

## **News from the Wound Management Association of Ireland (WMAOI)**

The Wound Management Association of Ireland continues to go from strength to strength. Membership has increased in the last year and today we are the largest wound care organisation in Ireland. We have been involved with the Health Service executive in developing national wound management guidelines for Ireland. Two WMAOI members, Pat McCluskey and Georgina Gethin are representing the association on this group and the final document should be launched early 2009. During 2008 regional groups have continued to provide evening education programmes for all disciplines on many aspects of wound management. These programmes which run over a 4 week period are usually over prescribed. An e-learning wound management module was developed by the Southern Region in association with University College Cork. The pilot phase is complete and the programme will be up and running this year. The Western region will run a 4 week programme on foot assessment in diabetes in February 2009. This will be run in co-operation with the new school of podiatry in National University of Ireland, Galway, details will be available on the website. In September 2008 we held a one day conference on Diabetic Foot Disease in Galway. In spite of limits being placed on staff for study leave and financial support for attending conferences we had an excellent attendance. Our key note speaker was Prof Jan Apelqvist from Sweden. His knowledge and passion for treating diabetic foot disease was an inspiration to all.

In 2008 the association embarked on a new venture as it set up a part time business office. This office which is accessible via mail, email, and phone will provide support services to the association.

The bi-annual conference of WMAOI will be held in October 6th and 7th 2009 in beautiful Athlone in the midlands. We would like to invite our European neighbours to attend what promises to be an excellent meeting. Further details will be available on the website and a call for abstracts will be made in January.

Members of the association presented at the world Union of Wound Healing Societies in Toronto in June 2008. This was an excellent meeting and included posters, oral papers and symposium being presented by WMAOI members.

The association provides a bursary of up to €5.000 to members to support research work or education on any aspect of wound management. Julie Jordan O'Brien was a recipient of this bursary and it supported her MSc studies through RCSI. A further bursary is available this year.

The association wishes to congratulate Zena Moore on her election as in-coming President of EWMA and wish her well in her new role.

We will launch a new website in the coming weeks and we look forward to hearing from you through this site.

Georgina Gethin  
President, WMAOI