SICKKIDS BURNS PROGRAM TEAM

DR. JOEL FISH – MEDICAL DIRECTOR

Dr. Fish graduated from McMaster Medical School in 1986 and completed his Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada Specialty training in Plastic Surgery at the University of Toronto, Department of Surgery in 1994. Dr Fish specializes in burns and complex wound care and currently is the Medical Director of the Burn Program at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto since 2009. Dr Fish’s research work in burn depth is done collaboratively with the National Research Council of Canada based in Winnipeg using near Infrared technology. Dr. Fish also ran a specialty clinic for survivors of Electrical Injury which is the one of its kind in Canada at the St. Johns Rehabilitation Hospital where he also held the position of Medical Director of the Workers Compensation Burn Specialty Program for more than ten years and also served as the Chief Medical Officer for 2.5 years. Dr Fish was the Medical Director of the adult burn unit at the Sunnybrook Hospital (Ross Tilley Burn Centre) for 13 years. Dr Fish is actively involved in the Division of Plastic Surgery as a member of the Executive Committee and was the Research Director for the Division of Plastic and reconstructive surgery for many years. Dr Fish was appointed as a Royal College Examiner for the specialty of Plastic Surgery in 2009.

JULIE KEAGAN – SOCIAL WORKER

Julie Keagan is a graduate of Wilfrid Laurier University with a Master of Social Work Degree. Julie has been a social worker in health care since 2002 and at SickKids in the Trauma and Plastic Surgery Programs since 2008. Julie has recently joined The Burn Program and brings commitment and expertise in providing crisis and trauma therapy to children and families who have experienced traumatic injuries. Her passion for her work has led her to become a member of the Emergency Medical Assistance Team (EMAT) a multidisciplinary response team; providing crisis interventions to individuals involved in incidents of mass disasters or casualties, a position she has held since 2010. Julie is Co-chair of the Family Information and Support Centre committee as part of The Disaster Planning at SickKids. Additionally, Julie is committed to life-long education and is involved in supervising MSW Interns.

RUTH SLATER - PSYCHOLOGIST

Ruth Slater is a registered psychologist in the province of Ontario, in the areas of clinical and health psychology. She has worked at the Hospital for Sick Children for more than 10 years, with a variety of teams. She provides support to children, adolescents and families, who are coping with an illness or injury. She also provides training and consultation to staff. In her work, Dr. Slater has focused on helping people to explore thoughts and feelings as they relate to coping strategies and different patterns of behaviour. She emphasizes strengths and values, recognizing their importance in learning new ways to respond to life’s challenges.
HEIDI MUSSELMAN – NURSE

Heidi Musselman obtained her nursing degree from Queen’s University in 2004. She has been a nurse on the Burns and Plastic Surgery Unit since 2004. She was an inpatient nurse on 8C for almost a decade before transitioning to the clinic in December 2014 where she currently provides care in the outpatient setting. She continues to provide family-centered care, maintaining the continuity of care from hospital to home. She helps coordinate care within the ambulatory setting ensuring all appropriate team members address needs of the patient and their family. She helps with dressing changes in addition to providing education and support to patients and families.

VERONIKA LANGOS – DIETITIAN

Veronika Langos is a registered dietitian. She graduated from the University of Toronto with a degree in Nutrition and Food Sciences, and Human Biology (and a minor in French!). She completed her dietetic internship at The Toronto Hospital. Prior to working at SickKids, she worked with adults on dialysis for a number of years. She then left the adult population and worked as a pediatric dietitian at Toronto East General for a year and realized her love of Pediatrics. She joined SickKids 15 years ago gained experience in a variety of areas (dialysis, Trauma, Neurosurgery and GI). She has been a member of the Burn Team for about 10 years now, and also provides coverage in the other services in the Plastics department: Cleft Lip and Palate and Craniofacial Disorders as well as Orthopedics. Her involvement with burn patients varies depending on the extent of the burn: she may counsel minor burns on adequate nutrition, advise patients with larger burns (and their families) how to increase their calorie and protein intake to help heal in the best way possible, as well as recommend appropriate supplemental feeds for major burns, where nutrition is compromised and they need optimal nutrition with tube feeds.

LISA LAZZAROTTO – OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST

Lisa Lazzarotto is an Occupational Therapist on the burn team and has been working with burn survivors at SickKids for 10 years. She received her degree from the University of Toronto and has specialized training in the rehabilitation of hand injuries. She has a status position at the University of Toronto where she regularly teaches burn care as well as splinting skills. On the burn team, Lisa specializes in scar management where she helps to minimize the formation of scarring after a burn and assists in improving the final outcome of the scar by providing compression garments, recommending silicone treatment or refining massage techniques. She also may be required to fabricate a custom splint on a child to help them to maintain or regain movement. Lisa supports the child and family throughout the rehabilitation phase after a burn injury, referring to other team members as required and linking families to important supports, such as Camp Bucko. Lisa is the co-chair of the Burn Program Family Picnic Day, an annual event bringing families together to connect and have a great time with others who have experienced burn injury.
LYSA TOYE – SOCIAL WORKER, GRIEF COUNSELLOR

Lysa Toye is a Masters-trained Social Worker and an Expressive Arts Therapist. She is a social worker in the Burn Program at the Hospital for Sick Children, a grief counsellor with children, youth and their families at the Max and Beatrice Wolfe Children’s Centre and Dr. Jay Children’s Grief Program, and has a small private psychotherapy practice working with adults and youth living with grief and trauma. Her academic and clinical interests involve the integration of mindfulness, creativity and relational perspectives in working with end of life, grief, trauma, anxiety, depression and generalized stress and vital fatigue. Since joining the Burn Team in 2011 as a part-time staff, Lysa has been involved in several initiatives to improve patient care, including developing and editing The Butterfly, a biannual newsletter for families connected to the program; Family Forums - a series of support groups for both parents and kids, the development of print resources, and the annual Picnic and Family Day events. Lysa is also currently working on developing a research project to use arts-based programming to tell the stories of youth burn survivors, from their perspectives.

SANDY DAVIES – CLINICAL & ADMIN COORDINATOR

Sandy Davies is the Clinical and Administrative Coordinator for the Medical Director of the Burn Program at Sick Kids. She has worked with burn survivors for 15 years at Sunnybrook Hospital and for the past 5 years at Sick Kids. Sandy is involved with various aspects of administration for the program as well as the coordinating of the bookings of surgeries, dressing changes, procedures, and laser treatments. One of the best aspects of my role is being able to be very involved on several Burn Program committees such as Family Day for Burn Survivors and Their Families, Burn Picnic and Burn Prevention.

JENNIFER ZUCCARO – CLINICAL RESEARCH COORDINATOR

Jennifer Zuccaro is the Clinical Research Coordinator in the Burn Unit. She is responsible for organizing burn-related research studies and ensuring that they follow SickKids and Health Canada guidelines. In addition, she also coordinates patient recruitment, organizes data collection, and prepares study results for publication. The research that is conducted in the Burn Unit spans the entire burn injury experience as the current studies range from investigating acute burn wounds to evaluating patient outcomes. At present, several of our most innovative research studies are focused on investigating the use of laser therapy for scar modulation.

CHARIS KELLY – NURSE PRACTITIONER

Charis Kelly is a nurse practitioner who specializes in the treatment of pediatric burns. A nurse practitioner is a Masters-level trained nurse (Queen’s University, Masters of Nursing and Nurse Practitioner designation, 2004) which allows her to independently provide comprehensive care to pediatric burn patients and their families throughout the entire continuum of care. She has worked at
SickKids since 2000 and has been the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner in the Burn/Plastic Surgery Program since 2007. Charis specifically helps coordinate inpatient care as well as discharge patients and follows many children and their families in her independently run Nurse Practitioner Burn Clinic outpatient clinic. Charis is highly skilled at providing pain and anxiety management for this vulnerable population ensuring optimal quality of care. She focuses on treating the pediatric burn population as well as children with complex WOUNDS and skin conditions. She has played a valuable role having Sick Kids recognized as the first Verified Pediatric Burn Program in Canada. Charis also has actively developed our Laser Therapy Program for Burn Scar Modulation, making SickKids the first pediatric facility to provide this therapy in Canada. She is a member of the American Burn Association and sits on their Burn Prevention Committee. She is Chair of the Burn Prevention Outreach Committee at SickKids as well as annual participation at the Annual Burn Family Day, Burn Family Picnic and numerous Burn Prevention Education events in partnership with the Toronto Firefighters.

JAMIL LATI - PHYSIOTHERAPIST

Jamil Lati has been a Physiotherapist at The Hospital for Sick Children since 1999, and specifically treating children with burn injuries since 2000. He has been involved in the burn prevention program, and has participated in burn conferences. Recently, he has focused on the development of the measurement and rehabilitation of children’s hands after a burn injury. Physiotherapists provide assessment and treatment to individuals with movement dysfunction related to musculoskeletal, neurological and/or cardiorespiratory conditions. PTs focus on optimizing movement potential and function, promoting health, and educating the patient and family regarding their rehabilitation needs. They use a variety of assessment and treatment techniques including exercise prescription, movement facilitation, therapeutic modalities, education and health promotion, as well as other forms of hands on therapy.