

SOUTHERN CA BURN MODEL SYSTEM

Quarterly Newsletter

Welcome!

WELCOME to our very first newsletter brought to you by the Southern California Burn Model System (SCBMS)! In this winter edition you will be introduced to some of our collaborative partners, learn about the great research projects taking place, highlights of our first year as a Burn Model System (BMS) center, and get informed of resources available for the burn community.

We hope you enjoy our first newsletter and that you come back each quarter to discover the new developments occurring within our BMS center. Until then, on behalf of the SCBMS team, we wish you all a Happy Holiday Season!



BURN MODEL SYSTEM ANNUAL MEETING
@ WASHINGTON, D.C. 11/2023

MEET OUR TEAM:

- **Dr. Haig Yenikomshian,**
Project Director, Associate Professor of Plastic Surgery
- **Dr. Justin Gillenwater,**
Co-Investigator, Associate Professor of Plastic Surgery
- **Dr. Sarah A. Stoycos,**
Clinical Psychologist, Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences at USC, Keck School of Medicine
- **Marientina Gotsis,**
MFA, Professor of Cinematic Practice at the Interactive Media & Games at the USC School of Cinematic Arts
- **Elizabeth Flores,**
Research Coordinator
- **Elizabeth Mojarro-Huang,**
Research Coordinator

Southern California Burn Model System

The Burn Model System (BMS) program began in 1994, with funding from the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR). The Southern California Burn Model System (SCBMS) joined the BMS program last September 2022, making us the first BMS center in the State of California, and the first BMS center working closely with the burn community in Southern California. We are part of the University of Southern California, associated with the Los Angeles General Medical Center, and are located inside their Regional Burn Unit.

The SCBMS center joins three active BMS centers which include: (1) Boston-Harvard Burn Injury Model System at the Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital, (2) North Texas Burn Rehabilitation Model System at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center and Parkland Health and Hospital Systems, and (3) Northwest Regional Burn Model System at the Harborview Medical Center. Each of these centers conducts research and contributes data to the BMS National database. Together, under the BMS program working for the same cause of improving care and outcomes for people with burn injuries through research.

This Fall 2023, our SCBMS center completed its first year with the BMS program. Our SCBMS center had a successful year with positive outcomes. These include: (1) enrolling and consenting 47 patients with the SCBMS research study, (2) enrolling and consenting 14 patients in our SCBMS site specific module project titled, "Fractional CO2 Laser Treatment Effects on Burn Rehabilitation and Recovery", (3) introducing the SCBMS research study to a total of 71 patients within our assigned burn center that met the eligibility criteria, (4) participating in The American Burn Association (ABA) 2023 Annual meeting where the SCBMS had 2 podium presentations winning best in category for the poster presentation "Psychiatric Illness and Substance Abuse; Unaddressed Factors in Burn Injury," and (5) actively collaborating in module projects with the other BMS centers like that led by Boston-Harvard Burn Injury Model System at the Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital titled, "RESTORE Project: Resource Support to Optimize Recovery."



HAVE QUESTIONS CONTACT OUR TEAM:

WEBSITE: WWW.SCBMS.USC.EDU

INSTAGRAM: [SOCALBMS](https://www.instagram.com/SOCALBMS)

CONTACT NUMBERS: (323) 409-6762/ (323) 409-7721

ADDRESS: 1510 SAN PABLO STREET SUITE 415

LOS ANGELES, CA 90033

EMAIL: ELIZABETH.FLORES@MED.USC.EDU

ELIZABETH.HUANG@MED.USC.EDU

The Wellness Center

The Wellness Center is a one-stop shop destination for health and wellness. Our mission is to inspire and empower residents and patients to take control of their health and well-being by providing wrap-around wellness and prevention services and resources that enable prevention, address the root cause of disease, and improve health outcomes. Our services are free of charge and open to all over the phone and in person.

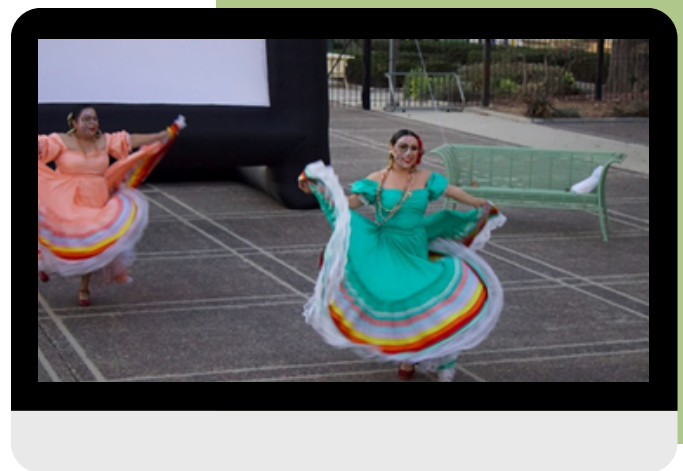
Our services include: Legal Aid, Health insurance enrollment, Food assistance, Healthy cooking, Exercise and fitness, Chronic disease management classes, Grief support and additional support groups, and Family programs. We started working with the burn unit at the beginning of the year, and three wellness navigators were assigned: Dayanara Nieto, Maritza Lopez, and Michelle Zamora. We offer our services at the outpatient clinic on Mondays and Wednesdays and at the inpatient clinic on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 1 PM to 3:30 PM daily.

On October 27, 2023, we held our yearly movie night screening.

This year, our theme was Harvest Fest, where we combined a health fair and showcased the movie "Hotel Transylvania." We had fun activities like face painting, making bracelets, shirt-printing, a pumpkin giveaway, a petting zoo, raffles, folkloric dance, and a Halloween costume contest.

Overall we had:

- 441 community members attend
- 17 exhibitor organizations participated in the health fair (including the burn unit)
- 310 meals distributed, 200 conchas, cafe de olla, champurrado, and popcorn.



For more information, feel free to call us at
(213)784-9191 or visit our website at
www.thewellnesscenterla.org

Research Spotlight

Paul Won, Medical Student

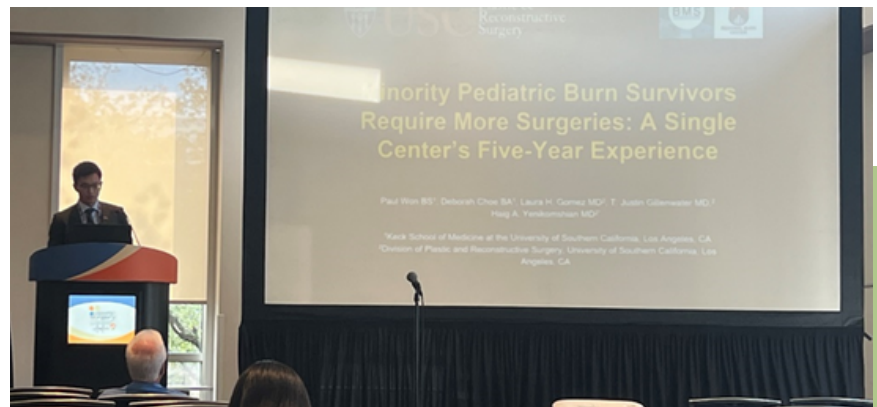


Greetings! I am Paul Won, a 4th year medical student at USC. I am thrilled to share some accomplishments in research with my mentor, Dr. Yenikomshian in the Southern California Burn Model System (SCBMS) and our Burn center. I dedicated my research year to advancing the knowledge and treatment of burn injuries and their psychosocial impact on patients and caregivers.

One such publication, "The Impact of Peer Support Group Programs on Psychosocial Outcomes for Burn Survivors and Caregivers: A Review of the Literature," sheds light on the importance of peer support in the recovery process. Additionally, my research has delved into topics such as burn reconstructive surgery during the COVID-19 pandemic, the effects of psychiatric illness and substance abuse on burn injury, and the unique challenges faced by pediatric minority patients in the United States. Several studies involving the Burn Model System (BMS) includes "Worse Itch and Fatigue in Racial and Ethnic Minorities: A Burn Model System Study", "Post-Burn Psychosocial Outcomes in Pediatric Minority Patients in the United States: An Observational Cohort Burn Model System Study", and "Physical and Psychosocial Outcomes among Burn-Injured People with Heterotrophic Ossification: A Burn Model System Study."



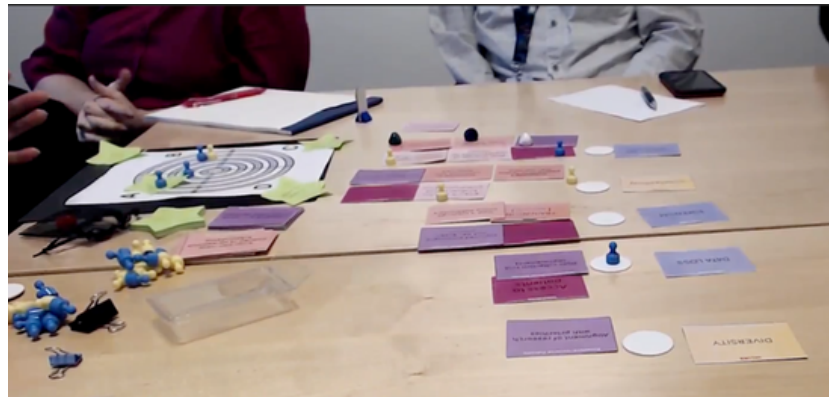
"I dedicated my research year to advancing the knowledge and treatment of burn injuries and their psychosocial impact on patients and caregivers."



This year, I had the privilege of presenting my research findings in podium presentations, including discussions on surgery among minority pediatric burn survivors and the physical and psychosocial outcomes of burn-injured individuals with heterotrophic ossification. These were presented at the Plastic Surgery the Meeting (PSTM) and the American Burn Association (ABA) Annual Meeting. This research endeavors have been awarded top medical student abstracts and top poster presentation distinctions.

Through my work, I aspire to make a lasting impact on the field of burn care and research, with a focus on improving the lives of burn survivors and their caregivers. I remain committed to pushing the boundaries of knowledge and continuously seeking new avenues for enhancing burn care practices.

Professor Marientina Gotsis & CMBHC



The Garden Lab of the Creative Media & Behavioral Health Center (CMBHC) of the University of Southern California (USC) has been contributing to the SCBMS community building engagement efforts with students of all rank and discipline in the following ways. The lab has made significant progress on Broadening Circles (BC), a conversation game about patient-centered research. BC is a board game for teams of 3-6 people aimed at novice research teams, working research teams and community engagement experiences. Players work together to align patient-centered and researcher-centered outcomes by using resources, leveraging values and mitigating challenges across the life of a project. Expected impact may not be possible unless patients and community are engaged throughout.

The game began with a through literature review into scholarly research on patient engagement and co-design sessions with the lab's senior scholar Dr. Maryalice Jordan-Marsh, who brings decades of experience in clinical, community, and academic settings.

We have iterated more than 25 versions of the game with regular internal playtests in our lab with students, volunteers and guests. Two milestone versions have been played with members of the SCBMS team (May & October 2023). In November 7th, the game was demonstrated to the Cedars-Sinai Cancer Research Center for Health Equity and their collaborators. This center is interested in using the game for interactive focus groups with three community advisory boards. We plan at least two more milestone versions in the Spring of 2024.

CMBHC's is building BC leveraging its experience with The Brain Architecture Game, a tabletop game about the science of early childhood that was developed in collaboration with the Center of Developing Child at Harvard University, the University of Pittsburgh, and the FrameWorks Institute. Originally developed in 2008, the game was played with 12,000 players nationally and internationally and commercialized in 2016, reaching more than 30,000 players worldwide annually. This game was demonstrated to the SCBMC team and members of the Burn Unit in Fall 2022 and with plastic surgery residents in April 2023 as a conversation tool for trauma-informed healthcare practices—a common use of the game.

In addition to BC, the lab has also embarked on designing PlayPen OT/XR a rehabilitation platform and games suite for occupational therapists working with burn injuries in the inpatient clinic at Los Angeles General Medical Center. Building on the lab's 15 years of experience in cognitive-motor and sensorimotor rehabilitation needs of spinal cord injury, transradial amputation, and Parkinson's, we have translated our design and prototyping workflow to the burn injury community needs. This was not a planned SCBMS project, but emerged from the enthusiasm of our lab's students as several are deeply interested in rehabilitation work.



RESOURCES for the Burn Community

Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center (MSKTC)

Mailing Address:

1400 Crystal Drive 10th Floor
Arlington, VA 22202

Contact Numbers:

(202) 403-5600

Website: www.msktc.org

Email: msktc@air.org



Phoenix Society

Mailing Address:

525 Ottawa Ave. NW, FRNT
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Contact Numbers:

(800) 888-2876/
(616) 458-2773

Website: www.phoenix-society.org

Email: info@phoenix-society.org

Social Media: [@phoenixsociety](https://www.instagram.com/phoenixsociety)

Children's Burn Foundation (CBF)

Mailing Address:

5000 Van Nuys Boulevard, Suite #210
Sherman Oaks, CA 91403

Contact Numbers:

(818) 907-2822

Website: www.childburn.org

Email: info@childburn.org

Social Media: [@childrensburnfoundation](https://www.instagram.com/childrensburnfoundation)

Alisa Ann Ruch Burn Foundation (AARBF)

Southern CA Region:

Mailing Address:

44 Montgomery Street,
3rd floor, San Francisco, CA 94104

Contact Numbers:

Toll Free: (800) 242- BURN/
(818) 848-0223 ext. 130

Website: www.aarbf.org

Email: mbanks@aarbf.org

Social Media: [@aarbf](https://www.instagram.com/aarbf)