



WMAOI Wound Management Association of Ireland



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Chairperson

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The Wound Management Association of Ireland (WMAOI) was established in May 1996 by a multidisciplinary group of healthcare professionals interested in raising the profile of wound care within Ireland.

The aims and objectives of the association are:

- The education and update of wound management in order to promote the highest standard of wound care possible
- To promote research into all aspects of wound management
- To encourage a multidisciplinary approach to wound management
- To issue reports and other publications on the works of the association.

The WMAOI has a constitution, drawn up by the Council, which was adopted at our first Annual General Meeting in September 1997. In order to fulfil its objectives, the association has organised itself into four (4) regions:

Northern Region: Antrim, Armagh, Cavan, Derry, Donegal, Down, Fermanagh, Leitrim, Monaghan, Sligo, and Tyrone.

Midlands Region: Galway, Kildare, Laoise, Longford, Louth, Mayo, Offaly, Roscommon, and Westmeath.

Southern Region: Carlow, Cork, Clare, Kerry, Kilkenny, Limerick, Tipperary, Waterford, and Wexford.

Dublin Wicklow Region: Dublin City, County, and Wicklow areas.

A member is free to choose whichever region they wish to join. Each region runs independently and self-finances its own regional activity. Each region has its own organising committee and reports to the Council. It was suggested that each region should host four activities throughout the year such as study evenings and one-day seminars. Some regions were, and still are, experiencing difficulties with travel because of the large geographic areas covered and have, subsequently, further subdivided their regions. Should the Council decide to reassess the Regional divisions to recognise these sub-divisions, our constitution will have to be changed and ratified by members at our next AGM.

The WMAOI is governed by a Council consisting of three representatives from each of the four regional divisions. The Council has four officers: President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Membership Secretary. The current president is Bernadette Kerry (Midlands Branch), and former presidents include James Kelly (Northern Branch), Helen Strapp (Dublin Branch) and Joseph Baron Hall (Northern Branch).

From the outset, the association aimed to be multidisciplinary and is therefore open to any person interested in wound-care and supportive of the above stated objectives.

Membership benefits include information on the Association's educational activities, publications, seminars, study evenings, and major conferences. At the time the association was formed the Council decided we were not in a position to publish a journal for the WMAOI. In lieu of this we sought out other wound-care organisations that were already publishing their own journals and proposed subscriptions for WMAOI members. WMAOI members are presently affiliated members of the Tissue Viability Society (TVS) and receive all the journals issued by the TVS. We are presently reviewing this situation and looking to work with other organisations that might further benefit our members.

In May 2002 we launched our website www.wmaoi.org, on which visitors will find information regarding our association and where they can download membership forms for the organisation. We are in our infancy with the web page, and hope to add to it and build it up, so that it can be used as a positive resource for all our members. We will be delighted to advertise any upcoming conference seminars, study days etc. on the site.

The past six years have seen the WMAOI evolve, grow stronger and become more independent. During the first three years, our National Conference was organised and funded by Smith & Nephew in association with the WMAOI. In 1999 we made the big leap forward and took on this mammoth task ourselves with the Dublin Region hosting the very successful 4th National Conference in 1999 in Dublin. In 2000, the Northern Branch hosted the 5th National Conference in Belfast.

In 2001 we did not have our Annual Conference as we were approached by EWMA, which was planning on having its Annual Conference in Dublin. EWMA invited us to co-host this event, which was held in May at the RDS Pavilion in Dublin. The WMAOI Council arranged for a local working committee from the Dublin Region to assist the EWMA conference organisers to source venues, hotels and social events for the Conference. It was a wonderful conference and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Last year, the 6th Conference of the Wound Management Association of Ireland was hosted by the Midlands Region on September 25th and 26th in Tullamore County. For this con-

ference we looked beyond our own island and organisation, and brought renowned, international, expert speakers to impart their knowledge and clinical expertise to the conference delegates. We had speakers from a variety of international organisations from different countries. These included:

Peter Vowden, president of EWMA, and *Kathryn Vowden*
Professor Keith Harding, University of Wales and WHRU
Gary Sibbald, Canadian Wound Care Association

Dr *Liza Ovington*, president of the American Academy of Wound Management, USA

Professor Davina Gosnell, Dean of Kent State University, OHIO, USA

Professor David Leaper, University Hospital of North Tees, UK
George Cherry, EPUAP and the Oxford Wound Healing Institute, UK

Ruth Ludwick, associate professor of Kent State University, OHIO, USA

Maureen Benbow, tissue viability nurse, UK

Patrick Glackin, director of Nursing & Midwifery Planning & Development Units MHB, Ireland

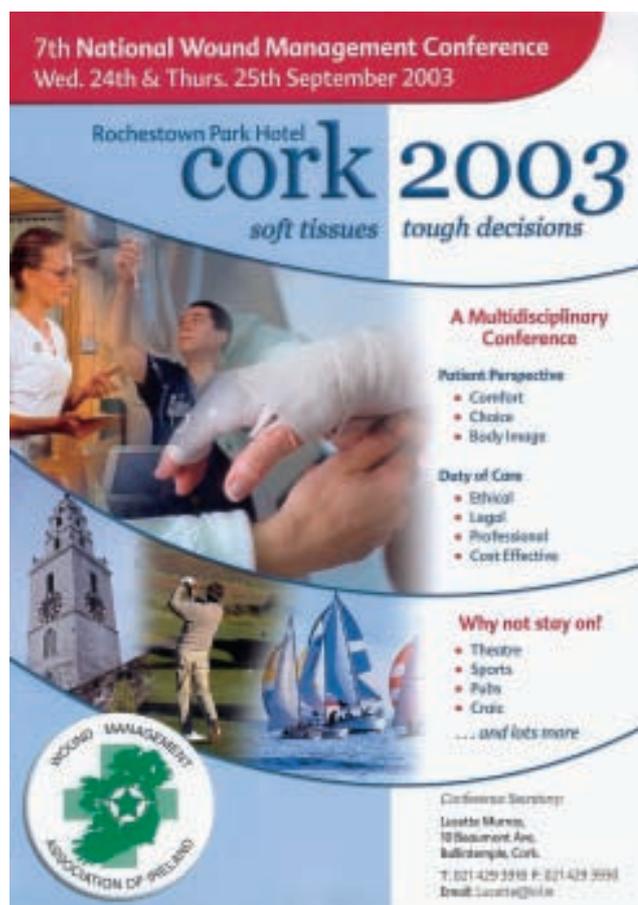
The theme was 'Wound Management Updates and Recommended Best Practice'. Topics included updates on pressure ulcers; diabetic foot and leg ulcer management and prevention; the use of antiseptics; evaluation of pressure ulcer risk assessment tools, and effectiveness of current pressure ulcer prevention strategies; wound watching and assessment; wound bed preparation, and the role of MMPs in wound healing. Additional topics included the importance of managing exudate and controlling moisture balance; how to use modern technology to keep updated with new advances and reports in wound healing, and how to progress from practice to publishing. Delegates also discussed topics such as 'What is happening in wound care today and the future?' and 'How can we achieve clinical nurse specialist roles in wound healing?'

The conference was well attended with delegates from all over Ireland and some delegates travelling from the UK and the USA. All delegates found it both thought provoking and stimulating. Our special thanks go to our five major sponsors Convatec, Coloplast, Johnson & Johnson, Meditec Medical, and Smith & Nephew, and to all the exhibitors at the conference.

At the Conference gala dinner on Wednesday night the guest speaker, Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Brian Cowen, was followed by live entertainment from renowned, international singer and songwriter Brendan Keeley who gave what can only be described as a fantastic performance and had everyone dancing into the early hours of the morning. The gala dinner was greatly enjoyed by all.

For those organisations that have not yet added us to their links page please do so and let us know. We will be also delighted to add your organisation to our web site. We naturally recognise that networking is the key to furthering knowledge.

On behalf of the WMAOI
Bernadette Kerry, President of WMAOI.



This year's conference will be hosted by the Cork Branch of the WMAOI and will be held in Rochestown Park Hotel Cork on 24th & 25th September 2003. Further details will be available on the website at a later date.