

## 2016 Barbara Knothe Burn Therapist Achievement Award

### **Sandra Fletchall OTR/L, CHT, MPA, FAOTA**



Sandra has been in practice for over 42 years in burn rehabilitation. As an active member of numerous well known professional organizations including the ABA, ASHT, and AOTA – she also holds the mantle to support and actively participates in less known but equally significant and critical organizations including the Tennessee OT Association; the International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics; the American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists and the Amputee Coalition of America. She has served almost every appointed position in the Tennessee OT Legislative body including Treasurer; Legislative Committee Chair; Licensure Chairperson; Newsletter Editor; and most importantly serving as President over three separate legislative terms. In addition, she has been appointed by the Governor of Tennessee to serve on both the State’s Worker’s Compensation Advisory Panel; as Secretary to

Licensure and as Board Member to the OT and PT Examiners State Review.

As similar counterpart to Barb herself, Sandra takes the work to heart and wholeheartedly gives fully to the burn survivor as well as the burn team. She has attained numerous specialty certifications across a spectrum of skills related to both burns and physical rehabilitation including upper extremity traumatic injuries; multiple segment amputees; crush injuries; spinal cord injuries; and work hardening capacity training. It is when these catastrophic injuries are presented that Sandra is the most sought after resource and most comfortable in both skills and compassion to bring the burn survivor back to full function. She was so much “at ease” with rehabilitating these tragic individuals that she developed and became owner and director of a specialized work hardening practice facility dedicated to serving multiple burn and amputee trauma survivors – serving not only the individuals in her state but becoming a resource for this specialized rehabilitation service throughout the South Eastern United States. During this time, she was also a lecturer and served as adjunct faculty at both the University of Missouri and University of Tennessee on burn rehabilitation and amputee rehabilitation.

She has published 14 clinical chapters and peer reviewed articles focusing on a wide array of topics but always with the central focus on the effective rehabilitation of complex burn sequela. In addition, she has amassed 45 presentations at numerous conferences at both national and international venues including ISBI, WFOT, ABA, ASHT, and ISPO. Moreover, she has been a stalwart fixture providing lectures, education and knowledge for over 40 years at the Tennessee OT Association and over 25 years at the Southern Region Burn Conference. Notwithstanding, she has also served on numerous ABA committees including the Rehabilitation Committee and also as Co-Chair and Chair of the OT/PT SIG.

In summary, Sandra has been a resilient force and essential cog in the burn rehabilitation engine - she never waivers from her post of service and commitment to rehabilitate the burn survivor and more often serves as a constant educator and provider of optimal burn care. She is deeply rooted in the care of the burn survivor and as such highly exemplifies the high merit of standard upon which this award strives to endure and preserve in the spirit of Barb herself. Sandra is a living example of the spirit and commitment needed as a burn rehabilitation clinician.