

Meeting reports



Wounds UK 2007, Harrogate, 12-14 November 2007

Last year's Wounds UK conference at Harrogate was one of the biggest held in the UK. As well as the usual wound care event, there were parallel conferences covering dermatology and continence. With over 1500 delegates attending throughout the three days across the events, this proved to be a hugely popular and unique event.

An excellent range of topics was covered in each conference by an international field of experts.

Highlights in the continence conference included the presentation by Mohamed Abdel Fattah which examined the role of Botox in the management of the overactive bladder, and Mikel Brady who discussed the potential for the UK to develop wound, ostomy and continence nurse specialists.

The dermatology conference managed to cover a huge range of topics including acne and treatments from Dr Ravi Ratnavel, Consultant Dermatologist, eczema management in the US from Noreen Nicol, Dermatology Nurse, Denver, and skin assessment was put under the microscope by Susan McGuire of the British Dermatological Nursing Group (BDNG).

As always, the wound care conference attracted some of the key speakers from both sides of the Atlantic. Highlights included the presentation by Greg Schultz on the biology of the chronic wound, which examined in great

detail the complex nature of wound healing and the inflammatory response. David Armstrong, Podiatric Surgeon gave a very visual presentation of the care of the diabetic foot. Using video from his practice, David demonstrated some of the techniques he uses to deal with patients with diabetic foot disease. Of particular note was his statement which rings true regardless of where we practice, 'I am given \$15,000 to carry out an amputation, but I am given nothing to prevent them'.

The team from Aberdeen Royal Infirmary presented the work they have been doing using many of the new topical negative pressure (TNP) systems. Of significance was the positive impact on the quality of life of patients when TNP is used to help speed up the healing process or to manage symptoms. The advent of the new TNP devices will herald a huge change in the way we manage chronic wounds in the future.

Keith Harding hosted a session which was effectively a wound clinic for practitioners who had patients with problem wounds. A number of experts attended the session, including David Gray and Deborah Hofman, during which the audience were encouraged to share their experiences of patients with hard-to-heal wounds. This session was extremely well received and will be a part of the programme next year.

The sponsored plenary sessions were a great success, with many of the companies using the symposia as an



opportunity to discuss important issues such as skin care, pain management and controlling moisture levels.

There was a huge number of free papers and posters submitted this year and a full list with abstracts can be viewed on the Wounds UK Website (www.wounds-uk.com).



From left to right: Professor Judith Elkins, Pro-vice Chancellor; Professor Richard White, Professor of Tissue Viability; Louise Jones, Dean of the Institute of Health; and Professor David Green, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Worcester



Richard White on the occasion of his inaugural lecturer as Professor of Tissue Viability at the University of Worcester.

Richard White's inaugural professorial lecture, 22 January 2008, University of Worcester

There was an excellent turnout for the inaugural lecture of Richard White as Professor of Tissue Viability at the University of Worcester. This appointment is unique in the UK and is, indeed, significant at a time when tissue viability has been viewed as a dispensable service by some health authorities.

Professor White's friends and family attended, as well as colleagues from across the profession.

The lecture itself focused on the journey which tissue viability has taken to reach where it is today, from the inception of the first tissue viability nurses to the development of the specialist roles which are now an essential part of the healthcare team.

Central to the lecture was the needs of the individual patient and the impact of the wound on their overall well being. Using a range of images which demonstrated the disabling impact of wounds, Professor White examined the causation, diagnoses and management of complex wounds. The lecture also examined the 'bigger picture' in the shape of the NHS and the current reforms which impact on tissue viability services. A key message was the need for integrated multidisciplinary working. In health care there is a tendency to be reductionist in our approach and we deal with what we see in our own speciality. Richard, however, stressed the need to work

together and to use other members of the team to improve the care of patients.

In his summary, Richard examined the future of tissue viability, how the changes in patient demographics will impact on the service, in particular the improved life expectancy but patients having poorer health during this time. He also questioned the health authorities who have chosen to downgrade tissue viability services and how this will impact on patients and their families.

Wounds UK wish Richard well in his appointment.

BSN Roadshow, 'How to Manage Infected Wounds Clinically and Cost-effectively without Silver', 5 December 2007, University of Worcester

BSN held a unique study event in December at the University of Worcester which examined the management of wound infection without using silver. BSN have a product known as Cutimed® Sorbact® which is hydrophobic in nature and encourages bacteria to be removed from the wound and held in the dressing.

The study day had an excellent programme and was opened by David Gray of Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, who discussed the impact of infection on the patient, the family and staff. Andrew Kingsley gave some unique insights into the management of wound infection, followed by Richard White who examined the role of emerging technologies for managing wound infection, including the role of Cutimed® Sorbact®. The afternoon session opened with presentations of case studies from Sylvie Hampton and Ray Norris, which showed the benefits of using Cutimed® Sorbact® in practice.

The study day was brought to a close by Phillip Truman, a health economist, who discussed the economic impact of the use of topical antimicrobials in managing infection. **WUK**