

SHARING BEST PRACTICE AT WOUNDS UK HARROGATE 2012



‘The media fail to always recognise the areas of good practice and excellent care that practitioners deliver on a daily basis, despite limited resources’

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Welcome to the 2012 Wounds UK conference issue. When we reflect on the last 12 months, we have seen an 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. However, the media fail to always recognise the areas of good practice and excellent care that practitioners deliver on a daily basis, despite limited resources.

We are, therefore, proud that the theme of this year’s event is ‘sharing best practice.’ We are particularly excited that the regional groups from across the UK, England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales will be presenting their innovative work. Even though the four countries of the UK have subtle differences, especially in relation to policies, we must remember that care interventions must always be evidence-based to ensure that the most appropriate treatment is administered to the patient at the correct time.

It is essential that, as clinicians, every opportunity is taken to learn from each other and take this new knowledge back to the workplace to share with colleagues. This knowledge should also be shared with patients who should be included in the decision-making process when planning treatment.

The free paper sessions are a valuable opportunity for clinicians to share local innovations and areas of best practice that have benefited the care their patients receive. Please do try to attend these sessions and support the presenters, many of whom are your peers, as this may well be their first time presenting at a national conference.

We recognise that delegates to Wounds UK, Harrogate, may be specialist nurses or those new to the exciting world of tissue viability and wound care and, as

such, we are offering a variety of Made Easy sessions. These sessions are focused on areas relevant to clinical practice and will develop your knowledge and skills in an easy-to-understand format. They include — Preventing pressure ulcers: a care plan; Benefits of using portable negative pressure wound therapy; and Micro-current technology for hard-to-heal wounds. Places are limited so make sure you book early.

As always, we want to commend areas of practice that are innovative and are making a difference. The awards ceremony is an ideal platform for this and this year we received many excellent projects that are a credit to everyone who submitted. However, we can only have three nominations for each category. This year, all the shortlisted nominees will be presenting a five-minute overview of their work, so please do come and listen.

Tissue viability and wound care is one of the few specialties that spans all age ranges — from neonates to the older person — and all socioeconomic backgrounds. To reflect this, speakers will be discussing issues that affect children, young adults, older adults and challenging wounds.

Although it seems for many of us that the last year has revolved around pressure ulcers, we have ensured that they have not taken over the entire conference. We will, however, be using the debate session to tackle some of the thorny issues some of you are facing on a daily basis around what constitutes a pressure ulcer (is it unavoidable? Is it so small as to be insignificant, so should we count it? Is it a diabetic foot ulcer? Is it a moisture lesion?) and we look forward to hearing your views on these tricky areas of practice.

We hope that you leave this year’s Harrogate with a long ‘To do’ list and a collection of email addresses of people you need to contact after seeing a really good idea!

We very much looking forward to seeing you in Harrogate. [WUK](#)