

Jose Verdu Soriano¹
Senior Lecturer and
researcher at the
Faculty of Health
Sciences. University of
Alicante, Spain

Lisette Schoonhoven¹
Prof.dr.
University Medical
Center Utrecht

Zena Moore²
Professor of Nursing
and Head
of the School of
Nursing & Midwifery,
Royal College of
Surgeons in Ireland

Andrea Pokorna²
Associate Professor,
Department of Nursing,
Faculty of Medicine,
Masaryk University,
Brno

Hubert Vuagnat²
Head of Division of the
Department of
Rehabilitation and
Palliative Care.
University Hospitals
of Geneva

¹Chair of the Joint
EPUAP & EWMA
Pressure Ulcer
Prevention & Patient
Safety Advocacy Project

²Member of the Joint
EPUAP & EWMA
Pressure Ulcer
Prevention & Patient
Safety Advocacy Project

Correspondence:
ewma@ewma.org

The joint EPUAP - EWMA Pressure Ulcer Prevention & Patient Safety Advocacy Project: Achievements and lessons learned

The joint EPUAP–EWMA PU Prevention & Patient Safety Advocacy Project officially formed in July 2016 with the overall objective of engaging both associations in raising awareness at the European level (EU) about the role of pressure ulcer (PU) prevention from a patient safety perspective. After the planned closing of the project by the end of June 2019, the main achievements and likely next steps were presented and discussed at the EPUAP 2019 Conference in Lyon, France, 18–20 September 2019, and are presented in this article.

Collaboration

Increased internal collaboration between EPUAP and EWMA, as well as externally with other Euro-pean stakeholders, has been a significant achievement of the joint project. In particular, we would like to emphasize:

- Collaboration with the OECD Health Care Quality Outcomes Expert Group (HCQO)(<http://www.oecd.org/els/health-systems/health-care-quality-indicators.htm>).
 - Project group members Prof Lisette Schoonhoven and Prof Andrea Pokorná have participated in regular meetings of the OECD HCQO, focusing in particular on the objective of advocating for a future focus on the prevention of PU as a patient safety-related quality indicator and on further research into this topic.
- Joint conference sessions at the EPUAP and EWMA Conferences in 2017, 2018 and 2019 with presentations by the project group members as well as external presenters (e.g., Ian Brownwood from the OECD HCQO).

Seek opportunities to influence and engage in activities at the EU level

- Meetings organised with EU stakeholders:
 - Luxembourg, June 2017: Matthias Schuppe, DG-SANTE Policy Officer for Patient Safety and Gerhard Steffes, Policy Officer for Health Programmes and Chronic Diseases
 - Brussels, April 2018: MEP Karin Kadenbach and the office of MEP Alojz Peterle
 - UPCOMING! 7 Nov 2019: European Parliament session with participation of MEPs, commission representatives, patient organisations, etc. (see facts box)
- Monitoring of EU institution activities related to PU and patient safety:
 - Monthly monitoring reports from 1 January 2017 through the end of May 2018 (elaborated by Brussels-based 'Instinctif Partners'). The monthly reports have been used to plan meetings and get new leads for PU prevention and patient safety awareness-raising promotion opportunities.
 - Awareness of opportunities to upload Best Practices of PU prevention to EU Commission inventory.
- Elaboration of a systematic review of European PU prevalence
 - Presented at the EPUAP 2017 Belfast (Laura Conaty) and EPUAP 2019 Lyon conferences ('Lessons learned from prevalence monitoring', by Prof Zena Moore)
 - Paper accepted for publication by Journal of Wound Care
- Learning from PU patient experiences
 - Patient experience storytelling / advocacy through video-recording the case story of a patient from the Czech Republic
 - Elaboration of case study format model for PU patient cases
- Publication of awareness & background articles on EPUAP and EWMA's electronic platforms and social media accounts:
 - Patient safety across Europe: the perspective of pressure ulcers (May 2017)
 - The time to invest in patient safety and pressure ulcer prevention is now! (September 2017)
 - Diabetic control & pressure ulcers: fighting fatal complications and improving quality of life (December 2017)
 - EWMA & EPUAP added-value to OECD efforts (March 2018)
 - The role of pressure ulcer prevention in the fight against antimicrobial resistance (October 2018)
 - Pressure ulcer monitoring: a process of evidence-based practice, data sharing and joint efforts (Jan 2019)

- Disability in Europe: the invisible burden of pressure ulcers (April 2019)
- Publication of article 'The Joint EPUAP & EWMA Pressure Ulcer Prevention & Patient Safety Advocacy Project', Wounds UK, vol. 13, no. 3, 2017.
- Social media coverage of project activities (#Europe4PUprevention)
 - Project activities and patient safety-related EU activities have been followed, tweeted and retweeted about under the #Europe4PUprevention hashtag.
- Elaboration of PU fact sheet
 - For information-sharing, in particular, at EU meetings the 'Pressure ulcers – A Population Health Issue - A brief fact sheet' was elaborated.

Reflections about the scope and timeframe of the project

Initially, it was the intention to work at the European (EU) level as well as at national levels. However, early in the project, the working group realised that, due to the complexity of, for example, large differences between locations and countries in terms of awareness, prevention and treatment, it would not be realistic within the timeframe of the project to pursue results at both levels. Still, the involvement of local key opinion leaders (KOLs), associations and patients in some countries has been very helpful, in the sense that it has contributed to collecting and disseminating information and implementing important activities (e.g., in the Czech Republic, a national collection of data about PU prevalence in in-patient healthcare facilities).

Conclusions, other observations and next steps

- There are huge differences across and within European countries in terms of access to prevention and care for PU patients and a general lack of organised national approaches to this challenge.
- Establishing and developing collaboration with the OECD HCQO expert group is an important achievement of the project, as it holds potential for involvement in the group's future work to the benefit of the quality of the work of the group and of both associations.
- Engaging with EU institutions and advocating for specific groups or topics, such as patient safety and PU prevention, is important and possible. However, it is a task that requires continued and long-term commitment in terms of both financial and human resources. We believe that this project chose some of the right approaches in terms of:
 - Working with a professional agency based in Brussels
 - Continuously following the agendas and activities of selected EU institutions
 - Based on the information obtained, engaging actively through requests for face-to-face meetings
 - Elaborating and disseminating short position papers aimed at contributing to setting the agenda on key topics of the project
 - Engaging in social media-based dialogue and the continued dissemination of information

However, this effort needs to have a longer perspective and financial commitment than what is possible through a two- or three-year project with a comparatively small budget.

- In terms of preventing PUs, there is huge potential to learn from well-elaborated patient case stories disseminated in the form of video recordings or written accounts.
- EPUAP and EWMA have, as associations, benefited a lot from working together on a continuous basis in this project.
 - While both associations have maintained their individual focus areas and expertise, they have also shown that working together on specific topics and tasks can generate a good use of resources and increase the respective awareness of a like-minded association.
- There is an increasing interest in studying nursing, yet PU prevention does not receive a lot of attention in nursing curricula. We need to focus on the quality of the training and education that health care professionals receive, as this is crucial for improving the prevention of PUs and the treatment of PU patients.
 - Technological fixes such as increased use of telemedicine and/or e-Health can support but not replace competent health care professionals.
- The trustees and councils of EPUAP and EWMA will now evaluate the learnings from the joint project. Based on this exercise, the two associations will decide about the potential to continue some of the activities of the project together (or independently). Last, but certainly not least, the joint EPUAP–EWMA team wishes to thank everyone who has engaged with our joint project. A special thank you goes to our industry partners who have supported the project through unrestricted educational grants for three years (Mölnlycke Health Care, Smith & Nephew) and two years (3M, Hartmann and BBI).

UPCOMING!

7 Nov 2019 European Parliament session with participation of MEPs, commission representatives, patient organisations etc. in planning.



Dear Sir, Madam,

On behalf of the European Wound Management Association (EWMA) & the European Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel (EPUAP), we would like to invite you as a speaker at our roundtable debate on patient safety and wound care in Europe: “10 years after the Council recommendation on patient safety. The perspective of chronic wound and pressure ulcer prevention”. The meeting will take place on November 7th (12:30 - 14:00) at the European Parliament, Brussels (Members Salon), kindly hosted by MEP Andreas Glück (Renew Europe Group, Germany).

EWMA is a European umbrella organisation, linking national wound management organisations and professionals in wound care. Central to EWMA's objectives is to support the implementation of interdisciplinary and cost-effective wound care of high quality (Visit www.ewma.org/). EPUAP is a European organisation advocating for improved pressure ulcer prevention, care and patient safety. EPUAP is constantly looking for EU initiatives that may support pressure ulcer prevention at national level. The advisory panel also develops and updates clinical guidelines to help practitioners make informed decisions about the most appropriate interventions (Visit www.epuap.org/).

The purpose of our workshop is to offer a dynamic discussion about the **current situation of patient safety in Europe and suggest how national and European policymakers may shape effective strategies for safer care, specifically in wound care and pressure ulcer prevention** (10 percent of our hospitalized patients suffer from pressure ulcers, increasing both their suffering and health expenditures).

Our roundtable will explore the following questions:

1. What is the state of play of patient safety across Europe?
2. What are the key features needed to build patient-centred healthcare systems across the EU?
3. To what extent can pressure ulcer prevention and care of chronic wounds showcase the value of patient safety measures?

Given your expertise on patient safety and public health, we believe your participation and contributions would greatly benefit the debate.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Warmest wishes,

Prof. Dimitri Beeckman & Prof. Alberto Piaggese

On behalf of the European Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel (EPUAP) and
European Wound Management Association (EWMA)



Lisette Schoonhoven presenting the results of the joint EPUAP & EWMA project at the EPUAP 2019 Conference.

10 years after the Council recommendation on Patient Safety
 The perspective of chronic wound and pressure ulcers prevention
 European Parliament, Brussels, 7 November 2019, 12:30-14:00

Registration

Welcome and intro from EPUAP / EWMA Presidents

Introductory speech from the Member of the European Parliament hosting the event

Expert panel

10 years after the Council Recommendation: the burden patient harm in Europe
 European Commission and / or OECD

Risk factors and key avenues to foster safety in healthcare settings
 Patients' and healthcare setting representatives

The case of severe wound care and pressure ulcers as widespread adverse events in the hospital
 EWMA Immediate Past President Prof. Sue Bale
 EPUAP representative (TBA)

Q&A with audience and speakers

Conclusion by the Member of the European Parliament or EPUAP / EWMA representative