

2016 WUK Leg Club update: past, present and future



ELLIE LINDSAY OBE
Lindsay Leg Club founder

The second edition of the *Compendium of Best Practice* was launched at the Wounds UK conference in Harrogate in November 2015. Supported by a grant from the Department of Health, the *Compendium* caters for both, Leg Clubs and the healthcare community as a whole, in order to share ways of working, not only in clinical practice, but also infection control, safety and documentation, social factors and ancillary services. Simply called 'Compendium', the second edition is completely updated and redesigned, providing an easy reference about all that a Leg Club needs to do to provide the best possible service to its members. "I am blown away by how fabulous the *Compendium* is," says Amanda Brookes, Business Manager at Bradford on Avon and Melksham Health Partnership. "This will make such a difference to practices considering the Leg Club model," she adds. To obtain a copy of the *Compendium*, please contact us at lynn.bullock@legclubfoundation.com

GOING INTERNATIONAL Symposium on Advanced Wound Care congress

The Foundation's vision and image is not just about promoting the model in the UK, but also providing education on leg health and the psychosocial model of care worldwide. With this in mind, the Foundation has spent considerable time raising the profile of leg health abroad. Advancement in providing holistic patient care requires a collaborative process where individuals from a broad spectrum of organisations contribute to the creation and implementation of new ideas. A team of researchers from the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, the United States, held a task force meeting at the recent Symposium on Advanced Wound Care congress held last September.

The rationale of the Foundation's presentation focus was based upon the role that patients play in self-healing, patient-centered outcomes and advocacy for wound healing research. The psychosocial Leg Club model's holistic approach promotes clinically relevant, patient-focused

outcomes for researchers and how the wound healing community develop patient-desired outcomes and advocates to promote clinical wound healing research.

This meeting for the group of wound healing leaders focused on what steps to take, to improve clinical research with a special focus on venous ulcers, and to develop an action agenda to improve clinical wound care research. The meeting also addressed alleged problems in enrolling patients in clinical research, patient-relevant outcomes and promoting wound healing research, as well as the need for healthcare professionals to unite and work in partnership with various disciplines and research organisations — not in isolation!

International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics Congress

The Foundation, along with colleagues from the University of Queensland, Australia, also gave a two-hour symposium at the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics Congress (IAGG) in Chiang Mai, Thailand, where the latest thinking in the treatment of leg ulceration was presented, along with a detailed explanation of the Leg Club model, its effectiveness and impact.

World Union of Wound Healing Societies

Our Foundation Chairman Roland Renyi and I also lead an international patient advocacy task force on behalf of the World Union of Wound Healing Societies (WUWHS), which will report on its activities at the 2016 WUWHS conference in Florence.

PUBLIC CAMPAIGN — MEETING OUR FOUNDATION OBJECT

The Objects of the Foundation, as defined in its Articles of Association, are protecting and preserving health among those experiencing, or who are at risk of experiencing, leg ulcers and/or associated conditions. To address this the Lindsay Leg Club Foundation, along with its industry partners (the LCIP), believe the only way to address leg ulceration is through raising public

awareness and education to the public who are all too often unaware of the implications of this hidden epidemic until it is too late.

The campaign will start in earnest in 2016, but in the meantime both the Foundation and the LCIP are working together to recruit both the right media and the right advocates to work with us on a public awareness campaign on Leg Ulcer treatment and prevention.

PRACTICE NURSES LEAD THE WAY

2015 was a significant year for the Leg Club network and the Leg Club Foundation, with four new General Practice teams opening Leg Clubs in the UK alone.

Through effective support and dialogue, a successful outcome was also achieved with Salisbury Leg Club, which will open its doors in January 2016 and a further two GP Practices are in the planning stages aiming for a spring opening.

Does this model present the future of general practice? "There is ample evidence from what patients are telling me that not only are their medical conditions being addressed, but that their quality of life is being greatly enhanced," says Bradford on Avon and Melksham Health Partnership GP Dr James Heffer. Visit www.legclub.org to see the Bradford on Avon Leg Club video.

BRENTWOOD LEG CLUB AWARDED GRANT BY LOCAL TRUST FOR LEG CARE TRAINING INITIATIVE

Brentwood Leg Club has been awarded a grant to boost training and education for community health workers who provide care for patients with leg ulcers.

The grant will be used to train local social care partners at Essex County Council and agencies that provide home care within the North East London Foundation Trust (NELFT) area. Informal carers will also be invited to attend the education sessions.

It was awarded following a presentation on 'Enhancing Links with Social Care' to the NELFT by staff and trustees from the Leg Club. The education and competency programme will

include theoretical and practical training to ensure better and more consistent leg care in the community.

It is hoped that the training, which will be held at the Leg Club and has funding for two years, will enable an increasing number of agency carers and healthcare staff to see first hand the holistic health benefits of the Leg Club model of care.

GENERAL PRACTICE CLINICAL LEG CLUB TEAM AWARD

Bradford on Avon and Melksham Health Partnership (BOAMHP) won a prestigious General Practice Award at a ceremony held at the Lancaster Hotel in London. The awards are designed to recognise, highlight, and reward the hard work and innovation that gets carried out every day in GP surgeries up and down the UK.

The partnership won their award in the Clinical Team of the Year Dermatology category for their work in establishing the Bradford on Avon Leg Club.

BOOK THE DATE!

The Leg Club Annual Conference is an event not to be missed. This year's 16th Annual Leg Club Conference and gala dinner is being held on September 21–22.

OUTSTANDING OUTCOMES MIGHT WIN YOU A TRIP TO FLORENCE

If you have positive tangible outcomes in wound healing, you might be finding yourself heading to Florence, Italy.

The Lindsay Leg Club Foundation Scholarship will be awarding a prize to attend the 2016 WUWHS Congress, to be held in Florence from September 25–29.

This award is open to the profession at all levels: Leg Club tissue viability nurses, nurses, and all those who work with wounds on a daily basis. Entries are welcome from either candidates themselves, or nurses can be nominated by anyone who believes the nurse merits this recognition. Contact Lynn Bullock for details: lynn.bullock@legclubfoundation.com

