



SHARING DISCOVERIES THAT MAKE  
DOCTORS AND PATIENTS EVERYWHERE BETTER

UC DAVIS HEALTH SYSTEM'S REGIONAL BURN CENTER

*Specialized burn care for Northern California*

Burns are among the most painful and devastating medical emergencies. Survivors endure extraordinary physical and emotional pain as well as arduous rehabilitation. For many years, burns over 30 percent of the body meant certain death. But the development of advanced treatments – many pioneered at UC Davis Health System's Regional Burn Center – has greatly improved a patient's chance of survival and quality of life.

In 1972 when a vintage warplane crashed into an ice cream parlor during an air show in Sacramento, burn specialists to handle the injured were in scarce supply in the region. The accident killed 22 people, including 12 children. The two-dozen survivors overwhelmed local hospitals, which were not well equipped at the time to handle the complexities of severe burns. Recognizing a critical need for specialized burn care, members of Sacramento Area Fire Fighters Local 522 and UC Davis quickly mobilized an effort to establish a Regional Burn Center at UC Davis Medical Center.

The Regional Burn Center is one of only two burn units in Northern California verified and certified by the American Burn Association (ABA). Of the 139 burn centers in the United States, only 42 meet the stringent standards required for certification. Each year the eight-bed

Regional Burn Center provides care to nearly 300 burn patients from throughout the medical center's 33-county Northern California service area. Patients are admitted for life-saving procedures, intricate wound assessment and management, as well as rehabilitation and psychosocial support and counseling. Two outpatient clinics provide services to patients who have less serious burn injuries.

Burn center specialists research and develop model treatments and guidelines for improving burn care and recovery. Studies into the mechanism of healing at the cellular level and burn outcomes are leading areas of burn care research. The center serves as an important educational resource for health-care professionals and the public on prevention and treatment. UC Davis experts collaborate closely with regional firefighters to help ensure burn victims receive essential treatment interventions at the scenes of their injuries.

Patient volume has more than doubled since 1974 when the UC Davis Regional Burn Center first occupied a 4,500-square-foot space in the medical center. To meet growing regional demands, the center will move to a

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## *Specialized burn care for Northern California (cont.)*

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modern, more spacious area in the new Surgery and Emergency Services Pavilion, currently under construction on the medical center campus. The burn center will include a state-of-the-art hydrotherapy tub unit and rooms impervious to air drafts.

More than 30 years after the plane crash that was the impetus for the Regional Burn Center, UC Davis and regional firefighters are partnering once again. The Firefighters Burn Institute (FFBI) and UC Davis are working together to raise funds for the new burn center.

It is only through the generosity of the community that the UC Davis Regional Burn Center can continue to provide top-notch burn care to Northern California residents. Please join UC Davis and FFBI in their efforts to make the new regional burn center a reality.



*Photo: Wes Schultz*

## *About the Center*

### *UC DAVIS REGIONAL BURN CENTER*

The new Regional Burn Center will occupy 12,653 square feet in the Surgery and Emergency Services Pavilion, consolidating burn services into one efficient unit. The new location also will enhance research efforts by providing a single point of reference for data collection. Features will include:

- 12 inpatient rooms
- 4 outpatient exam rooms
- Treatment room for physical and occupational therapy
- Modern wound care room
- Storage for critical burn care supplies and equipment
- Conference room for support groups, staff meetings and training
- Spacious, comfortable waiting area



*The UC Davis Surgery and Emergency Services Pavilion, now under construction*



## THE FIREFIGHTERS BURN INSTITUTE

*A continuing partnership*



Sacramento Fire Department Captain Cliff Haskell and Sacramento Area Fire Fighters Local 522 mobilized local firefighters after the 1972 plane crash to establish a specialized burn unit with UC Davis Medical Center. Cliff launched a firefighter-led effort to secure funding for the unit, and the non-profit Firefighters Burn Institute (FFBI) was born.

Today, FFBI is recognized in the community for its “Fill the Boot” campaign, in which firefighters ask drivers at regional intersections for donations to support its burn research and education efforts. The 2005 drive raised more than \$381,000. Firefighters and staff also raise money through special events, a vehicle donation program and voluntary payroll deductions.

FFBI offers recovery programs for burn survivors, advocates burn prevention and supports cutting-edge research leading to advancements in burn treatment.

Outreach services include support groups, adult retreats, Firefighters Kids Camp for young burn survivors and educational scholarships for survivors and burn-care professionals.

FFBI reinvigorated their 30-year partnership with UC Davis through a \$1 million donation to support construction of the new Regional Burn Center. The organization has committed to raising an additional \$1 million.

“The Firefighters Burn Institute is dedicated to assuring that the best possible burn treatment and recovery programs are available in Northern and Central California,” said Brian Rice, president of the Institute’s board of directors and fire captain at Sacramento Metro Fire Protection District. “Firefighters are pleased to strengthen our relationship with UC Davis.”

## Leadership Profiles

### DAVID G. GREENHALGH, M.D., F.A.C.S.

Chief and Professor of Burn Surgery,  
Department of Surgery  
Chief of Staff,  
Shriners Hospitals for Children Burn Center

- M.D., State University of New York at Syracuse College of Medicine
- President elect, American Burn Association
- Author of three books on burn treatment

### MICHAEL S. O'MARA, M.D.

Assistant Professor of Burn Surgery,  
Department of Surgery

- M.D., University of Iowa, College of Medicine
- Fellowship in burn surgery completed at UC Davis Medical Center and Shriners Hospital for Children Burn Center; fellowship in trauma surgery and surgical critical care completed at UC Davis Medical Center

### TINA PALMIERI, M.D.

Associate Professor of Burn Surgery,  
Department of Surgery  
Director, UC Davis Burn Center,  
Assistant Chief of Burns,  
Shriners Hospitals for Children Burn Center

- M.D., Northwestern University Medical School
- Chair, American Burn Association Research Committee
- Chair, Advanced Burn Life Support Course Committee
- Served in the U.S. Air Force as director of the intensive care unit at Keesler Medical Center

### SPECIALIZED BURN CARE FOR NORTHERN CALIFORNIANS

#### *Vision and Needs*

Because of strong financial management and planning, UC Davis Health System is able to draw from reserves and projected revenue to fund a large portion of the new Surgery and Emergency Services Pavilion in which the Regional Burn Center will reside. Nonetheless, rising costs, declining reimbursements and expensive new regulations are eliminating revenue that might otherwise be available. The need for private philanthropic support is critical.

Please join UC Davis Health System and the Firefighters Burn Institute in raising **\$2 million in capital support** for the new Regional Burn Center. The health system also seeks **\$1.5 million for specialized equipment**. Your gift will help UC Davis continue to provide the very best in burn care to inland Northern California.



Firefighters "Fill the Boot for Burns" at the annual boot drive fundraiser.

To learn more about this initiative, contact Health Sciences Advancement at (916) 734-9400 or the Firefighters Burn Institute at (916) 739-8525 or [www.ffburn.org](http://www.ffburn.org)