**AISLeC 2002 Activity**

Since AISLeC was founded it has worked towards its objectives of promoting the quality of care through extensive research. Using data from Italy and abroad, AISLeC has done this following the AHCPR guidelines.

In its eight years of activity, AISLeC has trained over 9000 professional health workers, been involved in many quality assurance initiatives throughout Italy, and with over 200 courses and 13 editions of University courses in wound care. In addition, AISLeC has established multi-centre researches involving a total of over 140 hospitals.

The first three studies involved a total of 1,760 colleagues and 8,240 patients from 297 wards. From these studies we have been able to observe if the patients, while confined to their beds, have had their positions changed at regular intervals whether assisted by professional health workers or moving by themselves. We have also checked if pressure redistribution equipment was used and if medications were used. In addition, we have evaluated the level of assistance given to patients in home care treatment programmes. We have looked at mobilization and the use of assistance for preventive treatment of PS in Home Care.

The fourth multi-centre research is actually in progress and its focus is on home care and nursing homes. In the preparatory home research over 56% of the subjects examined had skin ulcers. In evaluating pressure sore lesions and comparing the home care setting to the hospital setting, we can see that the presence of low-grade lesions (stage 1 and stage 2) has been confirmed to be around 50%, as in the 1996 study. We also confirmed an increase of 50% in stage 3 and an increase of 100% in stage 4 lesions when comparing the two settings.

These studies have enabled us to inform patients, clinicians, healthcare workers and the Italian Health Ministry about this important problem and to work towards improving quality assurance in home care.

To improve our clinical knowledge it is necessary to invest in research programs and, for this reason, some research groups like ours are carrying out multi-centre research projects to draw attention to the work done by our Association. In Italy, the Vulnus Foundation is being set up to research and operate projects in line with the work done by us. The aim of the Vulnus Foundation is to bring about and promote clinical research projects as well as training programmes, in order to improve the quality of the care and treatment offered to thousands of citizens. There is also a synergy between the Foundation and a lot of Health Centres and Hospitals.

The integral data on the latest research in home care is also available in English. It contains over 50 pages of tables and comments on the largest research project in to home care in Italy. For a CD copy of the research data, fax your details to: +39 382 523 203.