

PWMA
Polish
Wound
Management
Association



Zbigniew Rybak
President

Correspondence to:
Polskie Towarzystwo
Leczenia Ran
ul. Krochmalna 32a
00-864 Warszawa

Polish Wound Management Association

– strategy for developing modern wound healing

Poland used to be one of the few countries that did not have an organisation comprising people involved in wound healing. This had resulted in the common practice of traditional wound management, lack of knowledge on modern wound healing methods and lack of modern products on the market. The other significant disadvantage of the status of current wound healing methods in Poland is patient situation. People with chronic wounds – e.g. leg ulcers, pressure sores, recognised by a doctor as a chronic ulceration – may collect the modern wound healing products, on a doctor's prescription, from a pharmacy but they have to cover at least 50% of the retail price of the product. That is not very helpful to elderly patients who often suffer from number of systemic disorders.

A number of people have recognised this unfavourable situation and tried to encourage development of modern wound management lecturing at different conferences and workshops. They have represented different specialities and therefore the impact of their experiences was limited to narrow groups of similar

specialists involved with an interested in wound healing. To speed up the development of modern wound healing, an assembly of wound healing professionals established the Polish Wound Management Association.

PWMA's initial interest was to influence practices in wound healing in Poland. It also aimed to become part of EWMA and encourage aligning standards in Management of Wound Healing (MWH) the way it has already been done in other countries. PWMA recognised the work done by EWMA and its comprehensive approach to wound healing presented at annual EWMA conferences. Our approach to MWH encompasses the best practice and experiences, gathered from countries that have already established MWH practices. However, we have some differences in our health care system and we therefore need to apply solutions applicable to our conditions. The PWMA has an appointed constitution, which summarises its activities. Basically these are: education of medical professionals on modern wound



PWMA board.

The section including listings of EWMA Co-operating Organisations and Other Organisations has been moved to www.ewma.org

management introducing principles of MWH to programs of education for doctors and nurses, co-operation with other medical associations for constant education and establishing standards in wound healing, discussion with reimbursement authorities on principals of reimbursement for wound healing products which are proven to be cost and clinically more effective than traditional dressing products.

In its first activities the PWMA especially wants to focus on education for medical professionals. We must bear in mind that Poland has 38-million citizens and there are no wound specialists for patients with wounds. Patients are therefore confused and often do not receive relevant help or sometimes do not even look for it. We assume that as a primary undertaking we should aim to give the basics of modern wound management to people who most often see patients with wounds and who should and wish to take responsibility for managing chronic wounds. That group would encompass some specialists who deal with more complicated wounds but also general practitioners and community nurses who see all those patients at their surgeries. PWMA tactics will be based on an educational program targeted for each group. To further develop MWH in Poland we plan to establish outpatients units – Ulcer Healing Centres - for treatment of chronic wounds. Specialists based in these clinics would be able to manage wounds, especially the more complicated cases and to educate medical staff in their regions in the techniques of MWH and spreading the knowledge further. We look forward to co-operating with EWMA in our challenges and undertakings. We have already learned much from the EWMA speakers who have visited us in Poland. Professor Finn Gottrup came to Poland for a Phlebological Conference; the lecture received a great welcome and generated much interest amongst the audience. In the future we would like to organise a conference in close co-operation with EWMA. ■



AISLeC
 Associazione
 Infermieristica per
 lo Studio Lesioni
 Cutanee

**Italian Nurse
 Association for
 the Study of
 Cutaneous Wounds**

Andrea Bellingeri, President
Battistino Paggi, Vice-president

Correspondence to:
 AISLeC
 Via Flarer n 6
 27100 Pavia
 Italy

Tel.: +39 (0) 382 422 133
 Fax: +39 (0) 382 523 203
 aislec.sede@venus.it
 www.aislec.it



AIUC
 Associazione Italiana
 Ulcere Cutanee
 Italian Association for
 Cutaneous Ulcers

Piero Bonadeo
 President

Correspondence to:
 Marco Romanelli
 University of Pisa
 Dept. of Dermatology
 Via Roma 67
 I-56126 Pisa
 Italy

Tel: +39 (0) 50 992436
 Fax: +39 (0) 50 551124
 m.romanelli@med.unipi.it
 www.aiuc.it



APTF
 Portuguese
 Wound
 Management
 Association

Aníbal Justiniano
 President

Arminda Costeira
 Secretary

Correspondence to:
 Associação Portuguesa de
 Tratamento de Feridas
 Rua Alvares Cabral, 137,
 sala 14
 4050-041 Porto
 Portugal

Tel: +351 2 22026725
 Fax: +351 2 22007890
 aptferidas@mail.telepac.pt
 www.aptferidas.no.sapo.pt



AWA
 Austrian
 Wound
 Association

Gerald Zöch
 President

Correspondence to:
 Postbox 65
 A-1095 Wien
 Austria

Tel: +43 18 79 0379
 Fax: +43 1879 0490
 office@a-w-a.at
 www.a-w-a.at