

25 June 2008

MEDIA REALEASE: "Father of heparin visits South Africa to assist burn survivors"

Dr Saliba, from the Saliba Burns Institute (SBI), in partnership with the Paraffin Safety Association of Southern Africa, is visiting a number of public hospitals in South Africa in order to introduce heparin therapy to the medical staff. SBI is a public benefit, not for profit, entity, named 501.c.3, a USA designation. This Institute does not charge for their services. SBI's goal is to eliminate the screams of pain from burn survivors and lifelong suffering due to scars globally and affordably through the addition of heparin to burn treatment.

The Institute will act as consultants by transferring information and knowledge and will inform doctors how they have handled patients in the past, or suggest what could be done in treating burn survivors. Dr Saliba said: "Adding heparin to paraffin-burn therapy is a cost-effective method to relieve pain in minutes, enhances and shortens healing to one-third the time, and consistently results in smooth, comfortable skin usually without scars or contractures."

Dehran Swart, Senior Project Manager for Research and Education of the Paraffin Safety Association of Southern Africa commented: "We are very excited that this therapy has the potential to decrease pain and limit scarring. Many burn survivors have reported that they suffer sever humiliation when they are stigmatised in their communities because of visible scarring".

This Institute plans to work with South Africa (and other African countries in the future) by giving them the opportunity to evaluate this advancement in burn treatment. SBI has been involved in more than 20 countries by demonstrating how this medical treatment should be administered by doctors. Dr Maria de Graca NF Costa, a plastic surgeon from Porta Alegre, Brazil, is accompanying Dr Saliba on this trip to South Africa.

Travel Schedule

Day	Date	Hospital	City	Province
Mon	30 June 2008	Chris Hani Baragwanath	Johannesburg	Gauteng
Tues	1 July 2008	Chris Hani Baragwanath	Johannesburg	Gauteng
Wed	2 July 2008	Edendale	Pietermaritzburg	KwaZulu Natal
Thurs	3 July 2008	Edendale	Pietermaritzburg	KwaZulu Natal
Fri	4 July 2008	Dora Nginza	Port Elizabeth	Eastern Cape
Sat	5 July 2008	Dora Nginza	Port Elizabeth	Eastern Cape

ENDS.

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Safety Messages

- Do not leave your cooking or heating appliances unattended. If you leave the room or go to sleep, turn it off.
- Do not leave children, especially toddlers unattended near working stoves or heaters.
- Be sure to maintain your appliances properly
- Store paraffin in a dedicated, clearly labelled paraffin bottle, preferably with a child resistant closure and store out of reach of children
- Do not try to use appliances that are not working properly, especially if they are smoking or leaking - get them fixed or replaced.

More safety messages are available on our website: www.paraffinsafety.org.