

# On behalf of Wounds UK, have a great time at the EWMA conference



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Welcome to the EWMA special edition which brings together a range of papers reviewing where we are, where we have been and perhaps where we may be heading. What is perhaps interesting throughout these is the theme of plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose (the more things change, the more they stay the same).

Looking back, it seems we have been through phases or cycles where it has been hoped that new products or devices, new ways of working or new structures will significantly change the world of wound healing, yet this does not appear to have come to fruition. We are still managing many patients with chronic non-healing wounds, patients with diabetes are still staying in hospital for longer than is necessary and more amputations are performed than we would like. Spending has not reduced, documentation has not significantly improved and the care patients receives still appears to be somewhat of a lottery, much depending on where they live and who they see.

Perhaps there is a lack of clarity overall? How do patients know whom they should see, if we don't use the same job title for people performing the same role? How can we appoint people to a role if there are no accepted criteria for what is needed to have achieved either experientially or academically to do that role or indeed what that role entails — as it may differ significantly between organisations? And how can we determine what the best products are to use in any given situation when:

- ▶ There are so many products to choose from with no strong evidence of significant clinical difference between them
- ▶ The fundamental underpinning of management — good assessment and determination of a diagnosis is frequently missing/sketchy/poorly recorded or communicated.

Also, how do we pull teams together when it seems there are only a limited number of

people interested in wound healing from some disciplines (particularly medicine), and it seems that delivering care for patients with wounds is almost a competition in some organisations rather than a collaborative activity.

One of the most fabulous things about the EWMA conference is seeing what feels like the antidote to all these problems. The conference always attracts a real multidisciplinary group of delegates from all over Europe, all of who are both willing to share their knowledge and expertise, and learn from others — or at least listen to how and why they do it differently. These people are creative, and problem solvers and sharers with the most precious commodity: their knowledge and experience. There is a cram-packed programme to attend and some excellent speakers presenting, let's hope there are some challenges to the status quo and some suggestions of how we may shake things up and change our world for the better — we can all dream of that brave new world but it is only by participating in challenging what we already have that we can start to move forward.

On behalf of the Wounds UK team, I wish you a really great and productive conference and hope you will take the time to come by and visit us on our stand.

