

The Paul Wilson Brand Repetitive Stress Award (PWB-RSA)

To commemorate the pioneering work of the late Dr. Paul Wilson Brand (1914-2003) and to stimulate further research in this field, the PWB-RSA was donated by a private anonymous. The prize is awarded to applicants submitting an abstract to a regular DFSG meeting, presenting new clinical or experimental data on the effects of repetitive mechanical stress on soft tissues, joints or bones. The PWB-RSA comprises the sum of 3000 € and the privilege to lecture on the topic during that meeting. The winner is nominated by the programme committee of the Diabetic Foot Study Group from 2014 (Meeting in Bratislava) onwards.

Dr. Paul Wilson Brand has studied the effects of submaximal repetitive mechanical stress on the causation of injury, especially in patients with pain insensate limbs. He resumed his profession as an orthopaedic and hand surgeon in 1946 in India. “When Brand asked leprologists in the region around Vellore, if he could help treating the ulcerated feet of their leprosy patients, he received the answer that these patients had ‘bad flesh’, inevitable consequence of their leprosy. Useless to try and heal their ulcers. Brand, however, knew better from his good experiences with healing leprotic hand ulcers. (...) It must have been around the year 1950, he had just explained to a patient whom he knew for some time already, that amputation of his seriously damaged foot was the only remaining option. While the patient left the clinic, Brand saw him walking away. Suddenly he saw it: the man walked as if nothing was the matter with his foot. An ulcer that only moments before had been treated and bandaged had to take the full weight of the man. ‘No wonder the wound never healed’. Brand concluded that the stress of (normal) walking on insensitive feet was responsible for the plantar ulcers and their frequent recurrences in these patients. The concept of *repetitive stress* was developed.” (Onvlee 2005)

The importance of Brand’s works for the diabetic foot has been acknowledged broadly in recent years. “As a consequence of his research, the recognition of the relationship between insensitivity, repetitive pressures and skin breakdown has helped our understanding of the aetiopathogenesis of neuropathic foot lesions in diabetes...the seminal observations by Brand have influenced all of us, whether we realize it or not, in our daily practice in the diabetic foot clinic”(Boulton 2012)

Boulton AJM. Diabetic foot- what can we learn from leprosy? Legacy of Dr Paul W Brand. Diabetes Metab Res Rev 2012;28(Suppl.1):3-7.

Onvlee G. Paul Brand (1914-2003) and the insensitive foot. Nederlands Tijdschrift voor Orthopaedie 2005;12:25-26

Links: Prof. Paul W.Brand on leprosy, diabetes, wounds, and a life of...(video of San Antonio conference 2001) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=30piDE5iIVw>

Brand PW. Kenneth A. Johnson Memorial Lecture. AOFAS Meeting 2000, Orlando, FL.