

2013 Barbara Knothe Burn Therapist Achievement

Lisa Forbes, MSc, OT Reg(MB)



Lisa Forbes, Msc, OT Reg(MB) has been an Occupational Therapist for 14 years serving her entire career working in burns, plastic and reconstructive rehabilitation for both adults and pediatrics. Lisa first earned the title of Clinical Specialist in Pediatrics at the Winnipeg Children's Hospital in 2001 and has now served the last 10 years as Clinical Specialist in Burn Care at the Health Sciences Centre. Notwithstanding her full time burn responsibilities, Lisa has also passionately served as Director of the Firefighters Burn Camp Mamawi and on the planning committee for both the Mamingwey Burn Survivor Conference and the Canadian Burn Survivor Conference over 12 years. Lisa has been an active member of both of the American Burn Association and Manitoba Society of Occupational Therapists throughout her entire career and is the recipient of the 2012 Manitoba Outstanding Occupational Therapist Award.

Lisa, like Barb Knothe, is a dedicated clinician, a thoughtful researcher and a powerful educator. She is devoted to the whole patient. She not only provides her patients with skills for physical rehabilitation to return to their life role, but is also devoted to providing them with the critical psychological tools for coping and adjustment to these life role challenges. She does not shy away from difficult conversations, yet approaches her patients with compassion conviction and understanding. Her dedication to her patients extends far beyond the hospital walls with her extensive and longstanding involvement in burn camps and other burn survivor organizations.

As a researcher, Lisa's work demonstrates this same consideration for the opinions and perspectives of the burn patient. Lisa has served on multiple ABA committees, symposia and workshop panels and has been a consistent, active participant in the organization every year since 2001. Moreover, she has been an energetic, contributing member of the Canadian SIG, Burn Camp SIG and the ABA / Phoenix Society Joint Aftercare and Reintegration Committee. The breadth of perspective in her research is further complemented by her detailed, objective, and systematic approach to investigation. She is an eloquent, candid and passionate speaker and incorporates humor which lightens the mood of her students and survivors, whether in a group or individual

setting and allows for greater ease of learning overall. She openly discusses sensitive or controversial issues in a professional way and can always be counted on to follow through by bringing vigor and passion to all her endeavors.

Lisa's devoted work from bedside to professional conferences, publications and hands-on participation in burn camps and survivor activities, clearly makes her an ideal candidate worthy as the first Canadian recipient of this award. Lisa's sense for incorporating practical clinical skills with academic research exemplify her character and solidify her recognition as a high caliber burn rehabilitation therapist.