



## WMAS Slovenian Wound Management Association



Helena Kristina Peric

Slovenian  
Wound Management Association  
Cankarjeva 8  
1236 Trzin  
Slovenia

helena.peric@siol.net

## What's new in Slovenia?

**Slovenian Wound Management Association (WMAS)** has been very active in the past couple of years. As a very young association it still suffers from some "childhood" problems but we are overcoming them more and more. WMAS is run by professor Zoran M. Arnež. Vice-presidents are Vanja Vilar and Zdenka Kramar. The executive board consists of different professions- doctors of various specializations, nurses, pharmacists...

As Slovenia is a small country (population less than 2 million) we always struggle with manpower, so last year we decided to hire a part time secretary to assist us with administration. This proved to be a good decision as our plan of activities is always ambitious enough to keep us busy.

Some of the major achievements of the association in the last 2 years are:

- publishing Recommendations for prevention and treatment of pressure ulcers, Recommendations for treatment of venous leg ulcers, Recommendations for treatment of diabetic foot ulcers and Recommendations for treatment of malignant wounds. The Recommendations are very appreciated by health care professionals. Of course we are aware that this is just the first step out of many required to bring wound care in Slovenia to the level where all patients will be treated adequately and equally. We would like to expand these recommendations into detailed guidelines but what is even more important, we need to find a way to assist health care professionals to

implement them in practice as much as possible. In order to do so, some changes have to be made at macro level (health care organization, reimbursement...) and some changes have to be made at micro level (health care professionals interest and attitude towards wound care...)

- organization of many educational events on prevention and treatment of chronic wounds, including workshops and discussion forums. Over the past 2 years, more than thousand people attended these activities. We also support activities organized by other institutions who serve as wound care centers of excellence.

- influencing health care politics to improve wound care services in Slovenia. Representatives of WMAS wrote many letters and paid many visits to Reimbursement agency, Ministry of health, Health council etc. Members of WMAS also cooperated with articles and interviews on the radio, TV and in the printed media in order to raise awareness of wound care problematic.

- cooperating with European Wound Care Association: we maintain regular cooperation with EWMA. Last year we started a joint project "Implementing leg ulcer strategy in Eastern Europe" under the leadership of Peter Franks. We are hoping that this project will provide evidence which can be used in our efforts to improve wound care services in Slovenia. It is one of our major activities for 2007.

This year we are planning similar activities as in previous years. We have an ambitious plan we hope to fulfill with EWMA support. We are also looking forward to have some of our representatives visiting EWMA conference as this is an excellent opportunity to exchange experience, refresh knowledge and gain new ideas.

*Warm regards from Slovenia on behalf of WMAS executive board!*

