

First International Workshop on Multidisciplinary Concepts in Wound Healing

April 24th 2002 the *Danish Wound Healing Society* hosted the “first International Workshop on Multidisciplinary Concepts in Wound Healing”. The background for the meeting was the growing international understanding of the importance of a definition of a multidisciplinary approach and structure of the wound healing area in the future.

More than 60 key opinion leaders within the area were gathered in the beautiful surroundings on the coast of North Sealand, to define a strategy for a general acceptance approach and structure for the wound healing area.

Various important topics were covered among which the following can be mentioned.

Professor *Finn Gottrup* was chairman and started the day with a brief overview of the problems faced in Denmark. In spite of an expected well functioning treatment system many patients suffering of problem wounds still has not received a correct diagnosis. This and other problems can be solved by a better organisation of the treatment area by establishment of a structure including centers and teams. Clinical work, education and research with cost effectiveness assessments are important parts of such a structure.

Professor *John Posnett* from the United Kingdom talked about cost effectiveness. He introduced the terms “cost effectiveness” and “clinical effectiveness”. Methods that can document knowledge must be used to maximise Wound Healing and treatment within the existing framework. Cost effectiveness is not alone saving money, but optimising the result with the current funds available.

Professor *Luc Teot* from France, clinical head nurse *Kirsten Müller*, Denmark and professor *Keith Harding* United Kingdom spoke on the importance of well-educated health care personnel, and how such an education could be established.



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Professor *Christine Moffatt*, United Kingdom addressed the problem on a European level. Not surprisingly, very few are interested in this health care problem in Europe, and the conception of best practice is very diverse.

Professor *Vincent Falanga* and professor *Gert Kövecker* described the initial steps of organisation in the US and Germany. The reimbursement problem for the American wound patient and the need for academic based wound healing centers are main problems in the US. A computerised registration system between different hospitals in the southern part of Germany is the initial step of organisation in this country.

The final panel discussion chaired by dr. *George Cherry* and Professor *Christine Moffatt* covered many important questions for the future structure of Wound Healing area.

At the end of the day professor Finn Gottrup could conclude that it had been an interesting and promising workshop, which clearly had shown the need for a strong future strategy for the organisation of the wound healing area. In the next issue of EWMA Journal a more detailed description of this workshop and the project will be published. ■



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