The Portuguese Wound Management Association (APTFeridas) is the oldest such organisation in Portugal, created especially to promote and share scientific knowledge and general information with professional health workers on the wound management field. Founded in 1998, as a non lucrative organisation, it is officially recognised by the Portuguese state.

Its survival is due to the generous contribution of time by members of the association, both in administrative tasks and in taking on educational roles in the field of wound management.

Changes in wound care have been brought about over the years by congresses, symposia, seminars and workshops organised by the association. APTFeridas is now approaching its 10th anniversary and is able to take pride in the changes it has brought about.

Looking back upon the history of APTFeridas, it is evident that it has grown significantly. APTFeridas now has almost 500 members and is made up of a General Assembly, an Executive Committee and a Financial Council, all of which are elected for a period of three years. The first election was in July 1999.

Before the advent of the internet disseminating information was by means of a small black and white newspaper. A major event for us was the introduction of a journal which has now evolved into a magazine.

![Image of the first general assembly in 1999]
Thanks to our volunteers’ efforts, we now have a website: www.aptferidas.com, which is still in its infancy but we have great hopes that it will grow and be a valuable reference tool in the near future.

In 2001 we joined EWMA and EPUAP, and our association with these organisations has been and continues to be of enormous benefit to us in expanding our knowledge base. However, we still have a lot to achieve and the work goes on.

The task of educating professionals who have contact with people with wounds is enormous even with the assistance of other wound care organisations which have more recently been formed. Nevertheless, the future seems hopeful. At our last Congress in November we had 1500 delegates thinking and learning about wound management.

The great event this year is our cooperation with EWMA and GAIF to organise the EWMA 2008 Conference, which will be held in Lisbon, Portugal, 14-16 May 2008.

Our hope is that this event will increase the growing interest among health professionals and health authorities in Portugal to ensure patients receive the highest standard of wound care.

APTFeridas,
Rua Álvares Cabral, 137 Sala 21,
4050-041 Porto, Portugal
Tel: +351 222026725, Fax: +351 222007890
www.aptferidas.com