History of GBC

The Grossman Burn Centers were born out of a tragic event back in 1958, when a catastrophic fire struck Our Lady of Angeles parochial elementary school in Chicago. Four nuns and ninety-three children, several of whom were so badly charred it was impossible to tell if they were girls or boys, perished. Many of the bodies were taken to Cook County Hospital and evaluated by emergency room resident, Dr. A. Richard Grossman, my father. The experience had a profound effect on the young doctor and was a driving force behind his vision to create a world-class comprehensive burn treatment facility dedicated to providing the best burn care anywhere. My dad subsequently moved to Los Angeles and set about achieving that vision. In 1969, he convinced Sherman Oaks Community Hospital, located in a suburb of Los Angeles, to devote two beds exclusively to burn care. By 1978, the burn center had expanded into a free-standing, 30-bed specialty unit. In 1995, I joined my father in practice and together, with an outstanding team of health care professionals have restored the lives of many burn survivors.

Today the Grossman Burn Center's flagship program is at West Hills Hospital and Medical Center in West Hills, California. With the expansion to 35 burn care beds, the Grossman Burn Center at West Hills Hospital remains one of the largest and most comprehensive burn centers in the country. Additionally, the Grossman Burn Centers have units in California at San Joaquin Community Hospital in Bakersfield, and in Arizona at St. Luke's Medical Center in Phoenix.

This is an extremely exciting time at Grossman Burn Center, with our expansion to Research Medical Center in Kansas City. As we expand into the Midwest, the dedication of our entire medical team - doctors, nurses, midlevel providers and techs, to deliver on the promise we make in our Mission Statement remains constant; to service our patients. There are many challenges we all face, but I am confident we have the best medical professionals to ensure this happens; we have to, for the sake of our patients. My sincere thanks for the dedication you bring to your work every day.

Peter Grossman, MD

Mica Wiemann is the Program Coordinator for the new Grossman Burn Center at Research Medical Center in Kansas City, Missouri. She comes to Grossman with an extensive background in marketing and management, and recently completed her MBA from Baker University. She is also a former Flight Attendant and Inflight Supervisor for Southwest Airlines. She worked for the airline during 9/11 and brings valuable emergency and Critical Incident Stress Management training from her experience. Mica is married to Jacob, a Lee's Summit Firefighter, Registered Nurse, and Lt. Commander for the US Navy. Mica and Jake keep their lives busy and fun with their two boys - Mark, age 6, and Cooper, age 4. When asked about her excitement for working as the Program Coordinator, Mica replies, “I am very passionate about the opportunity I will have to make a positive impact on people’s lives. I cannot wait to get out there and share with the greater Kansas City community about the amazing benefits of the Grossman Burn Center at Research Medical Center!” We are very excited to have Mica on board as the newest addition to the Grossman Burn Center family!

SAVE THE DATE
The Grossman Burn Center Open House.
Come, be a part of this momentous occasion.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3RD

More information to come.
Mission/Purpose
At Grossman Burn Centers, our mission is not merely to ensure patient survival, but to restore patients to as close to their pre-injury condition as possible – functionally, cosmetically and emotionally, in a nurturing, compassionate and personal environment.

What Makes Us Different?
The professionals on staff are among the most passionate and skilled in the industry. They are driven by a deep and sincere empathy for the trauma endured by burn survivors. Few injuries impact individuals and families as emotionally as burns. Burns often change how individuals perceive themselves, and how they are perceived by others. For this reason, The Grossman Burn Center spends as much time on burn-prevention education, and on supporting burn survivors in the months and years after their treatment, as it does in treating and restoring patients.

GBC Innovation
Ever on the lookout for new ways to improve patient outcomes, Grossman Burn Centers have recently completed and published a scientific study evaluating the efficacy of fractional CO2 lasers on reducing discoloration and scarring of mature burn injuries. Unlike traditional CO2 lasers, which perform a thin, general ablation (removal) of the entire skin surface, fractional lasers work by aiming a laser beam that has been divided into thousands of microscopic columns (each one is just one-tenth the diameter of a human hair) onto an area of skin. The laser columns penetrate the outer layer of skin (epidermis), down into the dermis and create tiny wounds which stimulate a natural healing process that produces fresh collagen and elastin, two natural proteins which give skin a healthy appearance. Results of this study showed that a series of treatments produced improvement in the appearance and texture of scar tissue. Though this procedure may not work on every patient, we now have another option to address burn scarring.

Outpatient Care at the Grossman Burn Center
Approximately 1.4 million people in the United States seek medical treatment for burn injuries each year. Of those cases, most do not require hospitalization. But even seemingly minor burns may require specialized medical attention. The Grossman Burn Center outpatient team implements a multifaceted approach that ensures healing in the shortest possible timeframe. The outpatient team provides detailed information designed to assist outpatients in understanding and caring for their injuries. The Outpatient Clinic, based within Research Medical Center, will be open Monday – Friday and is staffed by a burn expert.

First Aid Information
If a burn, chemical injury, or electrical injury occurs, IMMEDIATE ACTION MAY MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

DO!
- Remove the victim from the source of burning.
- Smother flames-Stop, Drop and Roll!
- If clothing is saturated with hot liquid, remove it.
- Cool the burn immediately with cool water for 15 minutes ~ NO ice
- Remove any jewelry from burn injured area
- Cover all burns
- If the burn is larger than the size of an arm, cover it with a clean, dry cloth while seeking emergency care. Keep the person warm.

DO NOT!
- Break any blisters
- Apply butter or grease; trapped heat worsens the burn and promotes infection.
- Apply ice, which may cause more injury
- Apply creams or ointments

DO!
- While protecting yourself from contact, brush off any powdered chemicals off the skin
- Remove all clothing
- Continuously flush the injured area with low-pressure running water

DO NOT!
- Attempt to neutralize the chemical

DO!
- Protect yourself! Disconnect the power source, or move it with a non-conductive object like a broomstick before touching the victim. If the victim has caught fire, smother the flames with a heavy blanket. Administer CPR if necessary.
- If CPR is not necessary, Cool the burn with water

The following conditions may require immediate medical attention:
- A burn that encompasses a larger area of the body than the palm of the hand
- A burn to a critical area of the body such as the face, hands, feet or genitals
- A burn that is white, gray, leathery or painless

Please be advised that the depth of a burn injury is not always immediately apparent to the untrained eye.

When in doubt, call The Grossman Burn Center at Research Medical Center. 816-276-HEAL (4325)
Zubaida was 9 years old. She was a member of a nomadic family that consisted of her two parents and eight other children. She and her family are from the Farah province of Afghanistan. In August of 2001, Zubaida was pouring kerosene into an indoor home cooking stove while it was hot. The fuel ignited and she caught on fire. She sustained burns to her face, neck, chest and arms. When the fire was extinguished, her father took her to a nearby medical provider where she was given ointments. As her condition worsened, her father decided to travel to Iran for treatment. She was admitted to a hospital in Iran for 20 days and then discharged. The doctors there suggested to her father to take her home to die. Zubaida did not die, but her injuries resulted in horrible disfigurement, severe functional impairment and a crippled self-esteem.

In February, 2002, on the recommendation of local shopkeepers, Zubaida’s father, Muhammad, sought help from the Americans for his severely burned daughter. She was taken to the American Army base in Kabul. There, Zubaida met with American military doctors and they decided to contact the U.S. State Department to see what could be done.

The State Department contacted Dr. Peter Grossman, a Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon at The Grossman Burn Center in Sherman Oaks, California. With the aid of the Children’s Burn Foundation, a Southern California based charitable organization that lends financial and social assistance to burn-injured children who have no means of getting help any other way Zubaida was brought to America for treatment at The Grossman Burn Center.

Zubaida, completed twelve major surgeries over a course of one year and within a short period of time, the transformation was astounding. She began school for the first time in her life at Round Meadow Elementary School in Calabasas, California and learned to speak English in 12 weeks. She attended psychotherapy and physical therapy, as well as, developed many wonderful friendships with her classmates at school. She had her first slumber party on her 11th birthday, March 22nd, 2003. Zubaida says she would like to be a pediatric doctor and help rebuild her country when she grows up.

Virtually all who came in contact with her gravitated towards her, sorrowful over her tragedy, amazed by her courage, reveling in her transformation. So many people have come together to help this one little girl and give her something that she was almost robbed of . . . her childhood. Zubaida will always be scarred but when you meet her you realize how beautiful and vibrant she is. This triumph over tragedy story of one little girls unbreakable spirit and iron will, as well as, the goodwill of mankind is truly inspirational.

(Zubaida Hasan - A Miracle Story)

Dr. Peter H. Grossman

Peter H. Grossman, MD is a board-certified plastic surgeon whose private medical practice is divided between cosmetic and reconstructive surgery and the care of the burn-injured patient. A graduate of Northwestern University and the Chicago Medical School, Dr. Grossman continued his medical education with a general surgery residency at Cedars Sinai Medical Center, a plastic and reconstructive surgery residence at the University of Missouri, Kansas City, and fellowships in breast reconstructive surgery and aesthetic and endoscopic surgery at the University of Alabama, Birmingham.

Dr. Grossman returned to Los Angeles in 1995 and began practice at what has become the Grossman Medical Group. He is the Medical Director of the Grossman Burn Centers. He has served as chairman of Region 9 of the American Burn Association, which includes California, Oregon, Washington, and Hawaii, and has been appointed as an expert reviewer by the Medical Board of California since 2001.

The diverse nature of Dr. Grossman’s practice, inclusive of cosmetic surgery, burn, and reconstructive surgery, has made him one of the most sought after surgeons in the region. In addition to being the author of numerous articles in multiple publications and peer review journals, Dr. Grossman’s accomplishments have been featured on national and international television programs, including ABC’s Prime Time Live, The Learning Channel, and the Discovery Health Channel. He has lectured extensively around the United States on topics related to cosmetic surgery and the treatment of burns. Dr. Grossman and the Grossman Burn Center have established a nationwide reputation for quality patient care.

Dr. Grossman serves as the current President of the Los Angeles Society of Plastic Surgeons and is a member of many honorary societies (listed in his curriculum vitae). He has authored or co-authored over 35 articles in medical journals, and written or contributed to six text books.

(Zubaida Hasan - A Miracle Story)

(Zubaida Hasan - A Miracle Story)