC Surgery	ABC Rehab						



Message from Richard Nnabuko.

Consultant Burns and Plastic Surgeon, Interburns Board Member, former President of the Pan African Burn Society

The scourge of burns affects the very poor and most vulnerable communities in low and middle-income countries of Africa and South East Asia. Many of these communities do not have established burn prevention programmes, access to care services is poor and cost of treating burn injuries is very high. The net result is that marked disfigurements, deformities and death arise from delayed, inadequate or inappropriate burn care.

Burn Care 'the Interburns way' envisions a global society where suffering, disability and death from burn injuries can be drastically reduced and every burn patient has access to the highest standards of care. Our motto is "*tomorrow is too late*" because of the urgent need for action to address the suffering caused by burns to millions of people in the vulnerable communities.

Contextualised training programmes for targeted health care professionals have been designed 'from the ground up' in collaboration with local teams familiar with the peculiarities of their local environments. This approach ensures that Interburns' training programmes are unique and relevant to the needs of practitioners.

The wide range of courses offered, from *Basic Burn Care* (BBC) to *Essential Burn Care* (EBC) and *Advanced Burn Care* (ABC) means that appropriate training can be offered to local practitioners at multiple levels. **All Interburns training is guided by the core philosophy that: "all burn patients can receive good quality care despite limited resources".**

Limited resources do not affect the quality of Interburns faculty of trainers made up of highly qualified and experienced local and international practitioners from all over the world. They bring their wealth of experience to bear on the breadth and depth of training and the cross-fertilization of ideas leads to very high quality. I have been associated with Interburns for 10 years and can bear witness to that fact!

Interburns Programmes

Interburns works with the **Acid Survivors Foundation (ASF)** in Bangladesh and the **Nepal Burn Society**. Under a continuing DfID funded training programme, 532 healthcare professionals have received training in **Essential Burn Care (EBC)**, and 64 surgeons and nurses have received **Advanced Burn Care (ABC)** training.

After intense international training of trainers workshops, ongoing training is delivered by local faculty in the local language. Annual assessments have shown steady improvement in burn services in Bangladesh and Nepal since Interburns support started in 2013.

The first Advanced Burn Care (ABC) Surgery Course

Burn surgery is a critical aspect of effective burn care. In many countries globally, patients with burn injuries are operated on by surgeons who have had little, or no, specific training in burns.

ABC Surgery:

- ✓ Has been developed to meet the needs of surgeons working in resource-poor settings
- ✓ Completes the trio of modules supporting core members of the burns care team (surgeons, nurses, therapists)
- ✓ Covers all aspects of surgical care, from acute and emergency stages in the first 24 hours, to reconstructive surgery months or years, post injury
- ✓ Is highly interactive with group discussions, role play, team work and simulation scenarios



Above: An international group of surgeons take part in an exercise during the 1st ABC Surgery course, Nepal, November 2018.



Above: Participants simulate a mass casualty event after reviewing WHO Emergency Medical Team (EMT) recommendations.

Viewpoint on EBC training:

'I got ideas from more experienced professionals on how they helped patients with psychological trauma. I then talked with our psychiatry department and explained the need for constant psychological support. We are now on our way to designing psychological therapy sessions'.

GP, Ethiopia.

Interburns works with **AMREF in Africa** supporting the implementation of a National Burns Strategy in Ethiopia.

Training focuses on 2 national burn centres in Addis Ababa, and 5 regional centres in key secondary cities.

ABC Nursing will be held in Addis Ababa in early 2019.



Above: Participants from Ethiopia and Bangladesh at the EBC and BBC Training of Trainers. Addis Ababa, October 2018.

560 healthcare professionals have been trained in Essential Burn Care in the **Occupied West Bank** since April 2017 as part of a concerted effort to improve burn services in the region. Weekly training by local staff is ongoing, with the aim of training 3,000 professionals in EBC.t

2 Palestinian surgeons took part in an Interburns Fellowship at the ITC in India. They are now working in the purpose-built burns unit at Alia Hospital, Hebron.



Above: Drs and nurses attend an EBC training in the Occupied West Bank.

We are delighted to have been involved in a project to improve pediatric burns services at the **Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health, Kabul, Afghanistan** in partnership with the University Children's Hospital, Zurich. In 2018, a multi disciplinary team from Afghanistan spent a week at the Interburns Training Centre (ITC), Indore, India.

NIHR PROJECT AND PARTNERSHIP WITH CGBIPR

As well as capacity building, other projects include:

- **Community surveys** in Nepal, Ethiopia, Sierra Leone, the West Bank and Gaza.
- **Development of a burn prevention toolkit** and training of staff to undertake community level prevention.
- Research into **online access in low resource settings** and development of the EBC into an online resource.



Training Diary 2019

12-19th January:

Training programme, West Bank, Palestine

4-8th February:

ABC Nursing, Addis Ababa

Our motto is:
'Tomorrow is too late'

'I applied the education to every patient journey. It has helped prevent contractures as well deformity. From Day 1 my patients got proper positioning and education about physical therapy and its advantages. At the end patients can go home with fully functional body movement'.

Physiotherapist, Bangladesh.

To find out more and support us please go to:

<http://interburns.org/>

<https://www.justgiving.com/interburns>



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