

Pioneering military plastic surgeon is awarded professorship

Steven Jeffery has been awarded with the title of Professor from Birmingham City University as a recognition of his contribution to the management of burns and wounds. Professor Jeffery was the first military plastic surgeon to work in Birmingham, together with the larger

civilian plastic surgery team, the military burns and plastic surgery nursing team and nursing staff on intensive care, the military ward, and the burns unit.

He has published and presented widely in this field, and is recognised internationally as an expert in this area,

pioneering advanced care that has positively contributed to the wound specialty, both on the battlefield and in civilian life.

Professor Jeffery introduced topical negative pressure (TNP) dressings as a treatment for combat wounds, initially to deal with the copious amounts of exudate that these wounds produce. When deployed to Afghanistan in 2009, he recognised the need for these dressing systems in Camp Bastion Hospital, and submitted an 'Urgent Operational Requirement' request. The dressing system was finally introduced to Afghanistan in 2011.

These dressing systems reduced the need for dressing changes, and reduced the risk of cross-contamination — a particular risk given the microbiology of wounds from Afghanistan in particular. This lessened the risk of the transfer of microbes from the military population to the more vulnerable, often elderly civilian population.

Professor Jeffery is a Fellow of the Royal Colleges of Surgeons of England, of Edinburgh and of Glasgow, and was awarded the 2011 Wounds UK 'Key Contribution' Award. In 2011 he also won the 'Regular of the Year' award in the Military Civilian Healthcare Partnerships Awards.



Get CPD credits at the Wounds UK new-look E-Academy

Wounds UK is proud to present the latest new-look E-Academy, especially designed so that clinicians can gain CPD credits online and access valuable clinical information, including core curriculum courses and filmed sessions from Wounds UK events.

The E-Academy has been designed to offer an easy and intuitive learning experience to clinicians, including the ability to record personal CPD record

and certificates verifying participation. New modules have been recently added to the core curriculum, including specialist courses on moisture lesions and wound infection.

Clinicians can also gain CPD credits for viewing and writing up information from Wounds UK's live roadshows and conference events.

For more information visit: www.wounds-uk.com

Latest Courses

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Registration opens for UK's biggest wound care event

Registration is now open to delegates who want to attend the biggest wound care conference in the UK, Harrogate 2012, where we will be showcasing the theme of 'sharing best practice.'

Sessions covering best practice from around the UK, the future of tissue viability nursing and treating hard to manage wound groups will run besides new Made Easy sessions and educational symposiums.

The poster presentations, gala dinner and the UK's biggest wound

care exhibition will all remain, but this year we are moving the Wounds UK awards ceremony to Harrogate, which promotes the excellent and interesting practice undertaken by nurses around the UK.

Also for the first time, we will be providing delegates with guided CPD opportunities throughout the event, as well as the popular Foot in Diabetes UK conference which will run as a separate stream on Tuesday 13 November.

To register, visit: www.wounds-uk.com



New anaesthetic protocol for debriding sacral pressure ulcers

A new protocol published in the *International Wound Journal* has suggested a method for using regional anaesthetic instead of general anaesthetic during surgical debridement.

Researchers have found that general anaesthesia may not be sufficient for the sharp debridement of sacral pressure ulcers, as these patients tend to have a higher rate of co-morbidities.

Regional anaesthesia affects a 'block' section of the body that needs debridement, as well as limiting complications and reducing post-operative pain.

The anaesthetic protocol, as set out by the study, covers preoperative assessment, risk management, laboratory diagnostic studies, and intraoperative and postoperative monitoring.



Image: Spine and pelvis. Credit: wonderferret on Flickr.

Charity supporting wound care for soldiers launched



WoundCare4Heroes is a new charity supporting injured soldiers, which was launched earlier in the year.

At the launch in June at the Worcester Rugby Club, Professor Keith Harding and Lieutenant Colonel Steven Jeffery spoke about the ongoing challenges of treating traumatic combat wounds while Falklands veteran Simon Weston and soldier James Fletcher discussed their experiences of being wounded during battle.

The charity intends to promote wound care education for complex wounds, support those living with a wound and coordinate the continual care of those injured in battle. The

short-term goal is to institute a telemedicine service to monitor wounded soldiers. Once effective, a second hub will be developed in Cardiff under Professor Keith Harding. Ultimately, the charity intends to establish a network of care for wounded arms forces personnel in the UK.

'Woundcare4Heroes, has been formed to develop a national network of complex wound management services to support the challenges faced by the UK armed forces,' said Claire Stephens, founder of Woundcare4Heroes, Nurse Specialist and former Nursing Officer Captain of Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps.

Harrogate award categories confirmed

The six categories for the next raft of Wounds UK awards have now been confirmed by the organising committee and clinicians can submit their abstracts for a chance to present their work at the UK's biggest wound care event.

Judges are looking for submissions that promote the excellent and interesting practice of clinicians working in wound care, including high levels of innovation, relevance to current and/or best practice and high-quality data/evidence.

The six categories for entry include:

- ▶ Pain and trauma — sponsored by Safetac Technology, a trademark of Mölnlycke Health Care
- ▶ Patient wellbeing — sponsored by Smith & Nephew
- ▶ Chronic oedema and compression therapy — sponsored by Actico, a trademark of Activa Healthcare
- ▶ Cost-effective management in wound healing — sponsored by HARTMANN
- ▶ Hard to heal wounds — sponsored by Tissue Therapies

- ▶ Good practice in pressure ulcer care — sponsored by Talley Group.

For each of the six categories listed above, a winner and two commendees will be chosen. The winners will be asked to present a five-minute, free-paper style presentation in the main auditorium.

Winners and commendees will receive a free three-day delegate pass with entrance to the gala dinner.

Please send any enquiries to abstracts@wounds-uk.com



Annual EPUAP panel meeting hits Cardiff

Entitled 'Identifying research gaps and clinical needs in pressure ulcer prevention and management', the 15th annual EPUAP meeting takes place on 19–21 September, 2012, in Cardiff.

Topics to be covered include:

- ▶ International 'Stop Pressure Ulcer day'
- ▶ The new PUCLAS classification tool
- ▶ Microclimate and moisture lesions
- ▶ Incontinence-associated dermatitis (IAD)
- ▶ New technologies in pressure ulcer treatment
- ▶ Scientific developments in pressure ulceration
- ▶ Pressure ulcer prevention therapies
- ▶ Pressure ulcer guideline implementation — clinical drivers versus financial drivers
- ▶ International guideline adaptation — the Belgian, Netherlands and UK experience
- ▶ Superficial *versus* deep infection in pressure ulcers, diagnosis and management
- ▶ Pain and pressure ulcers.

To apply, visit: www.epuap.org



Electronic sutures sense wound infection

A new electronic suture technology can sense infections by measuring wound temperature.

Researchers at the University of Illinois, USA, have developed ultra-thin electronic sensors, which, when embedded in small threads of silicon, can be used as suture material for wounds. The sutures are made from a variety of sensors and semiconductors, which can measure heat.

When a wound becomes infected, the temperature inside it rises, so the sutures alert clinicians if there is an underlying infection. The next step, according to John Rogers, professor of materials science and engineering at University of Illinois, is to create sutures that are drug-infused and can be activated on command.



Credit: Quimm.anya on Flickr

NHS Trust succeeds in reducing pressure ulcers



Credit: ell brown on Flickr

A campaign to reduce pressure ulcer occurrence at Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals has successfully eliminated grade 4 pressure ulcers.

By training staff to be more aware of pressure ulcer occurrence and to use specially developed equipment, the Trust was able to eliminate grade 4 pressure ulcer occurrence in 2010, continuing through 2012.

In June 2012, the trust succeeded in eliminating all grade 3 and 4 occurrences.

'We take a zero tolerance approach to grade 3 and 4 pressure ulcers and are determined to reduce cases of

grade 1 and 2 sores,' explained patient safety manager Gillian Clark. 'This is essential to patient care because untreated pressure ulcers can become infected, requiring antibiotic treatment, causing patient discomfort, delaying their recovery and resulting in a longer hospital stay.'

The Trust is participating in the NHS Midlands and East pressure ulcer intensive support team visit programme and have been commended for their work and developments.

Read the press release here: <http://www.peterboroughandstamford.nhs.uk>

Lindsay Leg Club to hold their 12th annual conference in Worcester

The Lindsay Leg Club will hold its annual conference in Worcester this September, with the theme announced as: 'A word for the wise... wound wisdom.'

The two-day conference is aimed at all clinicians who work in wound

and leg ulcer care in a primary or secondary environment. Some of the workshop topics that will be covered include: leg assessment, debridement, dressings, reducing stress, and why communities need leg clubs.

Speakers will talk on an array of

topics, from wound care in Haiti and on the battlefield in Afghanistan, to epidermolysis bullosa and putting patients at the heart of the quality agenda.

For more information, please contact: Lynn Bullock at: lynn@legclub.org