

Meeting reports

Wounds UK Summer and Palliative Care conferences

This year Wounds UK hosted its most successful summer programme yet. Two one-day wound care events – Wound Essentials and Palliative Wound Care – were held at Manchester City Football Stadium on 30 June, 2010. Altogether, the two events were attended by over 400 delegates.

The Wound Essentials programme focused on providing the delegates with generalist information on a range of clinical challenges, including:

- ▶ Pressure ulcers
- ▶ The impact of infection on wound healing
- ▶ The causes, treatment and management issues involved in dealing with exudate
- ▶ The complexities of lower limb ulceration
- ▶ Grading and treating skin tears.

Expert practitioners in these fields shared their knowledge with the delegates, as well as outlining some of the clinical challenges they had encountered when attempting to heal patients' wounds.

The Palliative Care conference focused on the following clinical issues:

- ▶ Decision-making in palliative wounds
- ▶ The challenges of managing fungating wounds
- ▶ How to control odour
- ▶ The benefits of electrochemotherapy.

In the afternoon, both conferences concluded with experts sharing clinical scenarios featuring aspects of care that had challenged their practice, and where better understanding would have provided options they had not previously considered.

These sessions were open, honest and heartfelt and the delegates were able to share in the speakers' satisfaction when outcomes were good, as well as understanding their disappointment when treatments were less effective.

The exhibition that accompanied the conferences was held in a large room adjacent to the registration points. There were over 40 company representatives sharing their expertise in a wide range of products, from wound care devices to skin care products. All of the industry stands were well-attended by delegates.

Luckily for speakers and delegates alike, the sun shone throughout the day and the atmosphere at the event reflected this, with lots of good natured discussion and debate.

The day provided delegates with an educational basis for effective care in what are challenging and unpredictable clinical areas and the organisers hope that this will, in turn, benefit patients.

Pam Cooper, Programme Director, Wounds UK

Diagnostics masterclass — current and future perspectives

Also on the 30 June, 2010 Wounds International held an international masterclass on wound diagnostics in the same venue. The masterclass focused on the direction of wound diagnostics and was chaired by Professor Keith Harding (Cardiff University, UK) and Dr Douglas Queen (Cardiff University, UK).

The first session addressed the need for better assessment and diagnostics in wounds. Professor Peter Vowden (Bradford Royal Infirmary, UK) opened the discussion, stating that while a number of diagnostic tools may be useful in directing surgeons where to cut, these are often costly and time-consuming to apply. Kathryn Vowden (Bradford Royal Infirmary) provided the nurse's view, reflecting that diagnostics are not yet available to direct choice and aid clinical decision-making.

David Gray (Grampian Health Services, UK) then gave delegates an insight into the clinical manager's view of modern wound care.

The second session of the day focused on the diagnostic tools that are

currently being developed, while later on the third session looked at traditional tools that can be used to give clinicians a better understanding about the wound they are treating.

In the final session of the day, the speakers considered the potential for wound diagnostics. Dr Queen addressed the delegates on point-of-care testing and its application to wound care. He stated his hope that the role of industry in this move towards diagnostics in wound care would be to bring innovation, but also to ensure that clinician education is at the centre of any new technology.

Dr Brenda Cullen (Systagenix Wound Management, Shipton, UK) spoke next on the imperative of linking diagnostic tools with selected treatments. Dr Cullen said she believed that the move into diagnostics would mean re-setting the standard of wound care and would contribute materially to making personalised medicine a reality.

Concluding the masterclass, Professor Harding said that the day had reflected the recognition by clinicians that better diagnostic tools are needed to make informed choices in wound care, and that a good understanding of the complex science that underpins healing is the path to those tools.

Feedback from delegates was complimentary, many saying that it had been an excellent day with a lot of innovations presented. Wounds International would like to thank the main sponsors, Systagenix Wound Management, for their support of its first advanced wound care masterclass and to everyone who attended. It is hoped that this will be the first of many such important events.

Kathy Day, Publisher, Wounds International

To read the full report and view the speaker presentations, go online to: www.woundsinternational.com/article.php?contentid=136&articleid=9590&p