

## Meeting reports

### 'Quality and Productivity Challenge in Wound Care' workshops hosted by Smith & Nephew

The need for tissue viability to align true and accurate metrics to the service offered has never before been so relevant and, indeed, is now a requirement by the Department of Health.

Furthermore, a full understanding of the national healthcare drivers is essential in order to raise the awareness of tissue viability.

With these two points in mind, Smith and Nephew Healthcare have set up workshops across the country in 2010 to tackle the domains of the Quality Agenda and offer support to those healthcare professionals who deal with wounds and associated services.

The workshops hosted so far this year have stimulated a good level of debate and allowed the delegates to develop the 'tool-kit' required to measure the quality of the service they provide.

The domains of the Quality Agenda that are discussed in detail and linked directly to tissue viability are:

- ▶▶ Patient safety
- ▶▶ Patient experience
- ▶▶ Clinical effectiveness.

The first event was hosted by Johnny Black, Healthcare Commercial Manager, Smith & Nephew Healthcare. The event took place on the 26th April 2010 at the Down Hall hotel in Bishops Stortford and attracted both clinical and non-clinical leads from the NHS.



'Quality and Productivity Challenge in Wound Care' workshop.

The event was very well evaluated and what was learnt has already been applied into practice by some of the attendees.

The event was chaired by Professor Richard White, University of Worcester. Other speakers included John Davis from Springboard Consultancy who gave an in-depth look at the national NHS drivers; David Coley, Head of Procurement, Heart of England NHS trust; Margaret Howat, Head of Patient Experience, Homerton hospital and Dr Caroline Dowsett, Nurse Consultant in Tissue Viability, Newham NHS.

The presentations offered a mix of the theoretical healthcare models and of practical application of their findings.

Caroline Dowsett's presentation in particular looked at the work that her and her team have done in their submission to the High Impact Actions – 'Your Skin Matter'. The key points from the presentation were to ensure that, as tissue viability leads, clinicians are able to raise the profile of the service they provide and communicate improved patient outcomes and financial benefits to both clinical and non-clinical colleagues working in their area.

Six more workshops have been organised across the country for this year. If you have any queries or would like to host a similar event in your area, please contact Richard Shorney on 07961 911337.

**Richard Shorney, Director, Real Healthcare Solutions**

To respond to the introduction of the national Quality Accounts, Wounds UK's 'Enacting quality initiatives in tissue viability' series of papers, supported by Smith & Nephew Healthcare, will appear throughout 2010 with articles discussing related themes, thereby serving as a toolkit for clinicians to measure service quality. See pp. 94–98 in this issue.

### Tissue Viability Society (TVS), 13–14 April 2010, Telford International Centre

The Tissue Viability Society (TVS) held its annual conference at the Telford International Centre, Telford UK over two days in April 2010 (13th and 14th). The conference 'Looking at things differently. Collaboration, evidence and innovation for practice' attracted 200 delegates and over 40 exhibitors with over 150 senior tissue viability and wound care specialist nurses in attendance. Over the two-day event, delegates had the opportunity to listen to twelve key presentations from speakers drawn from the UK, Ireland and the Netherlands and to participate in two parallel sessions focused upon innovation in wound healing and the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) audit of the use of topical negative pressure (TNP) on the open abdomen.

Overall, the delegates evaluated the conference as having been a great success. While delegate numbers were slightly reduced on the 2009 TVS event, this was a consequence of the 'health' of the National Health Service where staff are finding it challenging to gain time from their employer to attend educational events.

The TVS saw a number of its Trustees reach the end of their term of office in April 2010, and thanks are extended to all of them for their efforts to help the TVS develop over the past years. Five new Trustees were elected for a three-year period (Alison Hopkins, Julie Vuolo, Jarrod Partridge, Julie Evans and Richard Bull).

In 2011 the TVS will be thirty years old and both Trustees and members will be working hard to mark this milestone year.

**Latest news:** The 2011 TVS conference will be held on the 12th and 13th of April at the Telford International Centre.

**Michael Clark, Professional Adviser, Tissue Viability Society**

## Meeting reports

### 2010 Ascot conferences: Lymphoedema 2010 and Skin Changes in the Lower Limb

April 2010 saw the launch of two annual parallel events at Royal Ascot by Wounds UK in association with the *Journal of Lymphoedema*, the British Lymphology Society (BLS) and the Leg Club®.

The management of lymphoedema can be demanding and complex and the speakers at the Lymphoedema 2010 conference gave presentations on the science, diagnosis and treatment of this debilitating condition. Parallel to this event, was a one-day conference on skin changes in the lower limb, which offered delegates the chance to listen to experts discussing the challenges faced when diagnosing, assessing and treating pressure ulcers, skin breakdown, the diabetic foot, vascular assessment, malignancy and cellulitis.

Sessions from both conferences ran concurrently and delegates were able to attend any that interested them, which meant that they were able to access a breadth of information relevant to their speciality.

#### Lymphoedema conference 2010, 20–22 April, Royal Ascot

The Lymphoedema conference 2010 gave delegates the opportunity to discuss, debate and challenge their clinical experiences, their research and education programmes designed to manage and care for this complex and debilitating condition.

The programme covered many aspects of lymphoedema care, starting with a moving presentation by the Lymphoedema Support Network (LSN) on the patients' experience of living with lymphoedema. Patients young and old discussed their quality of life and dealing with the difficulties of living with this condition. It was at times sad, at times funny, but most importantly, reminded us as clinicians that patients have to live with lymphoedema on a daily basis.

Over the three days, national and international experts, discussed the challenges of lymphoedema; from accurate diagnosis, management in palliative patients, obesity and lymphoedema to genetics and primary lymphoedema.

For the final session the group joined up with the Skin changes in the lower limb conference for an extremely lively and informed debate on 'Manual lymphatic drainage (MLD): friend or foe?', hosted by Neil Piller, Professor and Director, Lymphoedema Assessment Clinic, Flinders Medical Centre, South Australia; Vaughan Keeley, Consultant in Palliative Medicine, Lymphoedema Clinic, Derby Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust; Justine Whittaker, Senior Lecturer, University of Central Lancashire; and Cheryl Pike, Clinical Lymphoedema Specialist Physiotherapist, South West Wales and Chair of the British Lymphology Society (Figure 1). The debate team innovatively presented a patient with changing symptoms and diagnosis, who may or may not benefit from MLD. This was a thought-provoking session that highlighted the issue perfectly.

The conference was also supported by industry with representation from large and small companies, all offering services to improve care in the management of lymphoedema.

A gala dinner and awards ceremony sponsored by medi UK was held on Wednesday evening at the beautiful location of Royal Ascot (Figure 2). This gave the opportunity not only to recognise the contribution of those receiving awards, but also to enjoy the company of colleagues and friends.

On behalf of the *Journal of Lymphoedema* and Wounds UK, we would like to thank all the attending, speakers, delegates and industry for their support and ensuring that the first Lymphoedema conference was a huge success.

**Pam Cooper, Programme Director, Wounds UK and Tissue Viability Nurse Specialist, Department of Tissue Viability, NHS Grampian, Aberdeen**

#### Skin Changes in the Lower Limb Conference, 20–22 April, Royal Ascot

Despite the ash cloud, the Skin Changes of the Lower Limb conference was well attended with over 100 delegates.

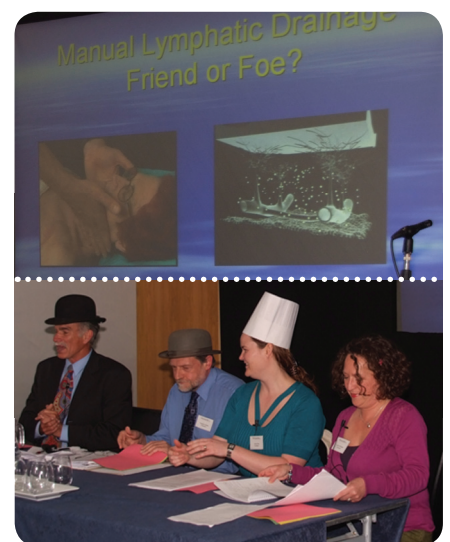


Figure 1. MLD: Friend or foe? Members of the debate panel, from left to right: Neil Piller, Vaughan Keeley, Cheryl Pike, Justine Whittaker.



Figure 2. Vaughan Keeley (centre) collecting the award for a specialist lymphoedema team to provide best practice and improve QoL for their patients. His team in Derby have recently launched a new quality of life measure for limb lymphoedema (LYMQOL, available online at: [www.lymphormation.org/downloads/JoL\\_Quality\\_of\\_Life\\_Measures.pdf](http://www.lymphormation.org/downloads/JoL_Quality_of_Life_Measures.pdf)) (left: Ian Grant, Managing Director, medi UK; right: Neil Piller).

As I was chair of the day I had been concerned that we may be short of speakers, however, only Keith Harding could not attend due to being stuck in China.

Stella Vig, Vascular Consultant, opened the day with a review of the technologies and techniques used to diagnose vascular insufficiency in the lower limbs. Stella expertly presented on a topic which is often the focus of much debate. Central to the theme of assessment was the need for thorough and accurate patient history-taking to ensure that the correct diagnostic tools are used on the correct patients at the right time.

Stuart Enoch, SPR in Plastic Surgery from Manchester, followed with an expert review of detection of malignancy in wounds, particularly those in the lower limb. Stuart also discussed the management of malignancy in wounds and how the plastic surgery teams tackle the most difficult of cases.

William Jeffcoate, Consultant Endocrinologist from Nottingham University, then discussed best practice in the management of the diabetic foot in relation to the new diabetic foot guidelines which were released in 2009, 'Putting Feet First'.

Stella Vig filled in for Keith Harding by using some of her own complex cases as well as some of Keith Harding's in a session where she asked the audience for their opinions on difficult lower limb wounds, and how best to assess, manage and treat them.

The afternoon session opened with Paul Chadwick, Lead Podiatrist from Salford, and Duncan Stang, Diabetic Foot Lead in Scotland, examining the role of debridement in diabetic foot care, using both traditional dressings and the various methods of sharp debridement. Together, Paul and Duncan showed that debridement is an essential part of wound care in the diabetic foot, and

that clinicians have to be aggressive with wounds to get results.

Louise Stuart, MBE, Senior Podiatrist from Manchester and Pauline Beldon, Tissue Viability Nurse from Epsom and St Helier Trust, took to the stage to discuss the development, treatment and management of heel ulcers in the elderly. Pauline examined the extent of heel ulcers and how problematic these can be for patients, and Louise presented on her unique soft-casting technique, which can be used to prevent heel damage and promote wound healing.

For the final session, the group joined up with the Lymphoedema 2010 conference for an extremely lively and informed debate on 'Manual lymphatic drainage (MLD): friend or foe?' (see above).

**John Timmons, Tissue Viability Nurse Specialist, Department of Tissue Viability, NHS Grampian, Aberdeen**

### 'Under Pressure' one-day conferences, sponsored by ConvaTec

Having successfully completed three national one-day 'Under Pressure' conferences in the UK, with three more to go, the clear question being asked is: 'Who is under pressure?', countered with a clear response relayed by many attendees at the events: 'all healthcare professionals managing patients with a pressure ulcer'.

'Pressure ulcers present a major burden of sickness and reduced quality of life for patients and create significant difficulties for patients, their carer and families' (NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement, 2009, *High Impact Actions for Nursing and Midwifery*, NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement, Warwick).

ConvaTec one-day conferences have been extremely well attended by a wide array of healthcare professionals working within the NHS and private sector.

Local nurse consultants and tissue viability leads opened the day to focus



**Rachel Mathison, Medical Affairs Manager, ConvaTec, opening the 'Under Pressure' conference in Leeds.**

on an agenda which encompasses current Department of Health (DH) National strategy. An introductory video cast of the new European and US National Pressure Ulcer Advisory panels guidelines (presented by Jacqui Fletcher (University of Hertfordshire) was delivered, followed by clinical presentations and experiences of managing pressure ulcers by tissue viability nurses coupled with an afternoon of interactive practical workshop sessions, including wound care challenges, moving and handling issues, the patient experience and litigation.

The overarching objectives of the day target current agenda, i.e. High Impact Actions for Nursing and Midwifery 'Your skin matters' campaign, Key Quality Indicators, Essence of Care Programmes, NICE, etc, placing emphasis on establishing efficiency and effectiveness of care and services which, without doubt, will play a major role in the Quality Innovation, Prevention and Productivity Agenda (QUIPP) over the coming years.

ConvaTec are delighted at the response from delegates attending the events with demands for them to be a regular occurrence, thus encouraging future partnership between industry and health care providers to ensure high standards of education are delivered.

Three further events are planned in the London and Manchester areas. Anyone interested should email [convatecevents@mpi.eu.com](mailto:convatecevents@mpi.eu.com).

**Rachel Mathison, Medical Affairs Manager, ConvaTec**