



APTF
Associação
Portuguesa
de Tratamento
de Feridas

Portuguese
Wound
Management
Association



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The Portuguese Wound Management Association (A.P.T.F.) was established on 5 November 1998, after a founding commission organised a National Congress on Wound Management in October 1998.

The members are all health professionals (medical doctors, nurses, pharmaceuticals, administrators and lawyers). At this moment we have 228 members. The society's directive council is elected every three years. The last election was in April 2002.

Directive Council

President: Aníbal Justiniano, Surgeon
Vice-President: Anabela Gomes, Nurse
Secretary: Arminda Costeira, Nurse
Treasurer: Fatima Carvalho, Nurse
Vocals: Isabel Moscoso, Nurse
 Teresa Magalhães, Nurse
 Susana Duro, Nurse

Every year the A.P.T.F. Council nationally organises three different levels of courses on Wound Management:

First Level – One-day workshop – duration 6 hours. This course introduces the basic principles of wound management.

Delegates: High Nurses Schools and Public Health Centres.

Second Level – Two days, 6 hours each day. This programme covers the basic principles of:

- Wound healing
- Factors that promote normal wound healing and modify the wound healing process
- Nutrition and wound management
- Pain and wound management
- Cleaning a wound: How and with what can I clean it?
- The types of wounds
- The types of dressings available for use
- Protocols of wound management

Destination: Medical Doctors, Nurses and Pharmaceutical professionals in Hospitals and Public Health Centres.

Third level – Sixty hours, two days each week, six hours each day.

The program is the same as the second level, but also includes specific sessions covering:

- The history of wound management,
- The psychological aspects of wound management,
- Pressure Ulcers, Leg Ulcers, Burns, Diabetic Foot: the Importance of wound management in Public Health.

Destination: Nurses based in Public Health Centres.

In October 2000, with the collaboration of the pharmaceutical industries, we organised, a symposium about "Chronic Wounds" with the

participation of *George Cherry, Carol Dealey, Richard Bull, Alison Hopkins, Fran Warboys* and a number of Portuguese medical doctors and nurses; five hundred participants attended.

In November 2001, we hosted the "1st International Wound Management Congress". The Congress was attended by Portuguese medical doctors and nurses, together with a number of distinguished foreign speakers including *Christine Moffatt, Richard Bull, Joan Enric Torra-Bou, and Mike Edmonds*. The subjects discussed were:

"Leg Ulcers, Burns, Diabetic Foot, Nutrition, and Portuguese and European Education in the Medical and Pharmaceutical Faculties and High Nurse Schools. The Congress was attended by over 600 delegates.

In November 2002 there was an International Symposium on Leg Ulcers. At this symposium, televised practical sessions were broadcast within the symposium venue for the first time. This was achieved through collaboration with *Anneke Andriessen and Deborah Doherty*, and enabled the information from the session to reach a wider delegate audience. The lecturers were: *Christine Moffatt, Lynda Herbert, Peter Franks, John Mears, Anneke Andriessen* and a number of Portuguese medical doctors and nurses recognised in this field of expertise; over 750 delegates took part in the auditorium.

In 2001 we introduced the APTF/Convatec Contest – a national contest for health professionals. The winner received a financial prize and the opportunity to attend a course by *George Cherry* in Oxford. This year we are running the second national contest, APTF/Convatec Contest 2003, with the same rules and prizes.

Currently APTF is organising a new International Symposium for 25-26 September 2003. The theme will be 'Quality of life in the patient with Chronic Wounds'.

APTF aims to involve all persons who have roles relating to Wound Management with the intention of changing the Portuguese view on this important health subject. At the same time, the APTF operates on an international level actively participating in international congresses organised within Portugal and across Europe.

The APTF Directive Council aims to raise the issues and knowledge of wound management as a field of expertise both nationally and internationally.