

## Preface Burn and wound care



Mary Beth Flynn, MS, RN, CNS, CCRN  
*Guest Editor*

Despite significant improvements in public and private safety prevention programs, trauma remains the leading cause of death in people between the ages of 1 and 44 years [1]. Burn injuries are included in the statistics of trauma incidence because, in most scenarios, burn injuries are considered preventable. According to the American Burn Association (ABA), each year in the United States approximately 1.1 million burn injuries require medical attention, and approximately 50,000 of these require hospitalization [2]. In 2001, 3745 individuals' deaths were related to burn injuries, excluding the 2451 persons who lost their lives in the September 11th tragedy [3]. Despite these sobering facts, efforts to increase awareness of fire prevention and the management of burn-injured victims is resulting in improved patient survival. Since 1980 there has been a 42% decrease in the number of fires and a 49% decrease in the number of fire-related civilian fatalities [3].

Significant changes in the delivery of burn care have been responsible for the improved survival of this group of trauma victims. The ABA and the American College of Surgeons developed the National TRACS/American Burn Association Burn Registry and ABA Verification Program in 1996 [4]. Efforts from this joint effort established specialized burn treatment facilities in all areas of the United States. Nurses are a vital part of the team meeting the needs of burn-injured patients. In this issue expert authors

address the unique demands encountered in providing care to burn-injured patients. Topics addressed in this volume cover the entire spectrum of burn prevention and treatment. We hope the reader will be inspired to apply this information in the prevention of burn injuries and in the treatment of burn-injured patients.

### References

- [1] Fact Pages. Available at: [www.nigms.nih.gov/news/facts/traumaburnfacts.html](http://www.nigms.nih.gov/news/facts/traumaburnfacts.html). Accessed March 2, 2003.
- [2] Fact Pages. Available at: [www.ameriburn.org](http://www.ameriburn.org). Accessed March 2, 2003.
- [3] Fact Pages. Available at: [www.nfpa.org/research.onestopdatashop.asp](http://www.nfpa.org/research.onestopdatashop.asp). Accessed March 2, 2003.
- [4] Heimbach D. What's new in general surgery: burns and metabolism. *J Am Coll Surg* 2002;194(2):156–64.

Mary Beth Flynn, MS, RN, CNS, CCRN  
*Clinical Nurse Specialist*  
*University of Colorado Hospital*  
*and*  
*Senior Instructor*  
*University of Colorado Health Sciences Center*  
*School of Nursing*  
*4200 East Ninth Avenue, Campus Box A021-245*  
*Denver, CO 80262, USA*  
*E-mail address: marybeth.flynn@uch.edu*