

Wounds UK 2022: what can you expect?



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Many of you will be reading this issue of the journal at the annual Wounds UK conference in Harrogate. This thought prompted me to refer back to the conference issue of the journal for November 2012 to reflect on what was being discussed at the time. In their Editorial, Jacqui Fletcher and Karen Ousey highlighted the “abundance of media stories surrounding poor practice in healthcare, including patients left on trolleys for long periods of time, patients not receiving adequate nutrition and a general lack of compassion for those in our care” (Fletcher and Ousey 2012). It struck me that 10 years on we are still discussing these issues, and in fact, the NHS seems to be in yet more crisis (Jeffries, 2022), which of course has been made worse as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic. The conference programme reflects some of the challenges being faced by those of us working in wound care with opportunities to discuss where we are now and what impact local and national initiatives have had or are having.

Day 1 of the conference includes presentations from Gillian Rayner exploring compassion focused wound care and encourages us to consider the psychosocial aspects of wound care. This is followed by Lisa Ledger who is discussing patient focused prevention and situated adherence in relation to individuals with pressure ulcers (PU), discussing the behavioural characteristics of patients’ perceptions and understanding of risk. There is also an opportunity to hear the first-hand experience of a healthcare professional with a wound. From my own perspective I’m looking forward to identifying some key learning points from these talks to discuss with my own master’s students. The conference also includes the Made Easy sessions which are very popular and present a great opportunity for increasing your knowledge but also practical skills that can be incorporated into day-to-day clinical practice. They are also an ideal time to network with other healthcare professionals in a more intimate venue and smaller groups.

Over Days 2 and 3 there are several excellent

parallel sessions that reflect the spectrum of not only hands on wound care but also important considerations for both assessment and diagnosis. Topics include digital imaging, PUs and contractures, pain in complex wounds, managing fungating wounds, challenging wounds, nutrition and hydration, and wound assessment in the context of frailty. There are also sessions related to innovative aspects of wound management such as use of infrared technology to aid the assessment of surgical site infection and an interactive training model for safe debridement.

Many of the poster or a free paper presentations, are from first time presenters and may be individuals you know or work with. I’m sure the presenters would welcome further opportunities to discuss their projects so I would encourage you to consider setting some time aside for a chat with them. It may even prompt you to consider submitting an abstract for our conference in 2023! Our exhibitors also provide invaluable support for the conference and offer you a chance for some hands-on experience to explore what’s new in wound healing. The exhibition opens on Monday evening and closes at lunchtime on Wednesday. I always look forward to the hubbub of the hall and enjoy exchanging ideas and experiences.

Day 3 concludes with a panel discussion examining whether chronic wounds should be considered a frailty syndrome. I’m looking forward to my clinical colleagues Annie Price and Amy Ferris discussing this with Heidi Sandoz and Jacqui Fletcher. Frailty was a topic I discussed in a previous editorial (Holloway, 2022) where I suggested we may be missing early signs of frailty in individuals with wounds. What are your thoughts? We’d love to hear your views as part of this discussion, so please join us for a stimulating debate!

My hope is that you leave the conference feeling invigorated and motivated with lots of ideas that you can take back to your clinical practice. You may also leave with lots of new friends and connections that you can call on throughout the year for help and advice. I look forward to seeing you all there, don’t be shy, please come and introduce yourself and have a chat #itsgoodtotalk

REFERENCE

- Fletcher J and Ousey K. (2012) Sharing best practice at Wounds UK Harrogate 2012. *Wounds UK* 8(4):6. https://www.wounds-uk.com/download/wuk_article/609 (accessed 1 October 2022).
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