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June 4, 2012

Elisabeth Greenfield
ISBI Administrator
2172 US Highway 181 South
Floresville, Texas 78114

Dear Members of the Andre Zagame Award Committee,

I am happy to nominate Rick Sieller of the International Women and Children's Burn Foundation (IWCBF) for this prestigious award. Mr. Sieller is truly committed to improving the standard of burn care in the developing world. We have partnered with him since 2008, when he first contacted ReSurge International (formerly Interplast) in order to form a partnership to deliver high-quality burn care in the developing world. We were aware of his establishing a rehabilitation clinic within the burn unit at APROQUEN, a Nicaraguan burn foundation supporting a state-of-the-art burn unit that provides free, comprehensive care to children and serves as a regional education center for burn unit staff all over Central America. APROQUEN is one of our 11 surgical outreach program sites where we fund free reconstructive surgery and related treatments for underserved populations.

Mr. Sieller wanted to work with us to leverage the impact of his work in burn rehabilitation. In 2009, we connected him with our international partner Dr. Chandini Perera, the burn unit director at Colombo National Hospital in Sri Lanka and a renowned burn surgeon. Dr. Perera had recently spent a week at the APROQUEN burn unit as part of a ReSurge visiting educator trip and wanted the same rehabilitation clinic she saw in Nicaragua for her burn unit in Sri Lanka. Mr. Sieller began a dialogue with her, which culminated in the launch of a joint program between IWCBF, ReSurge and Dr. Perera in early 2011. Mr. Sieller provided his expertise in burn rehabilitation as well as thousands of dollars worth of donated rehabilitation supplies and equipment, including an industrial sewing machine to teach Dr. Perera's staff how to sew compression garments. ReSurge, in turn, sponsored all travel costs and handled the logistics for his ten-day burn rehabilitation workshop in Sri Lanka. During that workshop, he accomplished the following:

- Helped the burn unit staff reorganize their clinic space for better efficiency and smooth patient flow.

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- Trained the rehab therapists to fabricate uvex face masks and sew pressure garments using donated materials that were locally available. This way the program would not be dependent on foreign supplies. In the developing world, these materials are too expensive for impoverished patients to buy on their own. This results in unnecessary contractures and deformities. Mr. Sieller's innovative approach to care gives burn patients access to high-quality treatment that they would otherwise not be able to obtain.
- Helped them improve their splinting and other rehabilitation techniques for better outcomes.
- Gave several lectures, including one to the local Rotary Club, which is now committed to providing support to Dr. Perera and the burn unit with the goal of self-sustainability.
- Created a burn database, linked to individual patient files. Data, including digital photos, is reported monthly and includes patient demographics, clinical outcomes including a modified Vancouver scale rating and epidemiology of the burns. This unique patient-focused database will track the progress of each individual patient, and provide rich material for researching burns in the developing world.

A follow-up visit to the National Hospital in Colombo by a ReSurge volunteer burn therapist occurred in mid-2011 on Mr. Sieller's recommendation, and he is returning this month to evaluate progress and provide additional training as needed in all aspects of burn rehabilitation. Future semi-annual evaluations are planned. The long-term goal for this joint effort is to create a burn rehabilitation center of excellence in Sri Lanka which can then be used as an educational and training resource for other burn units in Southeast Asia, where burns are a common occurrence.

Mr. Sieller founded the International Women and Children's Burn Foundation in 2001; their first partnership was with APROQUEN. He worked with Dr. Ivette Icaza, the burn unit administrator and an occupational therapist by training, to improve burn rehab treatment, source materials locally and collect crucial data, and now she and he use this "train the trainer" model to replicate the program. They have created permanent burn rehabilitation clinics in several countries, e.g. Guatemala and Palestine, with many more requests for their help pending. Their intent is to help each facility become self-sustaining, so that these programs are independent and financially stable.

ReSurge holds Mr. Sieller and IWCBF in the highest regard. He is the best partner we have had over the last few years in terms of reliability and his eagerness to bring his

broad expertise to our growing partnership. The burn database that he created is the best I have seen for gathering data on burns. We feel that he meets all the criteria for the Andre Zagame award and that he is an exceptionally deserving nominee. We know that he would use the cash award to further his goal of establishing self-sustaining burn clinics in the developing world.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Corlew". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and a stylized "C".

Scott Corlew, MD, MPH; FACS
Chief Medical Officer
ReSurge International (*formerly Interplast*)