



Heinz Rode receives SA Burn Society's Burn Hero Award

The South African Burn Society recently awarded the Burn Hero Award to Professor Heinz Rode. This prize, donated by Smith and Nephew Limited South Africa, is in alignment with their strategic goal of advancing burn management on the African continent. The recipient may choose the medical institution or burns unit to whom the prize money will be donated.

Prof Rode has been at the forefront of burn treatment and research for over 35 years. He has influenced countless lives and careers through his teaching and work since joining the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital in 1975. He headed the hospital's department of Paediatric Surgery and upon retirement in 2007 dedicated all his time to the burns unit. He has contributed 51 chapters to leading international textbooks and published over 300 articles in peer-reviewed journals. He has received many international awards, including the Golden Jubilee Award from the Colleges of Medicine of South Africa for outstanding services to medicine and the Zora Janzekovic Golden Razor Award for outstanding service to burned children.

Prof Rode was the driving force behind the establishment of the Pan-African Paediatric Surgical Association and initiated the acceptance of surgeons from Africa to train at Red Cross Children's Hospital under the auspices of the University of Cape Town. He developed a Fellowship in Paediatric Surgery through the Colleges of Medicine of South Africa and established the Emergency Management of Severe Burns (EMSB) course in Africa. In 1995 he began running a free clinic at the Michael

Mapongwane Hospital in Khayelitsha for patients who do not have the means to go to Red Cross Children's Hospital.

In an ETV documentary entitled *South African Heroes* he was quoted as saying, "An adult can look after himself, but a child is voiceless and somebody needs to look after them. Everything is different in a child - the disease process and the family involved with the child. The legacy that one wants to leave behind is quality care."

Phoenix, along with many grateful patients, parents and medical staff, applauds this great man.



Professor Heinz Rode.

Education fund update

Phoenix's Education Fund, which was established in 2012 to support the education of burn survivors, has passed the R 700,000 mark of its Phase 1 goal of raising R1m. This milestone was reached thanks to the generosity of many donors and the generous contributions of the UK's annual Action for Burns and Children's Charity Challenge events and the M&M and Bands4Burns fundraisers held in 2013 and 2014.

The fund covers the costs of tuition, board and lodging and also transportation to hospital for follow-up treatment, from primary school up to Grade 12. Phoenix is implementing this project in cooperation with St Joseph's Home for Children, which was founded by the Pallottine Sisters in 1935 in Cape Town. For the past two years, Phoenix has supported two children at St Josephs, both of whom are doing well on the very long and challenging road to rehabilitation.



Laura Gaze of Action for Burns and Children (UK) with two of the beneficiaries of Phoenix's Education Fund.

Action for Burns and Children Charity Challenge

Seventeen bikers and hikers from the United Kingdom and Australia will come to South Africa in November to participate in the fourth annual ABC (Action for Burns and Children) Charity Challenge - a dual hike/bike event in aid of Phoenix.

James Haskell, the England and London Wasps rugby player, has once again shown his support of the event.

The hikers and bikers, led by Mike and Carolyn Cripps, who represent Phoenix in the United Kingdom, will arrive in Cape Town on the 8th of November and then transfer to Knysna by road to begin their five-day Hike and Bike through the

Garden Route to Cape Town. The event will culminate with a celebratory dinner in Cape Town, followed the next day by a visit to the Burns Unit at Red Cross Children's Hospital and the St Joseph's Home for Children, where the participants will have a chance to meet some of the beneficiaries of this event.

The Charity Challenge is a gruelling experience, but also very rewarding for all the participants, some of whom have already completed the event three times!

For those who missed the event last year, there are still a few places. To book your place, visit <http://www.abc-challenge.com/>



Improved Care Packs for moms

Burn injuries occur without warning and mothers often leave home by taxi or by ambulance to the nearest medical facility. Many of these women arrive with their hands and faces burnt from trying to avert scalds or from rescuing their child from a burning shack. Some have only the burnt clothing on their bodies when all their possessions are lost in shack



fires. These women become the strength, anchor and sanctuary for their children through difficult and painful burn treatment. Some of them literally live on the chair next to their child's hospital bed for four to six months.

Phoenix has long realized the importance of a mother at the bedside and has for years assisted these unsung heroines by providing care packs with toiletries, a face cloth and some energy lozenges. After reviewing the patients' needs regarding these care packs, we are now also adding clean underwear and providing a clean T-shirt in addition to the standard care pack. Cripps-Sears has kindly provided a large number of beautiful, high-quality T-shirts for moms and patients. These are very popular with the moms and remind us every day of the great contribution that ABC and Cripps-Sears provide to our burn survivors and their families.

Donated items, such as complimentary in-flight toiletry bags and airline towelling slippers, have also proved very welcome by the moms and dads. These kits not only provide relief to carers, but also improve overall hygiene in the ward, a key factor where infection control is paramount.

To support this project, please contact Margaret Kumalo at 082 932 9504 or admin@pbp.org.za .

Phoenix helps little Guillermo

Gillermo Witbooi is a brave five-year old boy who sustained severe hot water burns after falling into a hot bath. He is from George, which is about 370 km from Cape Town. He was flown by helicopter to the Red Cross Children's Hospital in Cape Town for treatment. This brave little boy recovered remarkably well and he and his family became some of the first beneficiaries of Comair's flight donations to return families from distant areas to their homes after treatment at Red Cross Hospital. Phoenix assisted by providing ground transportation between the hospital and airport for him and his family. Following his return home, Phoenix has also couriered his burn medication and scar management ointments to George. This wonderful boy stole the hearts of all involved in his care. We wish him all the best for his recovery!



Gillermo with his mother at Cape Town airport. This was his first flight and all he could say was "magic.. magic... magic..."

VOLUNTEERS' PAGE

Catholic Women's League – Five years and counting

In this edition of Phoenix Update, we pay tribute to the Catholic Women's League (CWL) in Cape Town. In 2009, after hearing about Phoenix's work, CWL member Trish Wessels decided to start collecting funds in support of Phoenix by asking her fellow CWL members to deposit their small change in a collection "tin" improvised from a plastic coffee creamer container. Several other ladies began doing likewise in their parishes, proving that where there is a will to give, there is a way!

Subsequently, CWL adopted Phoenix as one of its beneficiaries and many of the ladies in the Archdiocese of Cape Town have taken collection tins for Phoenix. Others have organized fund-raising events in their parishes. Recently, the ladies have also started putting

together Moms Care Packs for Phoenix. At a recent CWL meeting, Phoenix's Dr Roux Martinez thanked the CWL ladies for their wonderful support during the past five years and told them how much their support is appreciated by the burn survivors and their mothers.

CWL has become the steadiest local institutional supporter of Phoenix. The wonderful support of CWL is especially touching because the patron of Phoenix is His Grace, Archbishop Stephen Brislin, the Archbishop of Cape Town. The Catholic community in Cape Town has really taken the cause of burn survivors to heart, from the Archbishop, right down to the level of individual parishioners, many of whom support us anonymously. To all the wonderful ladies of the CWL, we say a big Thank You!



CWL diocesan President, Anne Deary (centre), flanked on the right by CWL members Trish Wessels and Vera Crowther, presenting a representative portion of a large donation of collection tins and Moms Care Packs to Phoenix's Dr Roux Martinez (left). The donations were collected from a large number of parishes in Cape Town.

Thank YOU! We gratefully thank all our individual donors and the following organisations: Action for Burns and Children, Catholic Women's League, Catholic Church of Constantia, Cripps Sears and Partners.