

First time attending a wound conference? Hints and tips to support your experience



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Welcome to the conference edition of the journal! We're excited to bring you a packed agenda with lots of new information that will help to support you and your colleagues in clinical practice.

Attending a wound conference for the first time can be a valuable experience, offering opportunities for learning, networking, and staying up to date with the latest developments in wound care. The Wounds UK conference features a variety of educational sessions, including keynote presentations in the main auditorium, free paper sessions, as well as workshops in the form of Made Easy sessions. These sessions cover a wide range of topics related to wound care, including wound assessment, treatment techniques, the latest research findings, and best practices. I appreciate that for some of you this may be your first time attending a conference so here are some helpful hints and tips to guide you through the experience.

Poster exhibitions are a great way for clinicians to share their findings and experiences in a visual format. Posters are also a great learning resource, often presenting clinical case studies or new treatments. Poster presenters would welcome the opportunity to share their work with you, so please take some time to stop by the poster area and have a chat. Perhaps it will inspire you to present your own poster at the Wounds UK conference in 2024!

Conferences are a great place to connect with fellow professionals in the wound care field. You'll have the chance to meet experts, colleagues, and like-minded individuals who share your passion for wound care. This year's conference includes renowned experts in wound care, which can give you the chance to hear from leaders in the field and ask questions during the Q&A sessions. If you are nervous of asking a question in the main session, then please feel free to wait for the end of the session and approach the speakers as they leave the auditorium. You may find it helpful to write your question or point of clarification down so that you don't forget.

Networking can lead to valuable collaborations and the exchange of ideas and experiences. If you're attending the conference on your own, try speaking to other delegates — I'm sure you'll find something in common. After all everyone at the conference loves wounds and healing them! You will also have opportunities to talk to our industry colleagues in the exhibit hall where companies and organisations showcase their products and services related to wound care. This is an excellent opportunity to explore the latest wound care products, technologies, and innovations. The conference dinner can provide a more relaxed setting for networking and socialising with others.

Attendance at the conference is an ideal opportunity for continuing professional development, which can contribute to maintaining your professional accreditation requirements. Consider spending a bit of time reflecting on your learning and making notes for your portfolios. The conference includes sessions that promote best practice and emerging trends, so think about what you've found most useful, perhaps what you may need to go and research a little more. Staying informed about change and new practice is crucial for providing the best care for your patients, so think about how you can apply what you've learnt in your clinical practice. Also, disseminate your learning to your colleagues to facilitate best practice. We hope that your attendance at the conference will offer you fresh perspectives and ideas that you may not encounter in your day-to-day work and can inspire you to approach wound care in innovative ways.

In summary, to make the most of your conference experience, plan your schedule in advance, prioritise sessions that align with your interests and learning objectives, and actively engage in networking opportunities. Also, consider taking notes, asking questions, and participating in discussions to maximise your learning and networking experience. Most importantly, enjoy the conference!