



Akron
Children's



Northeast Ohio
MEDICAL UNIVERSITY

BURN SURGERY RESEARCH AND INNOVATION HIGHLIGHTS

AUTUMN 2025



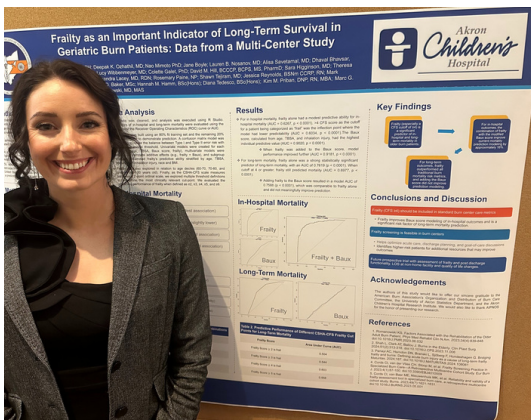
SHOWCASING INNOVATION AT THE MIDWEST REGIONAL BURN CONFERENCE

Dr. Deepak Ozthathil (left) represented Akron Children's at the 2025 Midwest Regional Burn Conference, presenting his research relating to frailty and its value in predicting mortality in elderly burn survivors. **Jane Boyle**, (right, M2 at NEOMED) presented her poster titled "Treatment of Circumferential Digital Burns from an Electrothermal Source: A Narrative Review and Case Report". **Jillian Wilkerson**, a M2 at NEOMED, presented Akron Children's research in collaboration with **Dr. Mindy Engevik** at Medical University of South Carolina's research on oxygen depletion capabilities of anaerobic species. All presentations were well received and underscored the importance of burn research.



HIGHLIGHTING GLOBAL COLLABORATION

Rahul Kumar (left, M3 at NEOMED) **Carter Brenner** (right, M3 at NEOMED) are partnering with **Dr. Anjay Khandewal** (middle) on an India-U.S. collaborative project that leverages a large, longitudinal dataset of burn patients. Their goal is to translate real-world data into insights that improve prevention, surgical decision-making, rehabilitation timelines, and long-term outcomes. Working alongside clinicians and data scientists, the students will help curate and analyze variables such as burn mechanism, %TBSA, operative approach, complications, length of stay, and return-to-function, building the evidence needed to guide care in both resource-limited and resource-rich settings. We look forward to highlighting early findings in upcoming issues.



AWARD-WINNING RESEARCH AT THE ASSOCIATION OF INDIAN PHYSICIANS OF NORTHERN OHIO CONFERENCE

Dr. Rachel Schneider, a general surgery resident at the Cleveland Clinic and research collaborator with Akron Children's Burn Department and NEOMED, presented "Frailty as an Important Indicator of Long-Term Survival in Geriatric Burn Patients: Data from a Multi-Center Study" at the 42nd Annual Gala and Research Showcase of the Association of Indian Physicians of Northern Ohio. Dr. Schneider's presentation earned the **Best Research Poster Award**, recognizing her outstanding contributions to advancing outcomes research in burn surgery.