

EWMA UCM: a Student's Perspective



EWMA 2009

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As students of the postgraduate program 'Wound Care, Tissue Repair and Stoma Therapy' (Belgium, a two year course), we were lucky to participate at the congress on wound care organized by EWMA in Helsinki, Finland (20-22 May 2009). This congress gave us students lots of knowledge. Although on our course we learn a great deal about actual and (for the most of us) new treatments, ideas and research, it is a mere trifle in comparison to all the research and results related to wound care across Europe (and, of course, outside Europe). EWMA UCM (University Conference Model) helps students, who are members of the model, to gain knowledge of wound care topics step by step.

On the one side, EWMA UCM encourages students to take part in some of the lectures given at the congress. As a novice in wound care it is not always easy to make the right choices amongst a wide range of topics and wound care issues. The proposed lectures by EWMA UCM add increased value and depth to our education. This year, 'Infection Control in Wound Care' (Christina Lindholm) was one of those lectures. During the lecture, the speaker explicitly addressed the students regularly making us part of the proceedings.

On the other side, EWMA UCM enables students to meet each other. This year students came from Ireland, the United Kingdom, Finland and Belgium. Such meetings, for instance at the beginning of the congress, give us the opportunity to exchange our experiences of Healing, Education, Learning and Prevention in wound care (the theme of this year's congress) in our own countries. Moreover, these meetings also encourage discussion amongst students of all the newly gathered information from the congress. These instructive and gripping exchanges and discussions contribute to an analytical attitude, an attitude that every student desires to attain. If a suggestion has to be made: it would be that maybe it would be good for us to meet each other outside the congress, for instance in the evening during supper, to have more time to exchange thoughts and contacts?

Furthermore, at the beginning of the congress, all students of EWMA UCM were given a book about VAC-therapy and a DVD on diabetics. These gifts, for which we are very grateful, will be very useful to us in the future when writing all our papers in our postgraduate studies. Many thanks for these gifts and for the possibilities EWMA UCM offers us to learn about wound care! ■



Karen Eneman
Student of the Belgian postgraduate program in Wound Care, Tissue Repair and Stoma Therapy.
karen.eneman@gmail.com



Zena Moore speaking at the UCM opening session



View of participants in the UCM opening session