



THE INNOVATOR

OPTIMIZING COMBAT CASUALTY CARE



MAY 2014

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE U.S. ARMY INSTITUTE OF SURGICAL RESEARCH



USAISR Commander Signs Proclamation for SAAM

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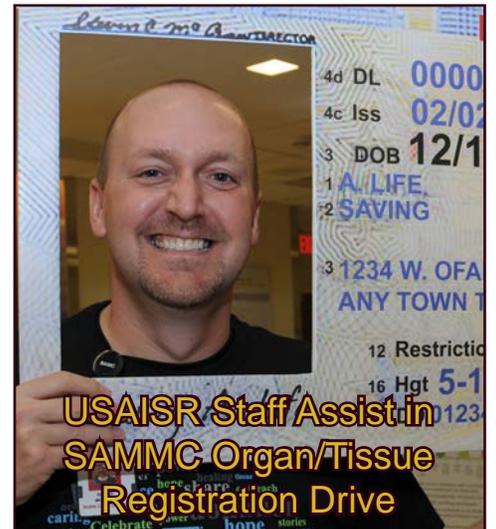
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Burn Center Staff on SAMMC Decon Team

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USAISR Staff Assist in SAMMC Organ/Tissue Registration Drive

CDR's Corner



Col. (Dr.) Michael A. Weber
Commander, USAISR

"Optimizing Combat Casualty Care"

Before looking forward to events in May, I want to thank everyone involved with my induction as an Honorary Member of the NCO Corps. You all really took me by surprise and I will cherish the ceremony and memory for the rest of my life.

There are several important celebrations and holidays during the month of May. I am impressed with the spirit of San Antonians who can viva Fiesta, celebrate Easter, and then celebrate Cinco de Mayo. Last year's Cinco was a major event in our communities, and I ask everyone to plan their travel to ensure another safe holiday.

Many years ago, our country started celebrating Victory in Europe Day on May 8. If you know a World War II veteran or someone who was alive during the war, please take the

opportunity to thank them for the sacrifices by those who are called "Our Greatest Generation." On May 17 we celebrate all the men and women who are currently serving in the military with Armed Forces Day. Take the opportunity on that Saturday to find other military service members in your neighborhoods and thank them for what they do every day.

We end the month on a more somber tone with Memorial Day on May 26 which is dedicated to the men and women who have given the ultimate sacrifice for freedom and our country.

There is one more holiday that deserves special attention: Mother's Day on May 11. Although not a federal holiday, it is a very special celebration for me. The greatest advantage in life most of us have comes from our mothers and our special lifelong relation-

ship. Our mothers uniquely give us life, love, and nourishment for our bodies, minds, and souls. My mother taught me about being truthful and virtuous while reading *Goofus and Gallant* in the *Highlights for Children* magazine.

She was there for my first steps and my first time driving the family car. She encouraged and supported me through all kinds of extracurricular activities even including a brief foray into acting as the lead in *Damon and Pythias*. My mother did all these great things for me, my sister Jennifer and my brother Matthew. My mother gave us all a tremendous start in life and whatever success I achieve will be based upon her foundation of unconditional love and support and for that I say "Happy Mother's Day!!!"

Thank you all for what you do every day, Hooah!



Col. (Dr.) Michael Weber is inducted as an Honorary Member of the NCO Corps during an NCO Induction Ceremony April 18.



ARMY MEDICINE
Serving To Heal...Honored To Serve

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SGM Says



ISR Sergeant Major
Vincent M. Herrington

“Protect and Sustain, Lead From the Front”

Congratulations to all the awardees for last month awards ceremony. A special Happy Mother’s Day to all the USAISR Mothers. Thanks to everyone who participated and attended last month’s NCO Induction Ceremony. A special thanks to Command Sgt. Maj. Dena K. Jimenez, 187th Medical Battalion, for being our guest speaker. Her words of wisdom and inspiration reminded us of what leaders are expected to “Be, Know, and Do.” We welcomed the following NCOs into the NCO Corps during the ceremony: Sgt. Jamar Daniels, Sgt. Jaffster Daus, Sgt. Mylah Joy Freeman, Sgt. Eunjoo Kim, Sgt. Andrew Ludescher, Sgt. Danilo Mendoza, and our honorary inductee Col. (Dr.) Michael Weber. Finally, thanks to the USAISR NCOs for always making it happen.

According to FM 7-22.7, “the NCO Induction ceremony is a celebration of the newly promoted joining the ranks of a professional noncommissioned officer corps and builds on the pride we all share as members of such an elite corps. The ceremony should also serve to honor the memory of those men and women of the NCO Corps who have served with pride and distinction.”

Treat me with respect, Sergeant.
For no heart in all the world is more
loyal than the heart of an
American soldier.
Do not beat my spirit with your words,
Sergeant.
For though I will do what you demand,
your guidance, patience,
And understanding will more quickly
teach me to

“Be, Know, and Do.”

Speak with me often, Sergeant. For
the praise and counseling you
give is expected.
I am an American Soldier, expecting to
be trained. Discipline must be
a part of my life.

Train me for the elements, Sergeant.
For I must learn to fight and win in the
cold, the wet, and the desert.
Those who would be enemies will use
these elements.

I must be prepared.

I ask no greater glory, Sergeant, than
to defend our country and our way of
life,

against all enemies, both foreign and
domestic. Allow me that privilege,
Sergeant....train me.

Provide me the necessities of food
and drink, Sergeant.

Train me to be self sufficient, that I
may lead the way, and stand ready,
willing and able
to protect you, with my life if neces-
sary, should your life be in danger.
Train me, Sergeant, that one day I too
can be called Sergeant,

Trainer of soldiers,

Backbone of the Army. Train me to
accept those responsibilities that are
yours.

Train me to train my soldiers to be the
greatest defenders of freedom in the
world.

Sergeant, train me to be a Sergeant.
I shall leave this Army knowing, with
my last step and my last breath, that
my fate was always safest in your
hands

Sergeant, train me

That I too can earn the title “Sergeant”.



“It is the noncommissioned officer
to whom the Soldier first turns
when he needs information,
counsel or other help.”
SMA Leon L. Van Autreve,
“The NCO at the Apex”, ARMY,
October 1974, p. 18



Staff Sgt. James McAlister lights one
of the three candles which signi-
fy valor and hardiness; purity and
innocence; and perseverance and
justice.

On the Cover



Col. (Dr.) Michael Weber, left, signs
the proclamation to kick off April as
Sexual Assault Awareness Month
and Cpt. Rebecca Morrell cuts the
cake during the kick-off ceremony.

USAISR Commander signs proclamation for SAAM

By Steven Galvan
USAISR Public Affairs Officer

The U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research (USAISR) kicked off Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) with the commander signing a “Proclamation” during a ceremony at the Institute April 1.

“The proclamation states that sexual harassment will not be tolerated within our organization and our military,” said USAISR Commander, Col. (Dr.) Michael A. Weber. “It is important for every member of our military, at every level, to adhere and adopt core service values and higher standards of behavior every day.”

April is known nationally as Sexual Assault Awareness Month and is intended to raise awareness about sexual violence and educate everyone on how

to prevent it. This year’s SAAM theme is “Live Our Values, Step Up and Stop Sexual Assault.”

To reinforce this message throughout the month, the USAISR Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) Team will send out information via e-mail with facts about SAAM. The first message sent out by the Team stated that “Sexual Assault Awareness Month is recognized across the country by both civilian and military communities and offers a unique opportunity to build on existing momentum to fight this crime and ensure all Service members are treated with dignity and respect.”

The proclamation signed by the Institute commander stated that “We, at the United States Army Institute of Surgical Research, have placed sexual harassment/assault awareness on the

forefront and encourage each staff member to take a stand in the ‘I AM STRONG’ campaign. Soldiers and Civilians must be actively involved in the day-to-day actions of their employees and peers, and focus on changing the culture to eliminate sexual harassment/assault on and off post. In addition, leaders at all levels will take responsibility to ensure an environment that is free from sexual harassment/assault. I encourage each and every one of you to prevent sexual harassment/assaults and live up to the Army Values.”

Sgt. 1st Class Natasha Turrell, USAISR SHARP Leader said that we should all take a look at how we can eradicate this crime from the military.

“We are empowered to take ownership of this problem and do our part to end it,” she said.

Organ and Tissue Registration Drive



Michael Shiels, Burn Program Coordinator, volunteers at a San Antonio Military Medical Center (SAMMC) organ and tissue registration drive April 17 at the Medical Mall Garden Entrance. Volunteers from the Burn Center, SAMMC, the Texas Organ Sharing Alliance, GenCure Tissue Center (formerly South Texas Blood and Tissue Center), and the San Antonio Eye Bank were on hand to spread the word and importance of registering with the Donate Life Texas website as donors.

2014 Egg-stravaganza



The USAISR Events Committee sponsored the annual "Egg-stravaganza" April 19 at the Warrior and Family Support Center. Staff members, families, and friends were invited to enjoy a day with the Easter Bunny, an egg hunt, pictures, crafts, hair painting, games, and candy.



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY



Staff Sgt. Shanelle McNair and her mom Cynthia Langley



Col. (Dr.) Michael Weber with his mom Vivian J. Weber and older sister Jennifer and younger brother Matthew.



Maj. Robert Carter and his mom Mary.



Joshua Anderson with his mom Penny Anderson and brother Justin.



Capt. LaShawonna Ray and her mom Areneatha Ann Phifer.

MAY 11, 2014

This section is dedicated to all mothers on their special day. A small token of our appreciation for the hardships they bear in raising us. Our mothers are our guiding forces and are responsible for making us who we are.

"The moment a child is born, the mother is also born. She never existed before. The woman existed, but the mother, never. A mother is something absolutely new."

Rajneesh



Michelle Foster and her mom Kathy.

Company Notes



Company Commander
Capt. LaShawna N. Ray

Welcome to the ISR family: Staff Sgt. Michael Cavallo and wife welcomed a daughter, Aurelia Grace on April 26. All are doing well.

Congratulations to Sgt. Jamar Williams and Spc. Damian Thomas for winning the NCO and Soldier of the Month, respectively, for April 2014. Their photographs will be on display in the company area.

Congratulations to the following Soldiers on their promotion effective May 1: Staff Sgt. Melissa Arizmendi, Staff Sgt. Joel DeLeon, Staff Sgt. John Newton, Sgt. Joshua Freeman, and



Capt. LaShawna Ray and 1st Sgt. Bradley Proud attend the USAISR Egg-stravaganza April 19 at the Warrior and Family Support Center.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Michael Mason

Sgt. Tamara Saxton. We also want to recognize Staff Sgt.s (P) Christopher Coats and Cameron Hubbard on their selection to Sgt. First Class. Their promotions will hopefully be very soon.

I want to take the time to thank our Events Committee members and volunteers for organizing such a wonderful event this year. The

Easter Egg-stravaganza was a great success; our families and friends had an excellent time participating in the games and activities. When you see the members of the committee, please congratulate them putting together such a family -fun event.

Upcoming events: ISR NCO/SOQ Competition May 14-15.

Each year, Asian Pacific American Heritage Month recognizes the challenges faced by Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, and Native Hawaiians and their vital contributions to the American story.

This year's theme is *I Am Beyond*, a theme that evokes how Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders have crossed boundaries and barriers, how we shape the nation and its future. The tentative date for the EO Observance is May 16 at 1100 in the SAMMC Medical Mall. More information will be pushed out by our EOLs.

Thank you all for everything that you do each day to help us be the best organization in the MRMC!



NCO of the Month
Sgt. Jamar Williams



Soldier of the Month
Spc. Damian Thomas

OPTIMIZING COMBAT CASUALTY CARE



U.S. ARMY

ARMY STRONG.®



SHOULDER TO SHOULDER I SAVE LIVES



MS MARIA
CHAPA

46-YEAR ARMY CIVILIAN
OPTIMIZES COMBAT CASUALTY CARE
AS EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT



MAJ STUART
TYNER

12-YEAR ARMY VETERAN
OPTIMIZES COMBAT CASUALTY CARE
AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH



MS STEPHANIE
CLAY

1-YEAR ARMY CONTRACTOR
OPTIMIZES COMBAT CASUALTY CARE
AS ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Burn Center Soldiers Vital members of SAMMC's Decon Team



When the San Antonio Military Medical Center Decontamination Team is called into action, military service members assigned to the hospital and the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research Burn Center assemble to set up a portable decontamination station to decontaminate patients prior to their arrival at the hospital's emergency department. Within minutes a portable decon station is ready to receive contaminated patients. Top left: Before members of the decon team don their protective equipment, their vital signs are taken to ensure they are capable to perform their duties on the team. Top right: while some decon team member don their protective equipment, others set up the portable decon station. Top center: All decon team members must give a "thumbs up" when they are ready to assist with contaminated patients. Top bottom: A contaminated patient is in the portable decon station getting scrubbed down before he is admitted to the hospital for further treatment. Bottom left: Members of the SAMMC Decon Team transport a contaminated patient to the portable decon station.

Burn Flight Team conducts training at Burn Center PACU



Top left: Maj. Scott Phillips, center, provides the training scenario information to members of the Burn Flight Team. Top right: Capt. Gordon Briscoe, right, discusses the patient's condition and best burn care for the patient during training at the Burn Center PACU with Capt. Ryan Staab. Bottom right: Sgt. Mackneil Ramos, left, and Sgt. Joni Paciocco mount the speicalized burn care equipment on a SMEED which will be used to transport the patient from Germany to San Antonio. Left Bottom: Sgt. Daniel Zimmerman prepares the respiratory equipment before connecting it to the simulated patient.

By Steven Galvan
USAISR Public Affairs Officer

“It’s a method of maintaining professional skills and knowledge, increasing mission capability and readiness, and ensuring complinace with standards of professional practice,” that how Capt (P). Gordon T. Briscoe, Burn Critical Care and Flight Nurse described the training that members of the Burn Flight Team (BFT) conducted in the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research Burn Center’s postanesthesia care unit (PACU).

With fewer missions in support of Overseas Contingency Operations and a turnover of Soldiers at the Burn

Center, the BFT has to maintain its specialized burn care skills ready for the next mission. To meet this requirement, a recovery room at the Burn Center PACU was transformed into a simulation laboratory with a simulation manikin used in a scenario for the BFT.

The scenario on April 17 had a burn patient needing to be transported from the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany back to the Burn Center. Senior Clinical Nurse Specialist Maj. Scott Phillips provided the scenario information for the BFT to determine the best care before and during the flight back to San Antonio.

“The scenario is as realistic as

possible so that the Burn Flight Team gets the best training possible,” said Phillips.

Briscoe stated that the training was necessary for members of the BFT.

“The objective is to provide orientation of new flight members and skill verification or validation for both old and new members,” he said. “The current Burn Flight Team Chief Nurse, Major Michael Meissel, employs great detail in his preparation and execution of training allowing the simulated training . To incorporate real time changes in patient condition that replicate real mission possibilities. Ensuring success and living the motto, ‘Anytime, Anywhere.’”

National Volunteer Week

Mary Helen Prado, a medical support assistant at the San Antonio Military Medical Center views a card designed by the Burn Center volunteers in a display in honor of National Volunteer Week April 6-13. On display were Burn Center volunteers items such as crocheted baby blankets, booties, mittens, and hats for patients in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and Pediatrics Units. Also on display were custom handmade cards for all types of occasions.



Occupational Therapy Month

Each year in April, Occupational Therapy Month is observed with various activities showcasing the importance of occupational therapy. On April 24, occupational therapists and occupational therapists assistants from the Burn Center and San Antonio Military Medical Center showcased their importance to the military community at the Medical Mall. Burn Center Occupational Therapist, Spc. Sonja McDonald explains how some of the equipment is utilized at the Burn Center Rehabilitation Center.

Safety Notes



By Stephanie L. Truss
Health, Safety and Environmental Specialist

Summer Heat Safety

Summer time is here!!! High temperatures may affect the way we conduct business. Here are some tips on what to do to prevent a heat related stroke.

How to hydrate:

- Drink plenty of fluid. Don't wait until you're thirsty to drink.
- If you must exercise, drink 2 to 4 glasses of cool, non-alcoholic fluids each hour.
- Avoid liquids with alcohol or sugar -- they will cause you to lose more body fluid.
- Stay away from very cold drinks -- they can cause stomach cramps.

Limit your outdoor activity to morning and evening hours and wear lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothing. Monitor young children and elderly people because they are more sensitive to the heat exhaustion or heat stroke. Body temperature can rise to 106 degrees Fahrenheit or higher within 10 to 15 minutes. A very important tip for summer health is to drink enough fluids -- hydrate, hydrate, hydrate.

How to Recognize Heat Stroke

If your body temperature is above 103 degrees Fahrenheit (red, hot dry skin, and there's no sweating) it means that the body's sweating mechanism is failing and the body is unable to cool down. If the person has a rapid strong pulse, headache, dizziness or nausea

In the Spotlight

Spc. Dale Cmaylo

Job title: Biological Science Research

How long have you worked at the ISR? 1 year

What or who has been an inspiration to you in your work?

I am inspired by the fact that the research I participate in will eventually save someone's life. Also, I can't wait to see cold storage platelets used clinically later on in my career and know that I helped that come to fruition.



What is your favorite part of your work? I enjoy giving blood products or test results to PIs after a long day of work. I feel fulfilled when I enable PIs to conduct their research and they trust me to provide quality products and results.

Your proudest achievement? Travelling to Japan, Italy, Germany, Croatia, and Hungary.

Short- and long-term goals: Move to Boulder, Colo. to attend pharmacy school at University of Colorado-Denver.

Hobbies: Disc golf, live music, hiking, craft beer, and building computers.

Favorite Book: *Biocentrism* by Robert Lanza and Bob Berman

Favorite movie/TV show: *American Beauty*

Favorite quote: "The plain fact is that the planet does not need more successful people. But it does desperately need more peacemakers, healers, restorers, storytellers, and lovers of every kind. It needs people who live well in their places. It needs people of moral courage willing to join the fight to make the world habitable and humane. And these qualities have little to do with success as our culture has defined it." – David W. Orr

CALL 911 immediately and get the victim to a shady area in the meantime. Try to cool the victim rapidly using whatever methods you can like spraying them with cool water from a hose.

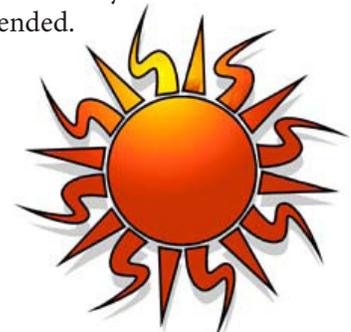
Symptoms:

- Body temp greater than 103 degrees Fahrenheit
- Red/hot/dry skin
- No sweating
- Rapid pulse
- Headache/dizziness/nausea

How to Alleviate Sunburn

There's no "fast cure" for sunburns. It may take days for your skin to heal. To treat the pain, take an over-the-counter pain reliever and keep the area

moisturized with aloe or other lotions. Keep the skin cool by using cold compresses or taking a cold bath. Keep in mind that there is no such thing as a "healthy tan." Unprotected sun exposure causes premature aging of the skin. If you are going to work outside, it is recommended you use sun screen at least every 3-4 hours or as recommended.



April Health News



By Maria G. Dominguez, R.N.
COHN-S/CM
Occupational Health

Ahhh, The sun is shining, and there are flowers blooming, the grass is turning green, and the trees are budding.

April's showers bring May flowers, but they also bring on sneezing, runny noses and watery eyes for people with allergies. The spring allergy season begins in some regions of the country as early as February and can last into the summer months.

According to the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, the common spring allergy culprits are pollens from a variety of trees and grasses, as well as mold. May is also Asthma and Allergy Awareness

Month, so here are some healthy tips:

- Allergic rhinitis symptoms can occur in the nose, lungs, throat, sinuses, ears and eyes.
- Your allergist can help you identify things in your home, workplace or school that make your symptoms worse.
- Allergens can trigger asthma symptoms in people with allergic asthma.
- Avoiding allergens that cause symptoms is the most effective way to treat symptoms.

Allergies are diseases of the immune system that cause an overreaction to substances called "allergens." Allergies are grouped by the kind of trigger, time of year or where symptoms appear on the body: indoor and outdoor allergies also called "hay fever," "seasonal," "perennial" or "nasal" allergies; food allergies; latex allergies; insect allergies; skin allergies; and eye allergies.

So does the warm weather and the sun makes you think of the beach and a tan? And melanoma? The American Academy of Dermatology kicks off Skin Cancer Awareness Month on

Melanoma May 5th. Melanoma is a type of skin cancer that anyone can get. When found early and treated, the cure rate is almost 100 percent. You can still enjoy the outdoors by taking some preventing tips:

- If you tan, stop. Tanning outdoors, using tanning beds, and sun lamps are not safe.
- Spend time outdoors when the sun is less intense. Before 10 a.m. and after 2 p.m.,
- Wear sunscreen every day. Even on cloudy, rainy, and snowy days, you need to wear sunscreen that is A Sun Protection Factor (SPF) of at least 30.
- UVA and UVB protection.
- Wear sunglasses that have UV protection. Melanoma can develop in the eyes!

In order to enjoy all of the summer activities concentrate on remaining healthy. Exercise and celebrate National High Blood Pressure Education Month and Stroke Awareness Month in May. Every year more than 795,000 Americans have a stroke and more than 130,000 people die after a stroke.

High blood pressure the "silent killer" can damage the heart, brain, and kidneys without any symptoms. When you control your blood pressure, you reduce your risk of a stroke.

In May we also celebrate National Women's Health Week—an observance led by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office on Women's Health. National Women's Health Week serves as a time to help women understand what it means to be well and empower women to make their health a priority.

Last but not least Happy Mother's Day, Happy Nurses Week!

Have fun be safe !

Good Clinical Practice Training Course

For New Investigators and Research Staff
May 19 0800-1600 BHT1 2nd floor conf room

Please plan for full day attendance if you are involved with IND/IDE and AFIRM research studies

Good Clinical Practice Training Refresher Course

May 20 0800-1200 BHT1 2nd floor conf room

RSVP to Regulatory Compliance Office

USAISR Burn Center staff integral members of ABA

Story and photos by Steven Galvan
USAISR Public Affairs Officer

The American Burn Association (ABA) held its 46th Annual Meeting in Boston March 25-28 with 19 staff members from the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research Burn Center (USAISR) in attendance. The ABA is committed to advancing burn-related research, education, treatment, rehabilitation, and prevention to improve the lives of those affected by burn injuries. The annual meeting is designed to provide the optimal occasion to increase knowledge to its members and guests on the state-of-the-art scientific and practice advances in burn care.

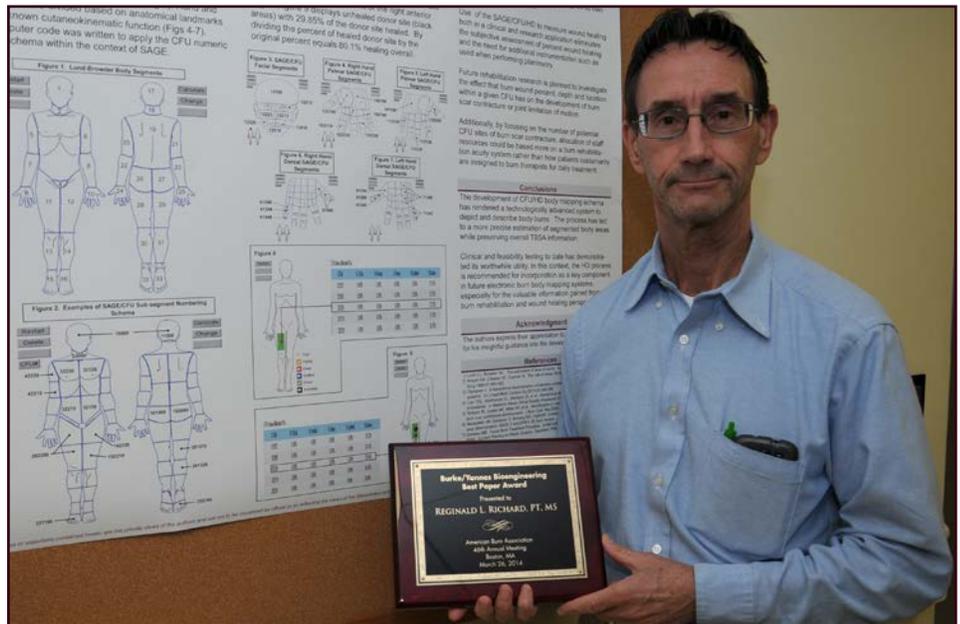
Even though the number of attendees from the USAISR was minimal, the presence of the Institute was evident throughout the four-day event. Several members presented or moderated plenary and poster presentations (including 4 of 8 Nursing Correlative Sessions), two members were presented major awards, and an appointment to chair a national committee.

“I am very pleased and proud with our performance and contributions to the ABA meeting,” said Col. (Dr.) Booker T. King, USAISR Burn Center Director. “It all speaks highly of the people here [burn center] and the work that we’ve submitted.”

The two awardees for their research were: Clinical Research Coordinator, Reginald “Reg” L. Richard, who received the “Best Paper” award, and Nicole Caldwell who earned the “Best in Category” award for posters. Lt. Col. Elizabeth Mann-Salinas was appointed to Chair the Committee on Technology—keeping the number at 8 USAISR personnel on ABA national committees.

Best Paper Award

The “Burke/Yannas Bioengineering Best Paper Award” was presented to



Reginald “Reg” received the “Best Paper” award and was selected as one of the Top 6 Abstracts at the American Burn Association Annual Meeting.

Reg Richard for his manuscript titled: “Hierarchical Decomposition of Burn Body Diagram Based on Cutaneous Functional Units and Its Utility.”

“It’s on a DoD funded study that takes a standard burn body diagram used to document burns and burn severity,” said Richard. “The existing diagram is modified to be more specific for burn rehab and improving patient outcome.”

Richard compared the hierarchical decomposition system for mapping burns and estimating the total body surface area burned to the structure of the U.S. postal zip code structure. In a zip code, the first number represents a geographical area, the next two numbers identify the regional area, and the last two numbers represent the specific post office.

“It [hierarchical decomposition] breaks it down to smaller subcomponents which helps us [physical therapists] determine the type of rehab needed to the area of the body that is burned,” he said.

Richard mentioned that the current

burn and degree of burn mapping system that is currently being used in burn centers has not changed in more than 70 years. The current template has the palm of the hand as one segment and the hierarchical decomposition template has 29 separate areas in the same segment as the standard one.

“This allows us to concentrate on doing more rehab to specific areas which can minimize scar contracture,” said Richard. “Burn wound begin to heal itself right after the burn process stops. If we know where to concentrate the rehab then the outcome will be better.”

Richard said that he was proud to have this position in research and conduct the type of work that he does.

“It’s an honor to do this type of research,” he said. “This is the only position in the U.S. that allows a physical therapist to do research and I am fortunate to be at the ISR doing it.”

Additionally, an abstract by Richard titled “Increased Burn Rehabilitation Treatment Time Improves Patient Out-

ABA continues on page 15



Nicole Caldwell was awarded the “Best in Category” award for her poster at the American Burn Association Annual Meeting.

ABA continued from page 14
 come” was selected as one of the Top 6 Abstracts during the meeting. Best in Category Award
 Nicole Caldwell was awarded the “Best in Category” award for her poster titled “Pathogenic Bacteria on Common Access and Identification Cards: A Search for Badge Bugs.”

“Since the Department of Defense implemented new security requirements that we must all use a CAC [common access card] to access a government computer, we decided to do a study to see what types of bacteria were found on them,” said Caldwell. “Everyone also carries an ID badge to access our work areas in the Burn Center.”

Caldwell said that patients in the Burn Intensive Care Unit (BICU) are at a higher risk for infection and while certain measures are taken for infection control there’s no policy for cleansing IDs and CACs.

“We swiped more than 100 CAC and ID cards from employees at the BICU and from the staff at the outpatient burn clinic,” she said. “A small percent of the cards had been cleaned during the week that we collected the

specimens.”
 According to Caldwell, there were no significant differences in the bacteria counts between the BICU and outpatient clinic cards, but the rate of bacteria was significantly lower on the cards that had been cleaned in the last week.

“This study shows that if we clean our cards at least weekly we can have a positive effect on contamination rates,” she said.

Caldwell got the idea for this study from her supervisor Lt. Col. Elizabeth Mann-Salinas, USAISR Systems of Care for Complex Patients Task Area Manager.

“She is totally amazing and deserves every bit of recognition there is,” said Mann-Salinas. “I could not be more proud of her initiative, academic skill, and professionalism.”
 Committee Chair

Lt. Col Elizabeth Mann-Salinas was selected to chair the ABA Committee on Technology which provides a forum for the ABA to adopt new technologies. This is the second year since this committee was formed and Mann-Salinas was the co-chair the year it was created. She said that being named chair is a big honor and can envision her role in the committee.

“My vision is to create an ABA app that can be used for training, guiding

ABA continues on page 20



Lt. Col. Elizabeth Mann-Salinas was selected to chair the American Burn Association (ABA) Committee on Technology during the ABA Annual Meeting.

Around the ISR



Top left: Cindy Dire, Burn Center volunteer coordinator and Lt. Col. Paul Mittelsteadt cut a cake during a luncheon in honor of National Volunteer Week April 11. Top right: Sgt. 1st Class Russell Gilmore, right, explains how face masks are manufactured for burn patients to medical officers from the United Arab Emirates April 22. Center right: Ira Lawson, left, is presented a Certificate of Performance by Brad Golden, program manager for Woodbury Technologies April 18. Bottom right: Sgt. Anntoniette Pierce displays the winning lab coat that she designed in honor of Lab Appreciation Week April 25. Left center: Staff Sgt. Maria Thomas welcomes the Army Chief of Staff, Gen. Raymond Odierno to the Burn Center April 14.



Around the ISR continued



Top left: Maj. (P) Wylan Peterson welcomes the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Martin Dempsey to the Burn Center April 25. Top right: Craig Fenrich, center, is presented a Certificate of Appreciation by Brad Golden, program manager Woddbury Technologies and Executive Vice President Armel Beardall April 17. Bottom right: David Bottom right: Lt. Col. (Dr.) Kevin Chung presents Dr. William G. Cioffi a plaque for being the guest speaker at teh Basil A. Pruitt, Jr, Trauma Grand Rounds Lecture April 23. Bottom left: Lina Alvarado and her mother Maria during a going-away luncheon April 25- Lina has a special message for her mother: "Mami, thank you for always guiding me and loving me the way you do. You are my hero." Center left: Maj. Christopher VanFosson, left, gives a tour of the Burn Center to ROTC cadets from Baylor University April 18.



Ryan guest at annual elementary school Science Day



Kathy Ryan, Ph.D. has a volunteer student from Longs Creek Elementary School dress up as conceived by 2nd and 3rd grade students.

actually bags of oatmeal. I then talked about how the anatomy of brains is related to intelligence of different species.”

Ryan said that several students from each class were familiar with the San Antonio Military Medical Center since they were from military families, but were not aware of the Institute.

“They had no idea of the research that we do for wounded warriors,” she said.

Ryan feels that it is important for students to not only be aware of the Institute, but to also give them an understanding of how the research is aimed at optimizing combat casualty care.

By Steven Galvan
USAISR Public Affairs Officer

For the past eight years, Kathy Ryan, Ph.D., a physiologist and Chief of the Research Regulatory Compliance at the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research, has been speaking to elementary school students about her career and the combat casualty research that she has been involved in. On April 11, Ryan was a guest at the annual “Science Day” at Longs Creek Elementary School in San Antonio where she spoke to approximately 275 second-fourth grade students throughout the day.

“In the morning I spoke to fourth graders about what physiology is and what physiologists do,” said Ryan. “I also spoke about some key concepts in cardiovascular physiology.”

Ryan then had the students develop a hypothesis about what would happen to a pulse rate when changing postures

or exercise.

“The students then performed the experiment, measuring their pulse rates after standing and then again after performing jumping jacks,” she said.

In the afternoon Ryan used a student volunteer to explore how second and third grade students conceive of scientists. The students were asked what scientists look like and what they wear.

“The volunteer was dressed accordingly in a lab coat, ‘Einstein hair,’ goggles, and gloves,” Ryan said. “The students’ eyes widened considerably when I pulled out ‘extra brains’ from a bag. They were



This marks the 8th year that Kathy Ryan, Ph.D. has been a guest during Science Day at Longs Creek Elementary School.

April Promotions



Top left: Staff Sgt. Pablo Sierra, left, and Staff Sgt. Olarewaju, right, pose with First Sgt. Bradley Proud after their promotion ceremony at the Alamo April 8.
Top right: Master Sgt. Natash Turrell has her new rank put on her by her mother Lillian Williams at her promotion ceremony April 11.
Bottom left: Spc. Charice Rogers, the Burn Center only Pfc., has her new rank pinned on her by Sgt. Rachael Cecchini April 10.

Spott selected to Chair ATS Trauma Registry Council

The U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research Joint Trauma System (JTS) Deputy Director, Mary Ann Spott was selected as the Chair of the American Trauma Society (ATS) Trauma Registry Council. According to their website, the mission of the ATS is the elimination of needless death and disability from injury.

“There is no greater contribution than serving as council leadership that provides guidance and direction for the organization and its members,” wrote Ian Weston, ATS Executive Director in an e-mail to Spott. “Your commitment to assist us with making sure our opportunities are up to date with current research, consensus and evidence, is invaluable.”

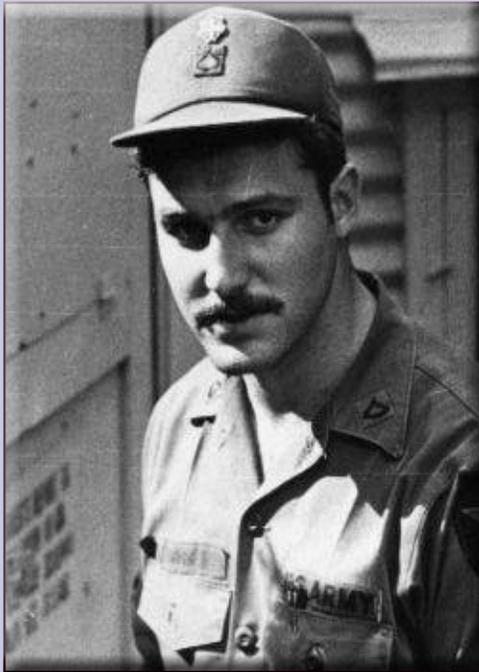
“Mary Ann Spott’s selection to serve as Chair of the ATS Trauma Registrar Council speaks to her uniquely outstanding record of accomplishment and excellence in the development and operation of both civilian and DoD trauma registries,” said Col. (Dr.) Jeffrey Bailey, JTS Director. “This selection provides a new opportunity for sharing of trauma registry best practices between the JTS and ATS and offers great potential for identifying synergies between the two organizations.”

“I am honored to serve and truly appreciative of the ATS efforts and look forward to contributing however I can to forward the mission of the organization,” said Spott.



JTS Deputy Director
Mary Ann Spott

Back When...



Can you guess who this ISR staff member is? This photo was taken in 1977 when he was a Pfc. with C Co., 2nd Med Bn, 2nd Inf. Div., Camp Stanley, Korea.

Submit your "Back When" photo to the PAO for publication in the upcoming issues of *The Innovator*.

Last Month's Answer:



Capt. LaShawna N. Ray
Company Commander

ABA continued from page 15

patient care, and family patient care," she said.

Mann-Salinas also stated that it is important for members of the Institute to chair or be members of the various ABA committees.

"It is a great platform to get our innovations out to the burn care and research community," said Mann-Salinas.

The Committee on Technology will be the perfect forum to introduce products designed at the USAISR to the ABA like the Burn Resuscitation Decision Support System-Mobile (BRDSS-M, also known as the Burn Navigator, and the burn patient mapping program WoundFlow. The BRDSS-M is designed specifically for providers who routinely do not care for burn patients with recommendations on life-saving resuscitative fluids during the initial 48 hours after injury. The WoundFlow is an electronic burn mapping system used for documenting burns and ongoing surgical treatments.

"It is important that we present our work to burn care providers," said Mann-Salinas. "We have to share and show what the Army and ISR are innovating."

April Awards Ceremony

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| Order of Military Medical Merit
Annette McClinton | Achievement Medal for Civilian Service
Wendy Ching |
| Commander's Award for Civilian Service
Donaya Ashoka
Mark Atkins
Victor Convertino, Ph.D.
Michael Dubick, Ph.D.
Consuelo Luna
Jean Orman, Sc.D.
Bonniiface Premdas
Leila Rathburn
Carol Raymond
Kathy Ryan, Ph.D.
Mary Ann Spott
Geraldine Trumbo | Civilian of the Quarter
Mary Ann Spott |
| | Army Commendation Medal
Capt. Rondald Woodbury
Sgt. Eunjoo Kim
Staff Sgt. Joel McVay |
| | Certificate of Achievement
Chaya Galin
Staff Sgt. James McAlister
Staff Sgt. Shanelle McNair
Sgt. Jamar Williams |
| 30 Year Civilian Service Award
Malcolm Prince | |

