

# An update from Woundcare4Heroes

CLAIRE STEPHENS  
Complex Wound Manager,  
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Woundcare4Heroes

**W**oundcare4Heroes (Wcare4H) launched on 14 June 2012, striving to provide national, lifelong, complex wound management support for injured military veterans and to offer the NHS clinical advice, support and educational programmes in the field of ballistic injury. Wc4H is delighted to announce the appointment of our new chairman Graham Ewart who inaugurated in January 2014 with a mission to expand our charitable efforts. Graham has an extensive background in strategy, marketing, finance, organisational design, and performance measurement. The year has started with a focus on key must-win battles to ensure Wc4H delivers on the 2014 service provision mission with measureable outcomes.

Wc4H are equally delighted to announce plans for the opening of their first dedicated clinical consulting facility in partnership with Welsh Wounds Innovation Centre (WWIC) Cardiff. The Simon Weston consulting suite is on track to open its doors to veterans of the armed forces on 7 April 2014. The suite will be managed by the charity's Chief Civilian Medical Officer Professor Keith Harding and Complex Wound Manager Claire Stephens. This new facility will pilot all aspects of care and services to be provided by Wc4H, being its flagship for both in-reach and out-reach service development.

A referral and triage pathway has been developed and all general practitioners and health centres will be made aware of how to refer or seek advice relating to ballistic injury. Plans to launch a community platform project are also under way and this will be led by Complex Wound Manager Bethan Hughes. The community platform will facilitate referral and research pathways while affording our veterans a secure "brothers in arms" support and communications network, which can be utilised at regiment or injury type level.

Wc4H continues its support as strategic partner to two National Institute of Health Research Healthcare Technology Co-operative projects relating to trauma and complex wound dressings. A strong focus on patient outcomes, experiences, and the voice of combat wounded being heard to facilitate innovations that will improve their holistic, long-term wellbeing.

## EDUCATION

Wcare4H will deliver a comprehensive wound care programme relating to complex wound management and burns at the 15<sup>th</sup> International Trauma Conference to be held on the 26 March 2014 in Telford. Last year, this event was a huge success, well attended by both military and civilian wound practitioners.

The second Wc4H annual conference is currently under development, to be held in a central England location on 12 July 2014. The programme for this educational study day will address trauma, burns, and complex wound management issues, followed by a fundraising gala dinner. Wc4H is also exploring e-academy and other accredited courses so please visit our website regularly for newly released information and details.

## FUNDRAISING INITIATIVES

Fundraising and clinical service sponsorship remains a key focus and, as with all charitable organisations, Wc4H is solely reliant on fundraising and goodwill to support its specialist services. Wc4H is proud to be the *Wounds UK* nominated charity for 2013–2014.

Fundraising support is beginning to build momentum with two key events that took place in May 2013 being undertaken for us once again this year. A trauma and wound care study day attracting 150 delegates will be held in Chelmsford on 30 May, followed by an impressive 220-mile charity cycle ride. This event was a huge success in 2013, raising £6000 for Wcare4H. Special thanks goes to Simon Barrett (tissue viability nurse [TVN]) and Lorraine Grothier (TVN) for organising this fantastic study day and cycling with the team to raise funds. Meanwhile, the 'Bands at the Broom' (Worcestershire) event, which attracts hundreds of music lovers, is donating its proceeds again this year to Wcare4H and Air Ambulance. The event will take place on 26 May, the spring bank holiday.

As ever, we are happy to hear from anyone who wishes to support or organise an educational or fundraising event. Wc4H would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their continued support.



*Please visit our website  
news and events pages  
for updates: [www.woundcare4heroes.org.uk](http://www.woundcare4heroes.org.uk)*

*For fundraising support  
and general enquiries  
please email: [enquiries@woundcare4heroes.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@woundcare4heroes.org.uk)*

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