

## In Memoriam

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# Barbara Knothe, MOT, OTR/L, CHT, 1945–2001

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Barbara Knothe

On March 5, 2001, the burn rehabilitation community lost a long-time clinician, enthusiast, and friend in Barbara Knothe. Barb originally graduated with an Associate Degree in Nursery Education from the State University of New York, Cobleskill in 1965 and then went on to receive a degree in physical education from West Virginia University, Morgantown in 1969. After teaching for several years, Barb returned to graduate school and achieved her Master of Occupational Therapy degree from Texas Women's Uni-

versity, Denton in 1982. She received her Certified Hand Therapist designation in May 1992.

After her occupational therapy education, Barb joined the staff at St. Agnes Medical Center in Philadelphia and worked there for 17 years. During that time she was involved with patients at all levels, but her primary clinical interest was burn care and rehabilitation. Most recently, she worked at Temple University Hospital in Philadelphia as Occupational Therapy Clinical Supervisor responsible for burns, when a new burn center was established there in July 1999.

Barb had been a member of many professional organizations including the American Burn Association since 1982. During this time she gave presentations at several OT/PT Special Interest Groups and eventually held the responsibility of cochair (1998) and chair (1999) of this Special Interest Group. Barb also shared her in-depth clinical knowledge and skills with lectures at the 1999 American Burn Association postgraduate course, "Splinting and Casting—the Challenge of the Burned Hand," and Sunrise Symposia in 1996 and 2000. She coauthored an abstract in 1996 and recently finished an appointment on the Rehabilitation Committee of the American Burn Association in 2000.

Additionally, Barb gave presentations at several of her region's Mid-Atlantic Burn Conferences between 1994 and 2000 and was very active on a local professional level lecturing on burns and hand therapy. She was the burn center coordinator of the National Firefighter Burn Study between 1995 and 2000. On May 9, 2000, Barb was honored to present a full-day symposium on "Management Techniques of the Burn Patient" to the Irish Society of Hand Therapists in Dublin. Most notably, she coauthored a chapter titled "Therapist's Management Of The Burned Hand" in the fifth edition of the textbook, *Rehabilitation Of The Hand And Upper Extremity*, by Mackin, Callahan, Osterman, and Skirvin.

Barb was an accomplished schoolgirl gymnast and continued her interest in gymnastics as a coach, eventually achieving the status of judge on a national scale. Her enthusiasm for life and her profession will be missed most by those fortunate enough to have been associated with her.