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Dear Friends and Colleagues,

We are all living through a difficult moment in our lives, an emergency that involves Europe and the rest of the world, with tens of thousands of deaths and many more sufferings because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

I am writing from one of the countries that has paid, and still pays, a tragic contribution to these dramatic figures, and in which drastic measures have been adopted to combat the spread of the virus. These measures are limiting the liberty of movement and are heavily affecting the daily lives of millions.

Despite this difficult situation, we all are doing our best to fight the epidemic, and at the same time, we do not forget or abandon our patients, maintaining contact with them and being available for emergencies and consultation 24/7.

This is extremely important for them, as most often they are old and fragile, and, in many cases, alone and with physical limitations due to their chronic diseases. The contact, help and support coming from their usual caregivers and health professionals is crucial for them to maintain self-confidence and take care of themselves.

EWMA endorses a pro-active attitude among its members to help their patients as much as they can in this situation. EWMA is willing to provide help, sustain and support you in all the aspects related to wound healing and wound management. On the EWMA website, you will find a section dedicated to the COVID-19 epidemic with news, tutorials and useful communications that can be accessed and adapted to each of our situations and contexts.

EWMA will promote and support programmes for telemedicine dedicated to wound management, which you can learn more about from the paper and video by Luc Teòt, recently uploaded to the website. Healthcare professionals can send their questions to EWMA's email address at ewma@ewma.org and get an answer on critical aspects related to the epidemic and wound care. These questions will be answered by the experts linked to EWMA.

EWMA will actively help any of you who might find it difficult to get access to resources and materials to manage patients. We are also liaising with our industrial partners, who are demonstrating their full support for wound healers and their patients throughout Europe in this terrible moment. If you have any questions or suggestions on how industrial partners could support your work at this time, please write to our email address: ewma@ewma.org.

EWMA is open for your advice and suggestions and welcomes your contributions to our website in relation to wound management during the COVID-19 emergency.

Someone recently compared the present situation to a world war, and they are probably right, since in a world war it is not only the soldiers who die, but also the more fragile and old among the civilians. EWMA is committed to providing help to healthcare professionals, caregivers and patients during the COVID-19 war, protecting and supporting as much as possible the health and wellbeing of our patients.

Alberto Piaggese

EWMA President

