



# EWMA

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THE BELGIAN WOUND HEALING SOCIETIES



**Befewo**

BELGIAN FEDERATION OF WOUND CARE

[www.befewo.org](http://www.befewo.org)



# Dear Colleagues



Welcome to the latest edition of the EWMA Journal Electronic Supplement. We are very excited about this edition as it includes articles and news from EWMA Cooperating Organisations.

One of the main purposes of EWMA is to secure a close cooperation between national wound management organisations in Europe. EWMA currently has 45 Cooperating Organisations from 35 European countries as well as 6 International Partner Organisations, 2 Associated Organisations (patient groups) and other organisations which EWMA has established collaboration with.

As a Cooperating Organisation, EWMA offers access to a wide variety of activities and support, such as networking with wound management organisations and research institutions in Europe and abroad. Furthermore, there are opportunities to profile the organisation through presentations and articles at the EWMA website, in the EWMA Journal and through the annual EWMA conference.

This current issue has contributions from 15 organisations based in Belgium, Croatia, Denmark, England, Iceland, Italy, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Scotland, Serbia and Turkey.

The January edition of the EWMA Journal Electronic Supplement provides a great opportunity to learn more about activities in wound care across Europe and reflects the Cooperating Organisations' commitment to research and development in this specialist area.

EWMA is also extending its partnership with international societies involved in wound care and in the future we would welcome news and scientific contributions from non-European countries.

We hope that you will enjoy reading this edition of the EWMA Journal Electronic Supplement!

*Marco Romanelli*

Immediate Past President  
Chair EWMA Cooperating Organisations Board

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Wound Management & Tissue Repairing Association Turkey

# BEFEWO

## Introducing the Belgian Federation of Woundcare



[www.befewo.org](http://www.befewo.org)

The Belgian Federation of Woundcare (BEFEWO) was established in 2004 as the umbrella organisation of two major wound management associations in Belgium. Belgium is a bilingual country where both French and Flemish (Dutch) are spoken. The two wound management associations existing at that time were CNC Wound Management Association and AFISCeP. An outcome of this joint partnership was the Belgian National Bilingual wound management conference in 2006 in Brussels. The success of this initiative has now resulted in an annual BEFEWO conference with over 450 participants each year. In 2011 the BEFEWO conference will be held during the EWMA conference at the SQUARE in Brussels. It is a great privilege in 2011 for BEFEWO to host EWMA's conference in Brussels, the European Capital, as it is also the fifth anniversary of the Belgian Bilingual National Conference.

The organisations not only collaborate with conferences but also in relation to liaising with the Belgian Government. Here the organisations undertake common initiatives and represent each other as BEFEWO members in diverse international organisations as EWMA, ECET, EPUAP and ETRS. BEFEWO is a joint organisation representing the strength, multilingualism and unity of Belgium and its wound management associations. Besides the interest in wound management both organisations have a specific interest in ostomy care which is closely combined with wound management in Belgium.



### CNC WOUND MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION (CNC WMA)

Fifteen years ago CNC WMA was established as a charity. The founding members of CNC WMA were Jan Vandeputte and Luc Gryson, both masters in Nursing Sciences and still active in wound management. Today CNC WMA has a board of managers, a council and an executive to fulfil all activities now delivered by CNC

WMA. CNC WMA started as a very small specialised wound care nurses' association but gradually health-care professionals of different specialities also became interested in membership. Nowadays the healthcare professionals offer a valuable contribution in the society's activities and nurses of all specialities with an interest in wound management are becoming members.

The main purpose of CNC WMA is to promote education in wound care among doctors, nurses and other health care professionals. To this end, CNC WMA has a strong and firm collaboration with several University colleges making it possible to organise more than six basic wound management courses and two postgraduate courses for nurses each year. As a result of this CNC WMA has contributed to the education of over 3,000 nurses in modern wound care.

In addition, CNC WMA, together with partners, offers over 25 different educational specialised programs in wound management for nurses and doctors in Flanders. Since 1999 CNC WMA, together with The HUB University College of Brussels, has organised the post graduate course in wound management. In 2004 the same collaboration was set up with the KATHO University College. Another joint activity with HUB University College Brussels will be the master class being launched in April 2011. This is a new initiative on which there hopefully will be a lot of focus in the future.

Since 2000 an annual Flemish wound symposium has been organised and in 2008 the symposium became the Flemish Wound Management Conference. Held in Kortrijk with its mirror symposium in Hasselt –Genk the conference annually attracts over 700 doctors and nurses to attend.

Besides education and promotion of wound management, CNC WMA believes in collaboration between organisations to promote wound care issues. CNC WMA collaborates with NVKVV (Nationaal Verbond

van Katholieke Vlaamse Verpleegkundigen) Flanders, a major Nurses organisation, regarding a joint membership at reduced annual fee opportunity; with VLAS, the Flemish ostomy organisation, regarding educational activities and also with a steering committee of 21 local wound management companies to establish better education and awareness towards wound-care in Belgium.

In 2001, CNC WMA started a preliminary UCM (University Conference Model) concept at the EWMA conference for its postgraduate students. Since then CNC WMA has been proud to be able to send students to the conference each year.

In 2011 the updated website, [www.woundcare.be](http://www.woundcare.be), will be launched which is a reference for Flemish students and nurses seeking comprehensive and accessible information concerning wound management. Together with the paper version *wondzorg.be* this is the major reference source for the Flemish nurses and doctors.

# Belgian French-Speaking Section of Nurses with interest in stomacare, wound and healing

Our association consists of nurses with a great interest in stoma and wound care. We are located in the French-speaking part of Belgium. We now number more than 60 full-time nurses working in our hospital network. A great number of specialized nurses in wound care have recently become involved in our association which was before only dedicated to stomacare.

We have developed different projects on a national level, which are described below:

- Belgian federation of wound care: We have developed a cooperation in collaboration with the Dutch-speaking part of the country. The first task is the organization of an annual national congress with simultaneous translation in the two national languages. Furthermore Afiscep is really happy to be included in the EWMA 2011 organisation team. For our association it will be a great opportunity for sharing expertise and meeting with all other European countries about wound care.
- Regional Congress in stoma and wound care: More than 400 nurses coming from the French part of Belgium are now invited each year to share their experience during a very interesting meeting.
- Nurse education in stoma and wound care: We have developed a great nurse education project: 900 hours of education, which is up to date with the new Belgian rules in education. The program is divided in three parts: Stomacare, Wound care (with university degree) as well as an education and research section. At the end of this program the nurse obtains the “*Clinician Stoma, Wound and Healing Care*” certification.
- Member of the “Belgian National Nurse Federation”: As a small association we participate actively in the work of the federation. Together with all the nursing qualifications we try to protect and develop the role of the nurse in our country. With the federation we also work with our Dutch friends.

- Website: Our website tries to inform the stoma and wound care-givers about our activities, goals and realizations. We invite you to visit [www.afiscep.be](http://www.afiscep.be) (in French).
- Health policy and insurance: With patients and pharmacologists we try to give advice on the reimbursement of the stoma material.
- Continuous formation: Every two years, we invite all the stoma nurses for an actualization program over a weekend. It is, for us, an opportunity to share experience and expertise in wound and stoma care.
- We also provide help to the nursing schools to teach basic information about stoma and wound care.
- A French stomacare periodical is available twice a year. This is a means for us to maintain contact with all the people interested in our field.

As you can see from this article we have a lot of activities. We are sure that we can give advice, share experience and knowledge with all the people interested in our goals. Clinicians get help during their work but the most important goal is to provide the best care needed by the patients to suit their individual medical situation.

Please contact [christian.thyse@skynet.be](mailto:christian.thyse@skynet.be) for more information.



# AIUC – Italian Association for Cutaneous Ulcers

The AIUC was established in 1999 in Rome and now has well over 2000 members. The association operates at both regional and national levels, supports WUWHS and is a member of EWMA. The chief goals of the association are to improve ulcer prevention strategies and to promote seminars aimed at disseminating, updating and enhancing knowledge regarding the pathophysiology, diagnosis and treatment of cutaneous ulcers. Since May 2009, AIUC has held a bioethical committee that provides guidance regarding the rights of sick people and the ethics of clinical research.

## KEY ACTIVITIES

- The annual national conference; a forum where the sector's key players and professionals compare notes and exchange experiences. In 2011 the conference will be held in Ancona.
- Inter-regional congresses and courses, organised by regional divisions.
- Study groups: Set up on the initiative of the Management Committee of the study groups to undertake research and analysis activities on recommendation of its enrolled members
- Ulcer Day 2011. Following the success of the event in 2008, 2009 and 2010, a national day for cutaneous ulcers will be held in 2011.
- Actively supported by centres coordinated by AIUC members, its main purpose is to promote a prevention strategy by providing free medical tests and raising awareness among institutions.

## AIUC PUBLICATIONS

*Acta Vulnologica* is the journal of the AIUC. One of the top eight wound care titles, the journal is published in Europe four times a year, in both Italian and English.

AIUC also releases position documents on the main topics of ulcer therapy:

- Pharmacological and surgical management of venous ulcers
- Compression therapy in the treatment of leg ulcers

These are available on the website in both Italian and English.

Several groups are currently studying different branch fields, in order to release official guidelines. The first publication will be the guidelines on pain.

# APTferidas



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

# Portuguese Wound Management Association

The APTferidas – Portuguese Wound Management Association, founded in 1998, is an interdisciplinary society with 11 years of experience. The goal of the Association is to promote research and education in the area of wound care, as well as encouraging the adoption of principles, standards and methods of preventing and treating wounds, collect and share knowledge and experiences. APTferidas aims to improve the quality of care enhancing a multi-professional approach in wound care.

APTferidas is managed by a group of nine Directive Council members, three Assembly board members and three audit committee members. The election for members of the Executive Committee takes place every three years. Membership of the Association is open to all disciplines of health professionals interested in wound care. Currently there are more than 600 members including nurses, physicians, pharmacists, podiatrists, nutritionist, and professionals from all branches of health care interested in wounds.

Since 2006 APTferidas has published a scientific journal called “Feridas”; this is readily available through hospital libraries and all members receive a copy of each issue. “Feridas” has an international editorial board bringing expertise from Portugal and Europe and also contributes to the wounds supplement of the Nursing Journal of Portugal.

## MAIN ACTIVITIES

One of the main activities of APTferidas is organising conferences, symposiums and several courses. The National Congress is organized every three years, the international symposium every year with exception of the year of the National Congress, and a number of conferences or seminars are arranged annually. In 2010 the International conference dedicated to wound pre-

vention and treatment, took place in Oporto, Portugal on the 17, 18 and 19<sup>th</sup> of November. Almost 2000 delegates; doctors, nurses, pharmaceutical professionals, dieticians, podiatrists and psychologists had the chance to share their experiences and acquire current knowledge and evidence in this field.

Each year, APTferidas also organizes four basic level courses and three advanced level courses for all health professionals. In 2010 the association also organized the first meeting with wound care commissions and committees from public/private hospitals, community centres, nursing homes and clinics, with the objectives of addressing the wound problem, promoting discussion and consensus, and establishing a network of resources with the intention of creating a unified national approach to wound care and improvement of quality of care. Every year a meeting will be organized in different regions of the country. APTferidas is also collaborating with five researches in wound care. In addition to all this activity, the association is responsible for translating original documents (EWMA position documents, international guidelines) into Portuguese in order to promote evidence based practice, facilitate access to international research, and increase dissemination of this information and knowledge.

## STUDY GROUPS

The Pedagogic Committee created study groups in different areas of wound management. At the moment there are five study groups - Basic Research, Acute and Surgical Wounds, Pressure Ulcers, Leg Ulcer and Diabetic Foot Group - their aim is to plan and carry out research, analyse/draw recommendations, and disseminate education on their specific areas. Future areas of study under development are Burns, Pain Management and Quality of Life.



## WEBSITE

APTFeridas has also set up an electronic newsletter and a website. Our website aims to inform healthcare professionals about our activities, courses and research. We invite you to visit [www.aptferidas.com](http://www.aptferidas.com)

## EDUCATION IN WOUND CARE

APTFeridas works to establish relationships with educational and professional organisation in Portugal and Europe. The association grants scientific support in several conferences and congresses of other societies and institutions in wound management, and also co-operates with Portuguese and International Universities. In Portugal, the association co-operates in several seminars/workshops for undergraduate students, five Postgraduate courses and two Masters Courses. In an international setting, the association has already collaborated with a number of governments and universities. This year it has established new partnerships in research and education in Africa. In December 2010 representatives of APTFeridas were in Cap Verde, and in 2011 there are plans to visit to Mozambique and Angola.

## WOUND CARE IN PORTUGAL

The system of the National Health Service Portugal has some problems related to wound care; there is a lack of epidemiological data and best practice recommendations. There is also a problem about reimbursement; it is important that research and regulations on this area are established. The Directorate of Health has worked in collaboration with the Portuguese Societies for the last two years to define strategies on the quality of care and patient security, but there is still a long way to go. Nevertheless, during the past 11 years, APTFeridas has contributed towards positive and substantial changes on the quality of care to patients with wounds.

*Paulo Alves*

Directive Council member of APTFeridas

CWA

# Brief Outline of the Work of the Croatian Wound Association



[www.huzr.hr](http://www.huzr.hr)

The Croatian Wound Association, established in 2007, numbers 180 members made up of physicians and nurses. Information on work and programmes is given by means of a web page which is updated on a monthly basis.

During the past years we set two basic aims. The first was to establish a quality organization in the Croatian Wound Association and finance it within the scope of law along with professional supervision. The other, much more important aim was to carry out the basic education of physicians and nurses of various specialities and all levels of health care in the field of chronic wounds. In addition, it was important to enable quality communication by means of the web site which is accessible to health care workers, patients, producers of medical aids and all others interested in this area.

Education was carried out by means of symposia with international participation which consisted of theoretical lectures by invited chosen professionals and practical training in workshops.

The following symposia were held:

- I. Symposium "Decubitus" 2008.
- II. Symposium "Lower leg ulcer" 2009.
- III. Symposium "Diabetic foot" 2010.

The lectures were published in full as supplements of the *Acta Medica Croatica*, an indexed journal of the Academy of Medical Sciences of Croatia. As an integral handbook material it is accessible to all who are professionally involved with the subject of chronic wounds. In the coming year we plan to hold the IV Symposium, probably under the title "Atypical wounds".

Symposia are taking place in various cities of Croatia with the intention to include in this subject-matter as many health care workers as possible, on all levels of health care.

Research projects have still not come to life, and it is difficult to carry them out across Croatia, so we decided to actively monitor the frequency and features of decubitus and lower leg ulcer in one area, in view of the fact that this area has a very good house-call medical service. Wound management systems as such do not exist in Croatia. There are individual centres in which there are experts interested in and highly qualified for this specific area; at the moment there are four such centres ("Sveti Duh" Clinical Hospital, Clinical Hospital "Sisters of Mercy", "Dubrava" Clinical Hospital, and the Clinical Hospital Centre "Šalata").

Clinical and epidemiological monitoring, prevention and treatment of chronic wounds are major challenges in our country. Implementation takes time, and after the establishment of the Croatian Wound Association and the commencement of basic education of physicians and nurses by means of symposia and publication of quality papers, textbooks and handbooks, the preconditions have been created for an active dialogue with the representatives of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare and the Croatian Health Insurance Fund on this, ever more pressing, problem.

*Nastja Kučičec-Tepes*, MD, PhD

President of the Croatian Wound Association

DSFS

# Danish Wound Healing Society



[www.saar.dk](http://www.saar.dk)

## – an introduction

Since the 1980s there has been increasing focus on wounds in primary as well as in secondary sector. Wounds are a costly affair, and luckily new knowledge has for a long time demonstrated that wounds are highly resource demanding and of great importance for life quality for patient – but also that there are fine opportunities for the treatment of wounds.

This realization was the reason why in 1992 the pioneers started the Danish Society of Wound Healing. The founders were both doctors and nurses who recognized from the beginning that effective wound healing was not possible without interdisciplinary collaboration. This cooperation also included occupational, physiotherapists and podiatrists, and it is still the case today.

Besides the multi-disciplinary cooperation DSFS has initially developed close cooperation with the industry, physicians and nurses in hospitals and primary sector. This cooperation has for years formed the backbone for the development of a long series of actions that have optimized the treatment of wounds. The cooperation has been a prerequisite for the strong work of the association, which will also be the case in the future in terms of sponsors who support our work and frequently exhibit at our meetings, advertise in our member journal SAAR and awards scholarships.

Danish Society of Wound Healing was the first Society of Wounds in Scandinavia, and in the following years, associations were formed in Sweden, Norway and Iceland. In the years after the formation of the society increased the membership rapidly from the first 30 members to 1000, which is also the membership today.

DSFS aims to raise awareness of wound care via member magazine SAAR and at meetings and courses for those who are interested in wounds.



DSFS works on to placing the Wound field as an independent part of the Danish health care - as an expert or discipline field. The different specializations and interest groups are expected to gain more influence in future at work on wound care, and here it will be important to define the educational requirements needed for a person to be called Wound Expert.

# European Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel



[www.epuap.org](http://www.epuap.org)

*“The European Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel’s objective is to provide relief to persons suffering from, or at risk of, pressure ulcers, in particular through research and the education of the public”.*

The EPUAP was formed in 1996 with representatives from thirteen European countries meeting in London. An announcement of the foundation of this society was made in the *Lancet*. The success of the EPUAP has been made possible through our members and commercial support from our corporate sponsors.

The EPUAP has had thirteen annual meetings in the following countries: Belgium, England, Finland, France, Hungary, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, and Scotland. Its next meeting, in September 2011, will be in Oporto, Portugal.

We have close collaboration with other Pressure Ulcer Societies. At the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting of EPUAP, held in Oxford in 2007, a special Symposium was held jointly with the Japanese Society for Pressure Ulcers to understand their approach to Prevention and Management of Pressure Ulcers. This included presentations on Mechanisms and Measurement, Risk Factors and Wound Assessment.

The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual EPUAP meeting was held in the University of Birmingham, UK, 1-3 September 2010 with the theme “*The flourishing of science to support prevention and healing.*” More than 400 participants from throughout Europe and the rest of the world, all with a major interest in pressure ulcers, attended the meeting. The meeting was supported by a comprehensive exhibition that included 25 companies. The exhibition and adjacent poster display were held in the impressive surroundings of the Great Hall of the University.

The scientific program was well received and was both interesting and informative. It contained a good representation of presenters from Europe along with speakers from Australia, Canada, Japan and USA. In addition to the plenary sessions there were four free paper sessions, three symposia by Danone, Gaymar and KCI, an ArjoHuntleigh workshop, the EHOB breakfast session and an update from the ISO work programme.

A number of new aspects of basic and clinical management of pressure ulcers were presented, probably one of the most exciting of these has been in the increased understanding of the pathophysiology of pressure ulcer development with special reference to deep tissue injury. A number of symposia and a hands-on workshop were held, sponsored with educational grants from our EPUAP corporate sponsors. The themes were “*Pressure ulcer prevention: simplifying the science and practice and the importance of the microclimate*”; “*Malnutrition and Pressure ulcers: adequate nutritional strategy improves patient outcome*”; and “*Consensus statements for a new paradigm on the staging of pressure ulcers*”.

An important part of the conference was the integration of four new initiatives:

- The 2010 EPUAP Novice Investigator Award: Awarded to Ms. Claudia Gorecki (University of Leeds, UK);
- The 2010 EPUAP Experienced Investigator Award: Awarded to Prof. Tom Defloor (Ghent University, Belgium).
- Student free paper competition
- Oral poster presentations

The Annual General meeting of the EPUAP took place during the Birmingham meeting in which a new president elect was chosen, Dr Michael Clark.

As always inter professional networking was a key part of the conference and the informal networking apparent during the event was evidence of this taking place along with the enjoyable gala dinner.

The EPUAP is now busy planning the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, which will be held in Oporto, Portugal, 31 August - 2 September 2011 on the theme “*Pressure Ulcer Research Achievements Translated to Clinical Guidelines*” with Paulo Alves, Oporto, Portugal as the local organiser. Further information on this upcoming meeting is available on our website [www.epuap.org](http://www.epuap.org). The EPUAP looks forward to seeing many of our EWMA colleagues at the meeting.

Educational activities of the EPUAP include the development of guidelines for Pressure Ulcers on prevention and treatment as well as prevalence studies in Belgium, Italy, Portugal and UK. Recently new International Guidelines have been developed by the EPUAP/NPUAP. The new Quick Reference Guidelines for Prevention are available on our website in a number of languages including Finnish, German, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Polish, Portuguese, Spanish, Swedish and Turkish; and the Treatment ones in Japanese, with other translations in progress. In addition the Quick

Reference Guidelines for Treatment and the full Clinical Practice Guidelines containing the references can be purchased from the NPUAP website [www.npuap.org](http://www.npuap.org). At our 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting in Birmingham in 2010, one session on the new EPUAP/NPUAP Guidelines was held under the direction of Dr Carol Dealey, a past president of the EPUAP, who was presented with a plaque for her contribution to EPUAP and specifically her work on leading the European contribution to the development of the International Pressure Ulcer Prevention and Treatment Guideline: [www.epuap.org/guidelines.html](http://www.epuap.org/guidelines.html).

A unique educational tool developed under the direction of Professor Tom Defloor for diagnosis and classification of pressure ulcers is an interactive programme (PUCLAS). This interactive programme is available on the EPUAP website.

Further information can be obtained from:

EPUAP Business Office:

14 Aston Street,  
Oxford OX4 1EP

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LWMA

# The Lithuanian Wound Management Association



[www.lzga.lt](http://www.lzga.lt)

The Lithuanian Wound Management Association (LWMA) was established in 2005 on the initiative of the wound healing centre at Kaunas University of Medicine. The association now holds 38 members who are a combination of doctors and nurses interested in wound healing issues. The aim of this association is to encourage professional cooperation between specialists and researchers who work together to solve the challenges of studies, diagnosis, treatment and prevention of problematic wound healing.

The goals of the Association are to:

- improve training of doctors and nurses and their professional qualifications
- provide medical and nursing qualification certificates
- develop peer relationships
- help young professionals to improve their qualifications e.g. by organising and supporting internships in clinics
- support research and practice cooperation, promoting the adjacent sciences and specialties of knowledge
- maintain and develop cooperative relations with the European countries, global counterparts and related societies and associations that represent members of the association of international organizations
- support the Republic of Lithuania, the Ministry of Health, the Lithuanian Union of Doctors, urban municipalities and other institutions which offer healing of wounds and topical issues
- raise funds to support its goals and objectives

- organize workshops, symposia, conferences and congresses on current professional issues
- participate in the preparation of research papers including writing and reviewing of articles, supporting researchers, and helping in the production of field kits, brochures, etc.
- assist members of the Association to defend the professional, legal, economic and social interests and rights to receive and provide support to the Republic of Lithuania laws

Since 2005 LWMA has organised an annual conference on various themes of chronic and acute wound management. Members of the association have carried out research works in fields of treatment of deep partial thickness burns and treatment of trophic ulcers and have participated in the research project for diagnostic of microorganisms "Electronic nose" study.

At a symposium in Helsinki in 2009, members of the association helped to organise a symposium for Russian-speaking countries. The same year a conference was organised in Lithuania for doctors and nurses in the Baltic States who are interested in wound management.

LWMA is active in consulting with colleagues from Belarus, Ukraine and Russia and assisting in the establishment of associations of wound management in these countries.

# Tissue Viability Nurses in Scotland

In March 2008 following discussion with the National Association of Tissue Viability Nurses in Scotland (NATVNS), a National Integrated Tissue Viability Programme was established by the Chief Nursing Officer Scotland, and a project initiation document was developed to look at particularly the prevention and treatment of pressure ulcers. This identified lead roles for Quality Improvement Scotland (NHS QIS) and National Education for Scotland (NES) and outlined a series of substances to be produced within a certain timeframe.

Looking back, much of the activity in Phase 1 had completed the work set in motion in the original *Project Initiation Document* with the development of a “tool kit” which included:

- Best Practice Statements
- Grading and excoriation tools
- Pressure ulcer prevalence methodology
- Care bundle (SSKIN)
- Practice development programme (toolkit)
- Education programme
- Safety cross to provide real time incidence data

Phase 2 introduced further materials-

- Preliminary risk assessment tool (PPURA)
- Wound assessment – recognising infection?
- Action algorithms – what do we do now?

In conjunction with the National Association of Tissue Viability Nurses in Scotland (NATVNS) and public partners at NHS QIS a *patient information leaflet on pressure ulcer prevention* was developed in addition to the tools already developed.

All documents can be accessed from the Tissue Viability web-site [www.tissueviabilityonline.com](http://www.tissueviabilityonline.com).

The project is now progressing towards the end of phase 3 with the final report to the Scottish Government due in April 2011. Throughout the third year substantial awareness sessions were undertaken through the continued support of facilitators representing each

NHS Board and also care homes in Scotland. The sessions for the facilitators were framed in response to what this group had identified as necessary to help them develop capacity as champions of pressure ulcer prevention and of the programme. NATVNS continued to be pro active within the project working in partnership with Dr. Susan Baxter (Project Manager) and the National Tissue Viability Programme advisory group. The proposed model, developed by the Institute of Healthcare Improvement, has already been successfully introduced in Wales and in Seton, Maryland, North America, by Annette Bartley, (improvement expert with a background in tissue viability and member of the Advisory Group). Dr. Susan Baxter has also noted that the work in this programme extends beyond the NHS to the care homes and that colleagues in Social Work had also been interested in the programme. With an increased focus on care in the community, and the prevention of re-admission to hospital, the prevention of preventable pressure ulcers is now of concern to a wider group of professionals.

## FUTURE PLANS

- Some NHS Trusts outside Scotland have requested permission to utilise the array of tools on [www.tissueviabilityonline.com](http://www.tissueviabilityonline.com) in their own care areas.
- An academic paper is being written by programme manager and other programme members of NATVNS on the development of the Scottish Adapted EPUAP grading tool.
- The safety cross is successfully being piloted in Health Boards across Scotland with a view to national implementation in the early part of 2011.
- The development of a pressure ulcer productivity tool to help NHS organisations and commissioners understand the productivity and cost elements associated in treating patients with pressure ulcers. This understanding will assist in the long term reduction of the incidence of pressure ulcers.

*Alison Johnstone* MSc (Chair NATVNS)

# A presentation of the Norwegian Wound Healing Association

The Norwegian Wound Healing Association is a nationwide, voluntary organisation. It comprises approximately 700 members: nurses, physicians, podiatrists, orthopaedic engineers and orthopaedists.

The main purpose of the organisation is to improve health care personnel's interest and knowledge in prevention, diagnostics and treatment procedures for chronic ulcers of all aetiologies. The organisation works primarily toward the primary health care, but secondary and tertiary health institutions are also included.

The board has ten members who work voluntarily without economic compensation. The board meets six times per year, and constitutes the working body of the organisation. It has organised the following subcommittees where appointed members of the organisation also participate:

- The committee for education – which is responsible for the educational courses, recommended standards for wound care and offers wound care journals, all of which is freely available from our internet site.
- The committee for fellowships.
- The committee for information and public relations.
- The committee for pressure ulcer prevention, diagnostics and treatment.
- The committee for telemedicine in primary health care.

The association has an active internet site: [www.nifs-saar.no](http://www.nifs-saar.no) where summaries of all board meetings and meetings in the subcommittees can be found.

Annual national seminars have been arranged since 1998 with the following main themes: *Venous leg ulcers, Cancer ulcers, Arterial ulcers, Diabetic ulcers, The diabetic foot, Chronic ulcers, Pressure ulcers, Infection in wounds, and Complicated wounds*. These seminars

attract 300-400 participants every year, and are held in different locations around the country. They are also attended by the industry, and the latest developments in prevention, diagnostics and treatment of chronic ulcers are exhibited.

The association's internet presentation comprises general information of the organisation, information about our industrial sponsors and our fellowships. Guidelines for wound treatment based upon international recommendations are also presented. The program for the seminar in 2011, which were held in Hell, North Trøndelag on February 3 and 4, were also presented on the website. The theme for the seminar were "*Ulcers that need compression treatment*".

The association supports courses for physicians, nurses and orthopaedists given by our members, and has worked out guidelines for courses with relevant curricula. The Norwegian Medical Association has accepted the curriculum for credits to the post graduate education of common practitioners and dermatologists. On our internet pages, practical experience and advice are offered to members as well as non members who wish to arrange teaching courses on wound treatment. Links to other organisations and literature are also easily accessible at this site.

The association acknowledges that a correct diagnosis of a chronic wound by a qualified physician is not always obtained before treatment is started, and it is one of our aims to improve the diagnostic work up for all chronic wound patients.

We also wish to improve the education for physicians and nurses in this area, and have recently sent a questionnaire to the four Norwegian universities and to the colleges educating nurses asking for information on their curricula concerning wound care. So far, we are working with two colleges trying to establish an improved education in this field. In addition for the past

three years we have also contributed to two specialist education programs for nurses.

Reimbursement for bandage material for wound care is a continuing debate in Norway, because this cost is not covered by the social security regulations for primary health care, and our association is actively working on this issue in cooperation with other patient organisations.

Another issue is the need for local or regional wound centres at local hospitals, which would be an important step forwards. Currently this is limited to patients with diabetic feet in a few hospitals, but the need is for regional wound competence centres localized to surgical, medical or dermatological out-patient clinics in a far more systematic fashion than today.



The Scandinavian journal SÅR is the journal of the Danish and Norwegian Wound Healing Associations and appears four times per year with articles of interest from members in Denmark and Norway, with national and international meeting calendars.

Best regards  
*Inge Glambek*, Chairman

# Dutch Organisation for Wound Care Nurses

The first Dutch Organisation for Wound Care Nurses, the NOVW, was established in 2005, so it has been in existence for five years now. During those five years it has acquired an important position in Dutch wound care. Moreover, the organisation now also operates in Belgium, where its members frequently visit meetings and share their expertise with their colleagues.

## THE NOVW'S OBJECTIVES

The NOVW was established to reinforce the position of wound care nurses. The objective of the organisation is to realise legally acknowledged education for its target group, the wound care nurses, along with an acknowledged title to indicate qualified wound care nurses. However, this aim is no longer valid since the Dutch government came up with the new title of 'medical specialist'. The NOVW, however, has always been well-informed about structural developments within wound care, so it does see possibilities to reinforce the position of wound care nurses and will continue to develop the quality of wound care in general. This is now one of the organisation's most important goals.

## SHARING EXPERTISE

The NOVW Practicum is one of the organisation's successful initiatives. It is an annual event which enables visitors to share knowledge, expertise and experience. Lectures and workshops are organised around a central theme. In addition a selection of ten wound care companies organise workshops at their stands and, by using a unique system of circulating groups, delegates are able to visit both the programme in the main hall and these workshops organised by the industry. Visitors also receive a syllabus containing background information, casuistry and summaries of the lectures. The NOVW Practicum is an event accredited by the 'V&V Kwaliteitsregister', the government-related coordinating organisation for nurses.

In addition to this annual NOVW Practicum there is also the 'NOVW Commissie Compressie'. This group of experienced wound care professionals, supported by dermatologists and vascular surgeons, has been organising schooling for two years now. Again, interaction and practice are the key components of these courses. The industry is also actively involved and organises practice-oriented workshops about the practical use of wound care products. The Compression Commission is also involved in developing new guidelines concerning compression therapy.

## NTVW

The Dutch Journal for Wound Care, the NTVW, enables the NOVW to present information and ideas on a monthly basis to more than 3500 wound care professionals in The Netherlands and in Belgium. The NOVW and NTVW's combined archives consist of international publications that have been translated into Dutch. Together with the magazine's editorial office, which is made up of dermatologists, vascular surgeons and specialist wound care nurses from both The Netherlands and Belgium, a monthly selection of wound care related articles is produced and their translations are published in that month's issue of the NTVW. This enables a wide group of wound care professionals in The Netherlands and in Belgium to share their knowledge and expertise, which will also support the development of and raise awareness of the importance of wound care in general.

## NOVW AND EWMA

NOVW feels cooperation between all parties involved is key, especially when sharing of knowledge is involved and when establishing support for the actions and objectives of wound care. That is why, together with the British Journal of Wound Care, the organisation decided to translate and publish the 'POG document' about the scientific support of EWMA. The document will be available, free of charge for members of the

NOVW and at cost price for other interested parties. Another annual and mutual publication is the translation of the EWMA Position Document. Recently the NOVW's chair and one of the NTVW's editors visited Ms Zena Moore, President of EWMA, in Dublin, to discuss the position of wound care in Europe. Her motivating and inspiring story is published in the January issue of NTVW.

### CALL FOR ALL EWMA MEMBERS

The Dutch Organisation for Wound Care Nurses and the Dutch Journal of Wound Care take a large interest in the activities of fellow members of EWMA. Therefore we'd like to ask all members to keep us informed on their activities and to send us relevant information on upcoming internationally orientated meetings and events, so that we, and our members, may attend or at least mention them in our diaries. We are very much interested in publishing the experiences of fellow organisations, because we believe that sharing knowledge and expertise is of vital importance to developing the field of wound care.

### THE NOVW IN 2011

The 2011 NOVW Practicum's theme will be RCT, Registration, Check and Application. The practicum will aim at achieving support for, and demonstrating the cost effective value of, a high standard of wound care and the need for qualified wound care professionals. Evidence, as well as registration and an unequivocal approach, are of great importance, especially now that authorities and health care insurance companies are looking for ways to cut expenses. It is vital we prove the cost effective value of our contribution to highly professional wound care, to enable us to continue to offer the high quality care that we currently provide.

*Marie Anne Lassing-Kroonenberg*

Publisher NTVW/Dutch Journal of Wound Care

[www.ntvw.nl](http://www.ntvw.nl)

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### Contact and information:

NOVW Secretariat: [info@novw.org](mailto:info@novw.org)

[www.novw.org](http://www.novw.org)



# Polish Wound Management Association

The Polish Wound Management Association is an organization with a short history but one which is constantly, dynamically and resiliently developing and growing. Established in 2003 as a non-profit organization of an interdisciplinary character, the Polish Wound Management Association gathers together doctors, nurses, physiotherapists and the representatives of different fields of medicine who have a direct connection with chronic wound healing. Each year the number of association members is growing and now there are more than 400 registered members. The board of the association consists of six members chosen every three years at the general meeting.

The main aims of our activities are:

- organizing conferences and training for doctors and nurses about modern wound healing. This includes dissemination of the knowledge in mass media. Moreover, the society wants to cooperate and exchange the knowledge with other organizations and national institutions in the sphere of wound healing.
- active participation in meetings of national and foreign institutions in the field of wound healing as well as publishing activities with the intention of raising awareness and understanding of modern wound healing.
- cooperation with state and local government administration bodies. The scope of training, so far, has covered the basic groups of wound pathology and the promotion of those modern treatments which seem to be especially crucial and fully justified. The education focused on treatment of chronic wounds such as bedsores, shin-bone ulceration of vascular background, diabetic foot and burns.

The Polish Wound Management Association publishes a quarterly journal entitled “*Wound Healing*”. This is the official journal of the Association together with Polish Association of Burns Healing as well as the Polish Association of Plastic, Reconstruction and Aesthetic Surgery. All the members of the Association get a copy of this journal for free. The publisher of the journal is Everett Sp. z o.o. in Warsaw. In addition the PWMA also has an Internet website: [www.ptlr.pl](http://www.ptlr.pl).



Recent important events hosted by the Association were the scientific and training conferences organized in Poznan (2005, 2007) and Bydgoszcz (2009). During the sessions, the issue of complex and interdisciplinary attitudes in chronic wound healing was always emphasized. All the conferences and symposia were met with great interest. The recent congress which was organized in Ignacy Paderewski Pomeranian Philharmonic in Bydgoszcz attracted more than 1000 attendees from Poland as well as Denmark, England, Slovenia, Germany and the Czech Republic.

The Polish Wound Management Association, under the patronage of the European Wound Management Association, has carried out research which assessed the occurrence of ulcerations in the lower limb area



(Opole- Prof. Z. Rybak and co- workers), Bydgoszcz- Prof. A. Jawień and co-workers). The results of those two research projects were presented during the European Conference of Wound Management in Lisbon in 2008 and later in Helsinki and Geneva. The research included randomized researches which assessed effectiveness of venous leg ulcers treatment with the use of different compression products, as well as the influence of venous pathology on the time of ulcers healing (Bydgoszcz centre). In the last few years there appeared some monographs which have created the educational basis for nurses and doctors. In addition, specialist training for nurses in the sphere of Chronic Wound Healing has become established. During the short period of the Polish Wound Management Association's activity there have been many campaigns promoting modern methods of chronic wound healing. These were in Zakopane, Warsaw, Radom, Poznan, Cracow, Bydgoszcz, Gdansk, Sopot and other locations. There were also many patronages of organized trainings and specialist courses both for doctors and nurses.

The board of the Polish Wound Management Association in addition to educational activities also liaises with the Polish administration and national government to raise awareness of the necessity of increasing the availability of modern treatment methods for patients. After several years of effort and cooperation with Ministry of Health, the project of partial refund was prepared. This

project broadens the availability of specialist bandages used in chronic wounds healing. Currently, as a result of great effort, the Association has obtained a promise from the Ministry of Health to partially refund specialist bandages. This will be done as a project of the new regulation of Ministry of Health. This regulation should come into force in 2011. What is more, the association is working to influence the administration and legislation authorities in their current project of widening the competences of nurses to enable them to write prescriptions for specialist bandages. Unfortunately, the specialist bandages and compression products to heal venous leg ulcers are still not refunded. There are also no procedures concerning the refund of chronic wounds healing in hospital and ambulatory conditions. So far, the care of patients suffering from chronic wounds has still not been organized. There are no special Wound Management Centers designated for this purpose, except burns healing. That is why the activities of the Polish Wound Management Association work to support patients suffering from chronic wounds and focus on making efforts to create such places while aiming to place the procedures connected with chronic wounds healing on the lists of benefits guaranteed by National Health Fund.

*Arkadiusz Jawień*, Prof. M.D. Ph.D. President  
*Maria T. Szewczyk*, Ass. Prof. M.D. Ph.D.  
General Secretary

SUMS

# The Icelandic Wound Healing Society



[www.sums-is.org](http://www.sums-is.org)

The Icelandic Wound Healing Society (SUMS) is a multidisciplinary organisation for health professionals in Iceland, interested in wound healing and wound management. SUMS was established in 2004 with great help from EWMA and has benefited from being one of EWMA's cooperating organisations from the beginning. SUMS is a non profit organisation and we work in good collaboration with our sponsors from the industry. We have 180 members and a board of five members with two substitutes, who all work on voluntary basis.

The objectives of the organisation are to

1. Promote knowledge on wound healing and management among Icelandic health professionals
2. Promote evidence based care for individuals with wounds in Iceland
3. Promote research on wounds among the Icelandic population
4. Establish a forum for Icelandic health professionals interested in wound healing by organising meetings and seminars
5. Establish connections between SUMS and other similar organisations

In March every year we have a general meeting where we combine the annual meeting tasks and education. The highlight, however, of SUMS's activities is the annual conference held in Reykjavik in October every year. We have addressed several subjects through the years with help from local professionals as well as guest lecturers from overseas. This year our guest was Madeleine Flanagan from the University of Hertfordshire, UK. She gave an inspirational presentation on Barriers to Healing, addressing the topic from different sides. She also gave a presentation on wound related pain. Other topics addressed this year were topical

negative pressure therapy, infections, inflammatory ulcers, hyperbaric oxygen therapy and documentation. One Icelandic study was introduced this year when Ásta Thoroddsen, RN, PhD, presented her study on documentation of pressure ulcers.

SUMS has not been involved in major research projects as yet but for the past five years it has awarded a grant in order to encourage professionals or students who are working on projects or studies related to wounds. Among projects that have received the grant are one study on pressure ulcers in Landspítali, a study on harvest site surgical wounds on lower extremities after CABG, a prevalence study on chronic leg ulcers in Iceland, a study on burns on paediatric patients and one study on the use of TNPT in Iceland and, last but not least, a project on an Icelandic website on wounds.

In 2007 the Icelandic Wound Healing Society wrote a letter to the administration of Landspítali University Hospital in Iceland where we pointed out the need to focus on wound management in the Icelandic health care system. Prior to this we carried out a pilot study in the hospital and in primary health clinics in order to estimate the magnitude of wounds and their burden on the Icelandic health care system. We believe this encouraged the establishment of an interdisciplinary wound healing centre in Landspítali in 2009.

Looking back to the year 2004 when SUMS was established we realise that we have achieved a lot. Knowledge has increased and practices have changed. SUMS has become a recognized and influential entity in Icelandic healthcare.

*Guðbjörg Pálsdóttir*, RN, MS, President of SUMS

SWHS

# Serbian Wound Healing Society – activities in year 2010



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

SWHS was formed in 2006 in Belgrade, with the aim to define and promote the principles of modern diagnosis and therapy of chronic wounds through accepting the EWMA consensus and to educate physicians and nurses. SWHS was founded by a multidisciplinary team of six physicians including a cardiovascular surgeon, a transfusiologist, an angiologist, a dermatologist, a diabetologist and a plastic and reconstructive surgeon.

In Serbia, there are around 100,000 patients with chronic wounds, both actual and healed. Up to 25% of these are hard-to-heal chronic wounds. The distribution of chronic wounds is as follows – 58% venous, 5% arterial, 15% mixed form, 2.5% pressure, 4% diabetic and 1% lymphatic. The common denominators for these chronic wounds are the long healing time, poly-microbial burden, antibiotic resistance, allergic dermatitis, increasing occurrence of mixed wounds, recurrent wounds, work disability, and reduction of Quality of Life (QoL). Based on this, it seemed that there was a strong rationale to establish the SWHS.

In Serbia there are two parallel protocols of wound dressing:

- 1) Traditional: predominantly used in practice (dressing once a day with dry gauze, colouring antiseptics, overuse of local and systemic antibiotics)
- 2) Modern: according to EWMA consensus, used in 15% cases. The main goal of the SWHS is to establish modern chronic wounds dressing, to reduce healing time and cost of therapy while increasing patients' QoL.

Since 2006, the SWHS has held six three-day schools for chronic wound management, four of them with international lecturers (from Slovenia, England and Croatia) and international participants (300 physicians and nurses). The program of the school consisted of 12 lectures on the characteristics of chronic wounds and presentation of arterial, venous, pressure, diabetic and miscellaneous wounds. Also, we organised five work-

shops on compressive therapy, Colour Duplex scan of veins and arteries, Doppler index, Diabetic foot, therapy by tissue adhesives, intermittent compressive therapy and skin changes in vascular diseases.

Also, the SWHS held 21 workshops examining wound management attended by 1200 nurses in Belgrade and several cities in Serbia. SWHS has also cooperated with the Serbian Society of nurses and participated in their education and other professional activities.



SWHS is responsible for publishing the wound care journal *WOUNDS*, issued on an annual basis, with original studies. The journal has developed collaboration with regional wounds management experts. In 2007 SWHS organised TELEULCUS, the first in the region, with an aim to help doctors and patients by internet communication.

SWHS has been a member of EWMA since 2007 and has delegates at the Board of the EWMA Cooperating Organisations and participates in the EWMA Congress and education activities. In particular, the wound school referred to above is endorsed by the EWMA Education Committee.



The sixth school for chronic wound management, held on June, in Zlatibor, received accreditation and certification from the Serbian Medical Chamber.

SWHS also organised one Symposium LYMPHOEDEMA, (chairman Prim. Dr J. Delic, angiologist) held in July in Belgrade, with 210 participants and in October, Dr J. Delic, a vice-president of SWHS participated in the DIABETIC FOOT SYMPOSIUM, in St. Martin on Mura in Croatia, organized by the Croatia Wound Association (CWA).

In addition, a symposium – THE THERAPY OF CHRONIC WOUNDS – is going to be held at Clinic Centre, Belgrade. Prof. Dr D. Vucetic, plastic and reconstructive surgeon will be chairman and lecturer with Dr M. Dragasevic, Dr J. Delic, and Dr J. Jeremic. SWHS also planned many lectures and workshops for general practitioners and nurses at health centres, during November and December 2010.

SWHS maintains regular contact and cooperation with the societies for wound management from Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia and Montenegro, according to EWMA protocols and propositions for wounds dressing. Satisfying results of wounds healing confirms that this is the right way.

# WMAT

# Wound Management & Tissue Repairing Association Turkey



[www.yaradernegi.net](http://www.yaradernegi.net)

## HISTORY

The Wound Management and Tissue Repairing Association of Turkey was established at Ankara in 1996. In those early years, because of sponsorship problems and limitations of wound care products, activities were carried out mainly by just attending the meetings abroad. Later as the Association developed, wound care activities started, meetings were arranged, and short program courses were organized. Wound care outpatient clinics and wound assessment councils were organized in several hospitals across the country.

Since 2004 the association has developed further with sponsorship studies and increased activities. A center and a secretary was established for the association, member registrations increased and then further activities were developed to allow the association to meet its declared aims.

## ACTIVITIES

- Our first aim is to contribute to the dissemination of education on wound care to all doctors and nurses involved in wound care by organizing courses on wound management.
- By arranging national congress studies we share knowledge and experience of wound care with doctors and nurses across Turkey.
- We are attending international congresses and meetings and trying to take that knowledge and experience back to Turkey.
- Presenting guidelines in modern wound care treatments and products, publishing guidebooks and organizing training programmes on where to use which product.
- Contributing to social security foundations when needed because there are still problems in wound care provision in Turkey.

- Multi-centered new wound care product studies are being carried out all over the country's different hospitals and centers. We are using these studies to gather information to enable us to better understand wound care needs in Turkey.

Unfortunately, the incidence studies can not be made multicentered and are individual for every center and variable. This complicates any research aiming to find prevalence for any particular kind of wound in the general population.

## MEMBERSHIP

At present, there are six hundred active members registered to the association comprising roughly 60% doctors and 40% nurses. The Board of Directors of our association, as of April 4th 2009, is listed below:

- Dr. Bülent Erdoğan, President
- Dr. Ali Barutçu, II. President
- Dr. Selçuk Baktıroğlu, Scientific Board President
- Dr. Eksal Kargı, General Secretary
- Dr. Tuğbay Tuğ, Accountant
- Dr. Şamil Aktaş, Member
- Dr. Ufuk Bilkay, Member

## JOURNALS

We are working to publish a periodic journal. Our limited financial resources are complicating the whole process, but we will soon have achieved our aim of publishing our own journal.

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- 6th Wound Management Certificate Course for Nurses, (April, 2011, ).
- 6th National Wound Management Congress (October, 2011, Ankara).



*1st Wound Management Certificate Course for Nurses (Mrs Flanagan, Dr. Baskan, Dr. Erdogan, Dr. Tug, Dr. Karabag and Sponsors)*

## **WOUND MANAGEMENT IN TURKEY**

Wound management in our country is still not organised into wound care clinics. Currently this care is carried out by interested doctors in several hospitals and health care centers or in wound care councils and sometimes work group activities. In hospitals of large cities the wound care outpatient clinics are providing this service. Patients are hospitalized generally by Plastic Surgery and sometimes General Surgery, Orthopedic Surgery, Vascular Surgery, Endocrinology and Dermatology clinics. As a result we have observed develop-

ment of a multidisciplinary approach at these centers which does not always address wound care needs.

The work of wound management is carried out mainly by Plastic Surgery and payments for wound care products by social security foundations are causing problems. There is not enough cost analysis made in this area. However because surgery is cheaper, graft-flap surgery is used in chronic wound treatment especially in Plastic and General Surgery clinics. Preoperative preparations include surgical debridement, topical negative pressure therapy and modern wound dressings. Out-



*1st National Wound Management Congress of Turkey (Dr. Gottrup, Miss Donde from Coloplast, Dr. Erdogan, Dr. Aslan, Dr. Adanali)*



*Dr. Romanelli in 2nd WMAT Congress*



*Dr. Armstrong and Dr. Erdogan in 2nd National Wound Management Congress of Turkey*

patient follow up is less popular and in some centers very few home care programs are used.

Wound care nursing is still not a speciality area in Turkey. Usually the nurses who are interested in this field of care are the ones taking relevant courses in wound care organizations or attendants of the surgery clinics. To address their needs, the Wound Care Association provides wound care initial training program.

There are no wide prevalence studies on chronic wounds currently available in Turkey. However several clinic studies show diabetic foot ulcers (35%) are the most common wounds. After that respectively pressure

ulcers(30%), chronic traumatic wounds and osteomyelitis (20%), venous and lymphatic ulcers (10%) and others (5%). In Turkey trauma and burn related chronic wounds are the important group for our country .

Wound management education is developing in Turkey. It is increasingly taking place in all relevant clinics, congresses, meetings and symposiums. All the multi-disciplinary clinic branches have wound care activities during their congresses.

However, at present, there is no focus on wound care in our country's political agenda.