



TVS Tissue Viability Society



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THE TISSUE VIABILITY SOCIETY

The United Kingdom's *Tissue Viability Society*, formed in 1981, is probably one of the longest established associations dedicated to all aspects of the maintenance and repair of skin and soft tissue. Registered as a charity since 1994, the Tissue Viability Society has over 1300 members and is supported by over 100 commercial companies who have joined as members. Membership is open to anyone with an interest in the aims of the society, and members are drawn from all professions involved in wound prevention and management.

Each year the Tissue Viability Society hosts a two-day annual conference that attracts over 400 delegates and a strong commercial exhibition. In 2003 the annual meeting was held in Blackpool over the 8th and 9th of April with the theme of 'Same puzzle – more pieces'.

The meeting explored clinical specialities and challenges often overlooked when chronic wounds are considered – maternity, paediatrics and the particular challenges posed by the morbidly obese patient were much to the fore.

The conference also discussed the future of tissue viability research and clinical services; posing such questions as – Are we well placed to meet future challenges and what new problems and innovative solutions might we expect to encounter? The annual meeting in 2004 will be held in Torquay in the South-West of England over the 20th and 21st of April 2004.

Members of the Tissue Viability Society also receive copies of the *Journal of Tissue Viability*, a peer-reviewed journal that includes original research in all aspects of tissue viability, stimulating reviews, and reports on clinical developments and issues. The *Journal of Tissue Viability*, printed by Mark Allen Publishing, is issued quarterly and is indexed in MEDLINE and CINHALL. We welcome manuscripts from all persons and professions involved in tissue viability. Recent issues contained papers from colleagues as far afield as Israel and Japan.

The Tissue Viability Society has been well represented in the development of clinical guidelines in the United Kingdom, for example we had representatives in the guideline development group for the National Institute for Clinical Excellence, which prepared guidance on the use of pressure-relieving beds and mattresses. Through such participation the Society seeks to bring the concerns and interests of all of its members to the attention of those developing national and international guidelines that seek to shape clinical practices in wound prevention and management. The Tissue Viability Society, while strongly focused upon the needs of its UK members, is by no means a parochial organisation; contact with EWMA, representation within the European Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel and active participation within the forthcoming World Union of Wound Healing Societies conference among other initiatives, illustrate our intention to contribute to the wider, international discussion on the shape of future tissue viability services and research.

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