SLOVAK WOUND HEALING SOCIETY

INTRODUCTION
The Slovak Wound Healing Society (SSPLR) was founded in 2012 as a professional association of health care professionals dealing with the management and care of both acute and chronic wounds of different origin. SSPLR, following its establishment, applied and was accepted as an organizational unit of the Slovak Medical Association (SkMA).

MISSION AND OBJECTIVES OF SSPLR
- SSPLR is an association of health care professionals who participate in the management and care of acute and chronic wounds of different aetiology
- SSPLR aims to comprehensively solve both health and social care problems in the area of wound management
- SSPLR aims to transfer the latest scientific, professional, medical, diagnostic and therapeutic knowledge into practice in continuous medical education and practical training activities
- SSPLR shall assert a decisive role in the preparation of professional standards for wound care at the hospital, outpatient and home care levels
- SSPLR shall initiate, submit, enforce and publish professional opinions on the following:
  - issues pertaining to expertise and scientifically based knowledge of wound management
  - ethical issues for physicians and other health care professionals
  - issues related to existing and preparing regulatory standards and professional opinions in health care
  - nominations of experts as members of various committees
- SSPLR shall nominate members to represent the society in international professional wound care associations, particularly in the EWMA Cooperating Organisations.

INFORMATION CONCERNING PAST OR UPCOMING CONFERENCES/MEETINGS
Since its establishment, SSPLR has participated actively in several wound healing sessions at national scientific meetings of other SkMA professional associations such as the Annual Conference of the Slovak Angiology Society in 2013 and the Slovak Surgical Society in 2013 and 2014. SSPLR provided scientific guarantee and lecturers for two wound healing scientific workshops in the year 2013 and three in 2014. At least two more such workshops are scheduled to occur in February and April 2015. Members of SSPLR actively participated presenting lectures and posters at the EWMA conferences in 2013 and 2014. Active participation is also expected at the 2015 EWMA annual conference in London.

DESCRIPTION OF RESEARCH PROJECTS IN WOUND HEALING OR WOUND MANAGEMENT
SSPLR is planning to initiate educational programmes in wound management at the national level in Slovakia in the very near future. EWMA position documents are being translated into the Slovak language. A continuous education programme also using EWMA position documents for all levels of wound healing professionals is in preparation. The next step is the preparation of national guidelines for wound management in Slovakia.

Presentation of the opportunities and challenges within the organisation of wound care in Slovakia
As in other countries, many problems exist in the management of chronic wounds such as leg ulcers, diabetic ulcers and pressure sores. Regarding the novel treatment methods and use of advanced medical devices for chronic wound treatment, some are fully reimbursed, while others are partially reimbursed by health care insurance companies.

The most important challenges of SSPLR in the near future include the initiation of educational activities in wound management along with setting up wound healing facilities at regional levels. The continuing medical education programmes will be organised at a level for physicians, as well as at a level for nurses, on regional principles to enable easier participation of all health care personnel engaged in wound management in the activities.

All of the continuing medical education seminars and practical courses will be accredited and organised, according to national CME regulations, in cooperation with the Slovak Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education. We are also expecting an even closer cooperation with EWMA and the EWMA Cooperating Organisations in this field.