

PWMA

Polish Wound
Management
Association

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Report from the third PWMA congress

Bydgoszcz, Poland

The Art of Wound Healing was the main motto of the third Congress of the Polish Wound Management Association (PWMA) which took place in Bydgoszcz on October 21-24th 2009.

The congress was held in the magnificent, world renowned concert hall of the Ignacy Paderewski Pomeranian Philharmonic. More than 1000 participants, including invited guests and speakers from Poland, Denmark, England, Slovenia, Germany and the Czech Republic came to take part in our Congress.

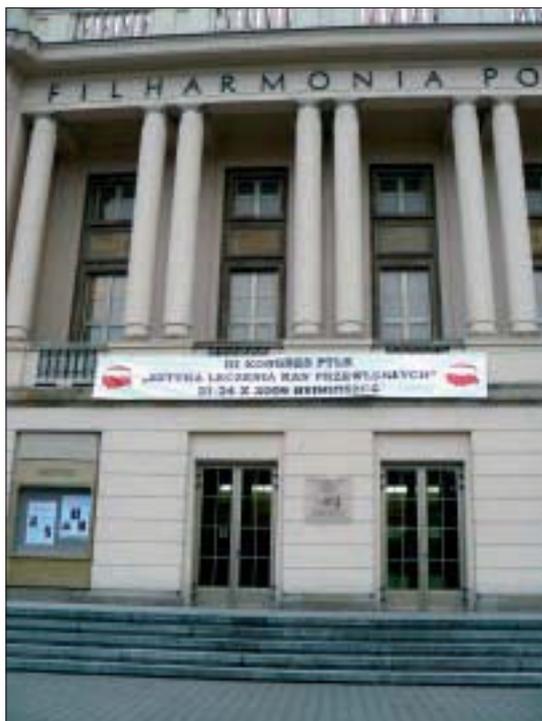
Welcome

The opening ceremony was led by the president of the Polish Wound Management Association, Professor Arkadiusz Jawien. Among the honourable guests were Professor Finn Gottrup, who was representing EWMA; the first president of PWMA Professor Zbigniew Rybak; the presidents of other Polish scientific associations; the President of Bydgoszcz, Mr. Konstanty Dombrowicz, and representatives from other regional and state government departments. The Congress was opened by Professor Arkadiusz Jawien, who, after some welcoming words, presented the inaugural lecture, where he discussed the medical achievements in chronic wounds treatment from the ancient era up to the present day.

The scientific programme

The scientific program of the congress consisted of ten main sessions covering the following topics: bedsores, diabetic foot, biofilm, burns, and venous ulcers as well as sessions concerning the latest concepts and achievements of local and general procedures on patients suffering from chronic wounds. In the bedsores session, the initial results of the newly developed bedsores registration program in Poland were presented. In addition, a number of concepts in patient care for patients suffering from bedsores were part of the oral presentations.

In the "diabetic foot" and "diabetic foot and complications" sessions, the main presentations discussed the results of current research in this field carried out on patients with different stages of development. A live, online internet transmission from the one of the outpatient clinics for wound treatment in Poland was broadcast and this allowed the congress participants to observe and learn new methods of cleansing and different ways of providing a diabetic foot with dressings to support appropriate treatment. There were also presentations showing the concepts of treatment, cost-effectiveness and pharmacotherapy of difficult to heal chronic wounds.



*The Ignacy Paderewski
Pomeranian Philharmonic*



*The president of the Polish Wound Management Association,
Professor Arkadiusz Jawien, awarded Professor Gottrup
with the title of honorary member of the PWMA.*

Participants' attention was drawn to the session entitled: "Not only the time can heal the wounds". President of PWMA, Professor A. Jawien gave a very stimulating lecture about the practical usefulness of the T.I.M.E. strategy in healing chronic wounds. Additionally, he discussed the use of modern antiseptics in prevention and treatment of chronic wounds.

One of the most important aspects of this congress was the presence of Professor Finn Gottrup of EWMA. He has already attended several PWMA meetings in the past, but he is always warmly welcome here because of his high standard of presentations and broad knowledge of wound healing. This time he shared his outstanding achievements and experience in wound healing by presenting the lecture entitled "Wound Fluid/Exudate: Background and Importance". After the lecture, the president of the Polish Wound Management Association, Professor Arkadiusz Jawien, awarded Professor Gottrup with the title of honorary member of the PWMA, granted to our guest by the Board of PWMA. Honorary membership of the PWMA was also granted to Professor Zbigniew Rybak the first president of our Society.

A special session was dedicated to chronic venous insufficiency and venous leg ulcers. All current modalities available for the treatment of venous leg ulcer were presented, including VAC system; different compression therapy devices; bandages and stockings; polarized light; role of growth factors, especially platelet-derived growth factors; fly larva *Lucilla sericata* and others. Among the popular topic sessions were the ones concerning local treatment methods of patients with extensive burns, including Integra treatment of children's burns, as well as those sessions concerning the creating of biofilm as a pathomechanism of chronic wounds infections.

During the Congress, the importance of an interdisciplinary and complex approach to the treatment of chronic wounds was widely emphasized and the whole medical process was described as being an art of "constant search". All sessions were very well attended and were full of scientific discussions which extended from the conference halls to the coffee break tables. Thus proving the topics of the congress were well selected and the lectures both good, and stimulating.

General Assembly

During the General Assembly, a new Board of the Society was elected. Professor *Arkadiusz Jawien* was re-elected as President of PWMA for 2009-2012; Dr *Maciej Sopata* was re-elected as the vice-president; Associate-professor *Maria T. Szewczyk* was re-elected as secretary of PWMA, and the new, elected treasurer is Mrs. *Irena Samson*. There were also two new members elected to the Board, Dr *Anna Chrapusta* and Professor *Marek Kucharzewski*.

The Exhibitors

Numerous medical and pharmaceutical companies were present during the Congress. The gold sponsor of the Congress was *Schulke*. Most of the companies had interesting expositions of modern dressings, wound cleansing devices, nutritious preparations and compression materials, bandages and devices.

The third Congress of PWMA was a great scientific event and a huge organizational success. It is now the milestone event and has left a real legacy of success and knowledge sharing for the newly developing interdisciplinary field of wound care in Poland. ■



The Lecture Room.