



## APTferidas

Portuguese Association  
for the Treatment of  
Wounds



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[www.aptferridas.com](http://www.aptferridas.com)

# 10 years of APTferidas

When we started out ten years ago, wound management was a developing field with everything still to be done. The way that other countries had began working in this field, earlier than us Portuguese, looked so advanced to us that we couldn't wait to get started!

That enthusiasm and vision brought us to today – ten years on. We have worked hard and now the others' work looks a little less far away because we've learned that we should invest in education; looking for better and more knowledge and spread it through health professionals and students to develop wound care management. Many of those who joined us brought successful methods; with interesting responses to patient wound care. In addition, health and educational institutions invited us to work as partners in their educational programs for both wound care professionals and students.

Today we feel that the development of partnerships between APTferidas and Universities is a positive step forward and there's a bright future ahead for wound care in Portugal.

The work of our association has been well received by healthcare professionals and has led to our being an essential partner at the Portuguese Ministry of Health and at the

Portuguese Regulator of Nursing working together to promote and develop the field of wound care management. One result of our collaboration with the Portuguese Regulator of Nursing is that together in 2009 we are publishing a book "Rules to Best Practice in Wound Management", to further educate healthcare professionals and develop the field of wound management in Portugal. But there is still much yet to be done.

In addition to our work at home, as members of different international associations, we had the opportunity to establish fruitful contacts with other wound care associations that enabled us to grow our organisation in the European wound care management arena. These relationships gave us positive assistance and helped us to develop answers to problems we faced and our APTferidas Congresses benefited from the fine scientific presentations from our guest speakers. Our organisation is now well recognised in the European wound care management field and the active participation of our members in European associations such as EWMA is proof of the good work we have done and the progress we have made so far.

Ten years in the life of an Association doesn't seem like such a long time, nevertheless it is a significant length of operation and worthy of note. It is an appropriate time to celebrate the past, offer welcome and support to beginners to keep their work going and look forward to the future.

Each year the APTferidas Congress is a growing event not just in delegate numbers but also in industry participation and participation by wound care professionals and healthcare companies. The congress is a successful, enjoyable and effective way to disseminate information and share both our and others' work in wound care management.

At this time we want to share with all the EWMA Journal readers a very small part of the past ten years of APTferidas through some photos showing workshops, symposiums, congresses, invited speakers, and the work behind doors. This is a brief glimpse of APTferidas' history.

Finally we would like to say thank you for the contribution that many of you gave that made the past ten years such a successful time and we open our doors to all that want to join us in the development of successful wound care management for all the patients in our country and throughout the world. ■



First Annual General Meeting of APTferidas – October 1998



APTferidas Workshops



Maarten Lubbers and Christina Lindholm with APTferidas in January 2009 starting the 10 years celebration