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 healthcare 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