

Wounds and wellbeing

The theme of this issue of *Wounds International* is “wounds and wellbeing”. The articles included in the issue build on the work initiated by the international consensus document *Optimising Wellbeing in People Living with a Wound* – sponsored by Smith & Nephew – published in 2012. Although the concept is not new, the work involved in the document has led to a greater recognition of the importance of patient wellbeing and has helped to identify gaps in our understanding of how to address, evaluate, and optimise wellbeing for people living with a wound.

Here in the UK, we have been stunned by recent reports of the appalling standard of care and neglect at the Mid Staffordshire Foundation Trust that occurred between January 2005 and March 2009 (the report can be accessed here). The situation described at Mid Staffordshire was extreme, but there is widespread concern about standards of care in the UK and this is a problem likely to be shared by other geographies too.

Recognising the need to address wellbeing when caring for a patient with a wound is clearly a fundamental aspect of good management. By addressing wellbeing, we are encouraged to understand the patient’s perspective and this will help clinicians to improve patient experience. In the article on top tips for compliance, concordance, and adherence to care (page 9) Irene Anderson recommends that “Clinicians should try wearing bandages and hosiery themselves and attempt to imagine what it might be like to have pain, oedema, leakage, and itchy skin for 24 hours, every day”.

It is positive that there seems to be an increasing openness about the need to understand the patient’s perspective. I have observed a greater focus on the importance of patient stories, with these being presented more frequently in the literature and at conferences. For example, speakers – including Christine Moffatt – at the 2013 Tissue Viability Society Conference (Kettering, UK) included video footage of patients talking about life with a chronic wound during their presentations. Similarly, Professor Keith Harding at the 2012 Lindsay Leg Cub Conference (Worcester, UK) read a letter from a patient

in which they presented their account of life with a wound during his after-dinner speech. In the recent *Wounds International* webcast on improving patient wellbeing through dressing choice, a patient presented his own account of the experience of living with a wound.

The work on wellbeing that led to the international consensus document started in February 2011, when a multidisciplinary group of clinicians and researchers met at the first ever *Wounds International* conference in Cape Town, South Africa. I was lucky enough to attend that conference, and can report that it was – without doubt – the finest international wound care conference I have yet attended. The combination of international and local speakers created an enthusiasm and dynamism that gained momentum throughout the 3 days of the event. The conference content can still be viewed online at *Wounds International*.

The next *Wounds International* global conference will be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 18–20 October 2013. *Wounds International* are currently putting together the academic programme in association with the Malaysian Society of Wound Care Professionals. The event will offer an intense, 3-day programme where major innovations and treatments will be discussed with a focus on developments and challenges in Asia-Pacific countries. We are expecting 1000 delegates in Kuala Lumpur and there will be speakers from China, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia, Taiwan, Thailand, Singapore, Hong Kong, Philippines, India, South Korea, Vietnam, and Cambodia.

To secure a place at this event, and be involved in this unique and important opportunity, visit the booking website at woundsinternational2013.com. I look forward to seeing you there.

Suzie Calne
Editor, *Wounds International*



Suzie Calne
Editor

If you would like to contribute to a future issue of the journal, please contact Suzie Calne, the Editor of Wounds International, at: suzie.calne@woundsgroup.com