



## NOVW Dutch Organisation of Wound Care Nurses



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# NOVW: Dutch Organisation of Wound Care Nurses

NOVW, founded on July 21st 2005, is the professional organisation for wound care nurses in The Netherlands. This professional organisation was established to meet the growing need for professional wound care nurses in this country. NOVW's aim is to achieve recognition for wound care nurses at a professional and educational level. To this end, NOVW seeks to bridge the gaps between government, industry, education and the professionals that work in wound care. To raise its visibility and issues of wound care with the Dutch government, NOVW recently joined the 'Unie Zorg & Welzijn', a union for the care & well-being sector.

Cooperation is the key word in all of NOVW's activities. In that light, NOVW seized with both hands the opportunity to work with a Dutch publisher to start a new wound care publication and January 2006 saw the release of the first issue of NTVW, the Dutch Journal of Wound Care. The similarity, both in name and presentation, between the Journal and the organisation has helped NOVW to become well known throughout The Netherlands in a very short period of time. Chairman Ton Lassing of NOVW, commented: "The Dutch Journal of Wound Care combines scientific content with human interest and insights in the Dutch wound care market. Working within that concept, it offered NOVW a platform from which to broadcast our mission and communicate with our members and other parties on a monthly basis. Without communication, nothing gets done. This is something I have learned from my experience as a communication specialist working for over 25 years in the Dutch healthcare market."

Although the choice of a chairman who does not have a background in wound care might seem out of the ordinary, the NOVW board and its members benefit greatly from Ton Lassing's expertise. "In today's world, it is no longer enough to do a job and to do it well. It is all about marketing: how to market yourself. For Dutch wound care nurses, the answer may lie in NOVW," Tom said.

All the Board and Supervisory Board members of NOVW were present at the most recent EWMA Meeting in Prague. They all saw the great opportunities open to NOVW in joining the EWMA network and working together with organisations outside the Netherlands.

Fabia Hooykaas, NOVW secretary and professional organizer, remarked: "Time and again, I have stressed the importance of networking. We are thrilled by this opportunity to become part of an international network of wound care organisations. Much time will have to be invested, but the potential rewards in terms of shared insights and knowledge gathering are enormous. It is an excellent step towards the further professionalisation of the wound care sector."

To make efficient use of the contacts that NOVW hopes to get from its EWMA membership, the organisation is forming an international affairs committee. Members of this committee will participate in European initiatives aimed at professionalising wound care and the people who work in this sector.

In addition, on December 8th 2006, NOVW, in cooperation with Elsevier Gezondheidszorg (part of Reed Business Healthcare), will hold its first National Conference on the theme 'Positioning of Wound Care Nurses, where do we stand and what is needed to move forward?' The conference will be held in the Beatrix Theater, Utrecht, The Netherlands.

With the conference, its membership of EWMA and publication of NTVW, NOVW is becoming an active member of EWMA and both the national and international wound care community.