

Knowledge into action staff exchange within the European Burns Association

The EBA encourages staff exchange between verified burn centres within Europe.

The European Burns Association (EBA) recognizes the importance of collaboration, knowledge exchange, and professional growth in the field of burn care. To facilitate and promote these objectives, the EBA has developed a staff exchange program aimed at connecting verified burn centers across Europe. This program seeks to foster cooperation, encourage the sharing of expertise, and enhance patient care outcomes through staff exchanges. This document serves as a guide, outlining the steps, considerations, and expectations for participating in the program.

Aim:

The aim of the staff exchange program is to promote collaboration and knowledge sharing among healthcare professionals working in verified burn centers across Europe. By facilitating staff exchanges, the program seeks to:

- ✓ Enhance Knowledge Transfer: Create opportunities for burn care professionals to exchange information, best practices, and innovative approaches, ultimately enhancing the knowledge base within the burn care community.
- ✓ Foster Professional Growth: Provide burn care professionals with the chance to expand their skills, gain new perspectives, and deepen their expertise by immersing themselves in different healthcare systems and practices.
- ✓ Encourage Collaboration: Foster collaboration and networking among burn care professionals, promoting joint research initiatives, multidisciplinary projects, and quality improvement efforts.
- ✓ Improve Patient Outcomes: Utilize the acquired knowledge and expertise from staff exchanges to enhance the quality of burn care services, leading to improved patient outcomes and overall healthcare delivery.

While the current version of the Staff Exchange Program does not include financial support, the EBA remains committed to exploring opportunities for future sponsorship and financial assistance. The EBA acknowledges the potential benefits of such support, including the ability to offer financial assistance to participants, cover travel and accommodation costs, and enhance the accessibility and reach of the program. As the program evolves, the EBA may actively seek funding opportunities and sponsorships to further support and expand the Staff Exchange Program.

Note: The subsequent sections of the document will provide detailed steps, eligibility criteria, the exchange process, support and logistics information, as well as considerations related to confidentiality, ethics, evaluation, and reporting. These sections will outline the practical aspects of participating in the staff exchange program.

The mission of the European Burns Association (EBA) is to enhance collaboration and knowledge sharing among verified burn centers across Europe. We strive to promote excellence in burn care, research, and education through staff exchange programs, fostering professional growth and improving patient outcomes.

Staff Exchange Program Document

Program Overview:

The EBA staff exchange program, initiated by the European Burns Association, aims to facilitate collaboration and exchange of knowledge and expertise among verified burn centers throughout Europe. This program provides opportunities for burn care professionals to engage in short-term staff exchanges, fostering professional development, and promoting advancements in burn care.

Program Objectives:

- ✓ Promote knowledge sharing: Facilitate the exchange of information, best practices, and innovative approaches in burn care among staff members from different burn centers.
- ✓ Enhance professional growth: Provide burn care professionals with the opportunity to gain new skills, expertise, and perspectives through exposure to different healthcare systems and practices.
- ✓ Foster collaboration: Encourage collaboration and networking among burn care professionals across Europe to foster joint research projects, multidisciplinary initiatives, and quality improvement efforts.
- ✓ Improve patient outcomes: Utilize the acquired knowledge and expertise to enhance the quality of burn care services, resulting in improved patient outcomes and overall healthcare delivery.

Eligibility Criteria:

- a. Participants: The staff exchange program is open to healthcare professionals, including physicians, nurses, researchers and allied healthcare providers, working in verified burn centers or after care centers affiliated with the European Burns Association. The candidates for staff exchange are members of the EBA.
- b. Verified Burn Centers: Burn centers seeking participation in the program must meet the criteria and standards established by the European Burns Association to ensure the provision of high-quality burn care services.

Exchange Process:

- a. Application: Interested participants must submit a formal application outlining their objectives, desired host institution, proposed duration of exchange, and anticipated outcomes. In the formal application please provide a summary of what you hope to achieve during the fellowship/exchange program and how it may affect your work in the future. For instance: your main learning objectives and areas of interest. Please provide a detailed and well thought-through application as this will increase your chances of acceptance. Applications will be reviewed and approved by the European Burns Association executive committee or Professionals Allied to Medicine committee overseeing the program.
- b. Matching: The European Burns Association will facilitate the matching process between applicants and host institutions based on participants' preferences, availability, and host center capacity.
- c. Duration: The duration of staff exchanges may vary, typically ranging from a few days to several weeks, depending on the nature of the exchange and agreed-upon objectives and duration.

d. Agreement and Logistics: Participants and host institutions will be required to sign an agreement outlining the terms and conditions of the staff exchange, including host institution mentor for the applicant, logistical arrangements, responsibilities, and intellectual property rights. In the agreement clearly specify the expectations of the exchange; whether it is more observational or something that is hands on/practical in a burn unit or research unit. Exchange being hands on and actively involved in burns care and or burn research is the ideal scenario but must be checked from a legal perspective whether this is possible in the country/center due to regulation of staffing. An exchange program can work and be highly beneficial in sharing knowledge and skills along with an end goal of standardizing burns care across Europe. Clearly stating expectations and tasks for the potential participants is an important factor and needs to be integrated in the agreement between applicants and host institution.

e. Evaluation and Reporting: Participants and designated mentor of the host institution will be expected to provide feedback (for the applicant: self-reflection and records of meeting with mentor | for the mentor/supervisor: report of experienced exchange program) and share their experience upon completion of the staff exchange. Host institutions will also need to provide feedback to the European Burns Association, ensuring continuous improvement of the program.

Support and Funding:

a. Funding Opportunities: Fellowships are self-funded. All costs are the responsibility of the participating fellow including, but not restricted to: visa, medical registration, accommodation, living expenses, insurance and travel etc. Participants are encouraged to seek and agree financial support from their respective institutions or external funding sources. The European Burns Association will explore future funding opportunities, sponsorships, and grants to support staff exchanges within the program.

b. Logistics: The European Burns Association can assist in necessary documentation, to facilitate a smooth staff exchange process.

Confidentiality and Ethics:

Participants and host institutions are expected to adhere to strict ethical guidelines and maintain patient confidentiality throughout the staff exchange program. Proper consent, data protection, and ethical considerations must be followed as per applicable regulations and guidelines.