

## **2022 Barbara Knothe Burn Therapist Achievement Award**

### **Hope Hunter, PT**



Hope Hunter has been a burn clinician for over 30 years and an American Burn Association member for the last 25 of those years. Hope has spent her entire career dedicated to the New York Presbyterian Hospital at The University Hospital of Columbia and Cornell in New York City. Hope has been a constant provident in the burn rehabilitation program throughout her tenure and brings a wealth of experience and knowledge in critical burn care.

Hope graduated from the City University of New York at Hunter College with a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Therapy in 1990. Hope immediately took a staff Physical Therapy position at New York

Presbyterian Hospital. Once she began working, she quickly migrated to the burn unit and began to find herself enmeshed into the dynamic and emerging burn care and rehabilitation team. Hope was promoted to Senior Physical Therapist for the Burn Service in 1993 and then quickly arose to Supervisor of Physical Therapy in 1996. Hope has been praised by her fellow colleagues and co-workers as a “hardnosed clinician capable of doing whatever it takes to get the job done”. Hope has continued to grow her professional pursuits in this capacity as she also has been appointed the Co-Center Coordinator of Clinical Education in 2007.

As a member of the American Burn Association, Hope has been a foundational member helping to further develop the clinical landscape of burn rehabilitation. Hope has served as Co-Chair and ascending to Chair of the Occupational and Physical Therapy Special Interest Group from 2003 to 2006. In addition, Hope has become a Phoenix SOAR (Survivors Offering Assistance in Recovery) Coordinator in 2007 further connecting the rehabilitation needs of the burn survivor. Hope has presented and co-authored numerous clinical papers and presentations including but not limited to – Splinting; Scar Management; ROM Outcomes; Pain & Pruritis; The Use of Gaming Systems in Effective Rehabilitation; Burn Camp Experiences; Wound Care and Disaster Management.

Hope has always managed to maintain a strong connection to the burn survivors, as demonstrated in her volunteer capacity to her burn camps. Hope has served in numerous capacities including Co-Facilitator of burn survivor groups; Camp Counselor and Camp Director – all these efforts in a volunteer capacity and further dedicated to advance the functional and psychological well-being of the survivors that she has encountered. Moreover, Hope was instrumental, along with her team, to navigate the unthinkable atrocities of 9/11. As the national focal point of one of the most destructive losses in our lifetime, Hope, and the courageous team, served as a catalyst of change – to build up from the life losses and to be a

supportive network to the tireless first responders. This deep connection to the firefighters could not be stronger and it is a testimony to Hope's strength as a shepherd to this collaboration.

As a measure of her capacity as a true team leader, Hope has always put her team members first – foregoing attendance at the regional and national meetings so that her staff may have the opportunity to learn and bring knowledge forward. As the landscape of burn care continues to develop, Hope has continued to be part of this developmental process – providing guidance, leadership and a foundation for continued burn rehabilitation success for the next generation and beyond.