

2009 Barbara Knothe Burn Therapist Achievement Award:  
**Linda C. French, PT and E. Tonas Kalil, PT, MGA**



Linda and Tonas have a combined 48 years of Physical Therapy knowledge and practical experience working in a variety of different burn hospital and educational settings. They have been active members of the both the APTA and ABA since 1986 and have contributed as educators, authors and instructors in multiple formats throughout their careers in the burn community on both the local and national scale. Most notably, in 1991 they were co-authors of a published manuscript which challenged the fundamental practice of 10 day immobilization following skin grafting to the lower extremities which led the way to the currently practiced much shorter time frames that we employ in burn practice today. However, this inseparable duo has served their biggest contribution to the burn rehabilitation community through their work with adolescent burn camps.

Linda and Tonas expanded their depth of burn camp experiences to become Co-Directors of the Mid-Atlantic Burn Camp Fund Incorporated, as the current President and Secretary-Treasurer respectively. They established this tax-exempt organization that hosts an annual week-long therapeutic summer camp. This "two of a kind" therapist team are responsible for recruitment and supervision of a staff of more than 50 volunteers and have coordinated burn unit liaisons and fund raising activities which has grown to an annual budget in excess of \$100,000. Additionally, both have been moderators and speakers at several ABA Burn Camp Workshops and in 1995, they assumed and continue to currently hold the position of Co-Directors of the National Fire Fighters Children's Burn Camp.

They have served these multi-faceted positions for the past 17 years in addition to maintaining daily employment - Linda is a Physical Therapist at the Johns Hopkins – Howard County General Hospital for acute care and outpatient therapy with the Center for Wound Healing and Tonas is a Faculty Instructor and Academic Coordinator of Clinical Education at the University Of Maryland School Of Medicine. Linda and Tonas effortlessly maintain their longstanding presence in burn rehabilitation and their contributions to the children that they serve are perpetuated by their selfless examples and teachings.