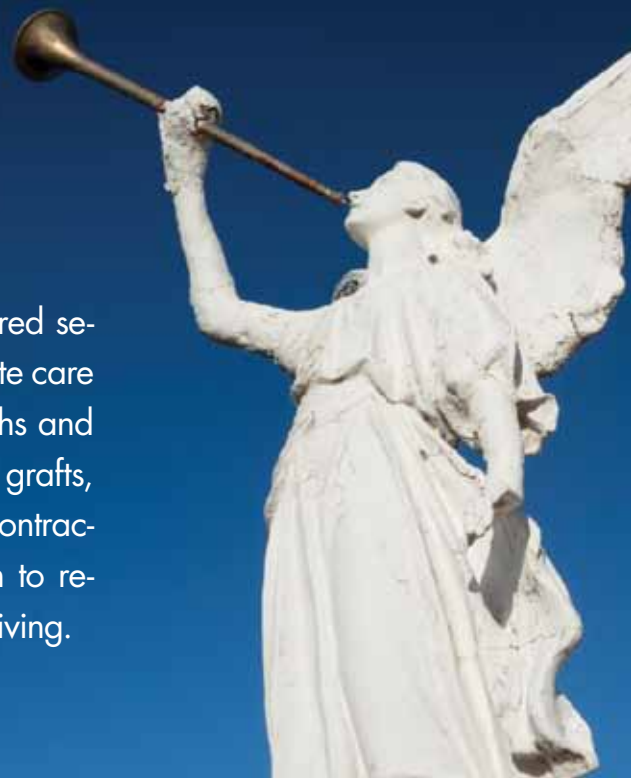




Technology and Teamwork Offer New Hope for Burn Scar Patients

By Desiree Ifft, Contributing Editor

For the millions of people around the world who have suffered severe burns, the road to recovery is long and agonizing. Acute care for fluid management and wound closure is followed by months and often years of surgical treatments such as dermabrasion or skin grafts, constant wearing of pressure garments, splinting to prevent contractures, pain medication, nutritional regimens and rehabilitation to regain the ability to perform even the simplest activities of daily living.



Lesia Cartelli, founder and CEO of Angel Faces, a non-profit organization providing healing retreats and ongoing support for adolescent girls with severe facial disfigurements, knows the journey all too well. In 1969, when she was just 9 years old, over 50% of her face and body were burned in a natural gas explosion at her grandparents' home. As arduous as they were, the first stages of treatment were just the beginning of the rest of her radically changed life.

Like others living with the aftermath of severe burns, Ms. Cartelli struggled with grief and trauma issues and the overwhelming feelings of rejection and low self-esteem brought about by the social stigma of her remaining physical scars. "Unfortunately in the past, we would reach a point where our physicians would be out of medical options and nothing more could be done," she said. "But that is beginning to change."

According to Jill Waibel, M.D., a dermatologist in private practice in Miami, Fla., who has been treating burn scars since 2004, "Recent medical advances have enabled practitioners to achieve an unprecedented survival rate among burn patients, which has created a reconstruction situation we haven't seen before. We are now more focused on the importance of reconstructive procedures in the ultimate outcome for these patients."



Jill S. Waibel, M.D.
Dermatologist
Miami, FL

As part of this focus in her practice, Dr. Waibel has been using fractional laser technology, specifically the UltraPulse Fractional CO₂ Laser from Lumenis (Santa Clara, Calif.), to treat burn scars. "UltraPulse has had a dramatic impact because it can reach the depths required to treat deep scars," she pointed out.

Ms. Cartelli is among the patients Dr. Waibel is treating with fractional laser technology. "This treatment has made an unbelievable difference in my life," she said. "After so many years of thinking skin grafts were the end of the road, I have been blown away by the laser results. I get fewer stares in public. Family members have commented how my face has been so beautifully changed. The redness and raised scarring is gone, and I feel a softness on my face, not thick leathery anymore. My make-up applies better, and I can use much less of it. This treatment has been thrilling for me – the cherry on top of all the inner work I've done."

What thrills Ms. Cartelli even more, however, is how fractional laser treatment can help the girls who attend her organization's retreats. Taking a holistic approach, Angel Faces provides the girls with skills and tools for achieving their maximum potential and developing meaningful relationships for themselves, their families and their communities.

Angel Faces and Lumenis are working on collaborating to help girls in need. "We are still ironing out details, but this alliance can be very powerful," Ms. Cartelli noted. "We're discussing how we might be able to get the word out to more people and perhaps find more physicians who are willing to provide treatment free of charge. I'm seeing the heart behind Lumenis; they really want to help. I'm excited for my girls."

Dr. Waibel further credited Lumenis with understanding just how important the quest for optimal burn scar treatment is. "The company has been very generous in helping to support my research in this area and how we can make fractional lasers an even more effective treatment for burn scars," she said. "They have top scientists and engineers, but they also need input from practitioners. We have to work as a team to make things happen for patients." Lumenis provides important

networking for Dr. Waibel as she travels around the world to educate her peers about burn scar treatment.

Since helping out with care of some of Dr. Waibel's patients, Lumenis has been expanding its collaborative work with physicians, organizations and patients who can benefit from, but not necessarily pay for, burn scar treatment. The company provides various means of support, including travel costs for physicians and patients so treatments can be delivered, physician training, equipment and fundamental research.

Robert Mann, senior vice president and general manager of global aesthetics and dermatology for Lumenis, recently returned from a trip to Brazil, where the company and the Wellman Center for Photomedicine (Boston, Mass.) are searching for an appropriate medical center to provide free care for children with traumatic injuries.



Robert Mann
Senior Vice President and General
Manager
Global Aesthetics and Dermatology
Lumenis
Santa Clara, CA

This year, Lumenis donated a laser to the Vietnam Vascular Anomalies Center (VAC) in Ho Chi Minh City – a collaborative effort between U.S. and Vietnamese physicians. The company also paid partial travel expenses for R. Rox Anderson, M.D., Ph.D., professor of dermatology at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School, and other physicians to spend two weeks at VAC treating more than 100 patients and training local physicians.

Lumenis has also pledged to provide service and disposables for the laser in the foreseeable future. Thanh-Nga T. Tran, M.D., Ph.D., a dermatologist at Massachusetts General Hospital and co-founder of VAC, commented on the importance of the company's support. "While a certain percentage of clinic operations can be funded by

Technology and Teamwork Offer New Hope for Burn Scar Patients



Lesia Cartelli, founder of Angel Faces with retreat participant



Angel Faces retreat participants partake in Yoga class



Angel Faces retreat participant receives a relaxing facial



Acne scars before Tx Acne scars after UltraPulse Tx
Photos courtesy of Thanh-Nga T. Tran, M.D., Ph.D.



Angel Faces retreat participants enjoy a day at the spa

treatment of adult patients, it is only a small portion of our operating budget given that our practitioners treat hundreds of children for free," she said. "We would not be able to pay the market price to maintain the device. Therefore, the pledge of continued support is even more important as it will enable us to continue to provide state-of-the-art, safe and free treatment for Vietnamese children with disfiguring burn and/or traumatic scars. VAC was originally focused on treating hemangiomas and pigmented lesions, but with the advent of fractional technology, we realized there is also a great opportunity to treat burn victims."



Thanh-Nga T. Tran, M.D., Ph.D.
Dermatologist
Massachusetts General Hospital
Boston, MA
Co-founder
Vietnam Vascular Anomalies Center
Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Mr. Mann explained the Lumenis mindset when it comes to giving back. "The difference between Lumenis and other companies in our field is that a large portion of our business is dedicated to ophthalmic and surgical procedures, giving us a clear focus outside of aesthetics. We have a

higher responsibility than just making people look pretty. To physicians who are thinking they might like to volunteer, I say it is our obligation to use the gifts we have to help those in need."

Matteo Tretti Clementoni, M.D., a plastic surgeon based in Milan, Italy, is one physician that has been honored to help. Last year, Dr. Clementoni became involved in the care of Katie Piper, a former model and aspiring television personality who was severely burned in 2008 when a man associated with a jealous ex-boyfriend threw acid in her face on a London street. Dr. Clementoni and Tapan Patel, M.D., who has a private clinic in London, U.K., have donated their time to provide fractional laser treatment for Ms. Piper. Lumenis located the laser at Dr. Patel's clinic in London and paid for Dr. Clementoni to travel there.



Matteo Tretti Clementoni, M.D.
Plastic Surgeon
Milan, Italy

Together they were able to address several issues for Ms. Piper, including

horizontal retractive scars along the nasolabial folds, which were much more evident when she smiled, mouth asymmetry, a dangerous and evident scleral exposure in her left eye, and a severe retraction to the bottom of the left oral commissure. In addition, full-face fractional resurfacing has resulted in more uniform skin color and texture. Of his work with Ms. Piper, Dr. Clementoni said, "This was one of the most satisfying and exciting things to happen in my entire professional life." ■

For more information about working with Lumenis to help patients in need of burn scar treatment, contact Robert Mann at robert.mann@lumenis.com.

You can also visit the following websites to learn more about the organizations that may benefit from your professional support:

Angel Faces

Lesia Cartelli
(760) 846-6280
lesia@angelfacesretreat.org
www.angelfacesretreat.org

Vietnam Vascular Anomalies Center

www.vietnamvac.org

Katie Piper Foundation

www.katiepiperfoundation.org.uk