

SOCIETY UPDATE



The British Lymphology Society (BLS) is currently focusing its efforts on seven key areas. The aim of the first initiative is to raise the profile of the society and lymphoedema with a lymphoedema awareness week planned for 2008 along with a highly visible media campaign. 2. A revision of the *Chronic Oedema Population and Needs* document is being undertaken as part of a much larger educational initiative encompassing current legislation. 3. To further enhance our communication, the BLS is about to launch its new website which will include, among other features, a lymphoedema discussion forum. 4. The BLS, along with the Lymphoedema Framework Project, are producing a template for management on setting up a lymphoedema service which will be launched in October 2007 at the BLS conference. 5. The BLS annual conference will take place on the 9–11th October. The emphasis this year will be on the treatment of chronic oedema in primary care. Abstract submissions are welcomed via the website from the end of March 2007. 6. The BLS is working with a number of agencies to establish a national tariff for lymphoedema in light of the Government's directive 'Payment by results'. 7. The jointly owned BLS/LSN cellulitis consensus document is currently being audited and the results will be available later in the year. For more information visit www.lymphoedema.org/bls/.



The Lymphoedema Association of Australia was founded by John and Judy Casley-Smith in 1982 to encourage research into lymphoedema and its treatment, and to spread information about it among doctors, therapists and patients. Its website contains an excellent summary of information about lymphoedema, its causes and treatment, including views on bandaging and garments as well as essential reference material. The site was last updated in 2003 but will be totally refreshed and updated in 2007 by Neil Piller of the Flinders Medical Centre Lymphoedema Assessment Clinic. The collection contains many useful suggestions about treatment. Patients should discuss these with their doctors and obtain their agreement before doing anything suggested, as it allows the doctor or lymphoedema specialist to evaluate the most appropriate treatment and help determine what is best for the individual. The site emphasises that lymphoedema is quite common, that it can and should be treated, and that while it can be much reduced, helping the patient to feel better through dealing with subjective complaints is very important. Visit the website at www.lymphoedema.org.au or contact Neil Piller at neil.piller@flinders.edu.au or go to www.flinders.sa.gov.au/lymphoedema.



The Swedish Society of Lymphology (Svensk Förening för Lymfologi) celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2006. It was founded with the intention of supporting research, education and development in the area of the diagnosis and treatment of lymphoedema. Its members include healthcare workers working in the fields of lymphology, breast surgery, plastic surgery, rehabilitation and radiology, as well as physiotherapists, nurses and occupational therapists trained in the treatment of lymphoedema. The society has a yearly meeting, often featuring international lecturers. It supports evidence-based surgical treatments as well as conservative therapy of lymphoedema. Some of the board members have also played an active role in preparing the National Best Practice Document for Lymphoedema Treatment, aimed at ensuring that treatment of lymphoedema is essentially the same in different parts of Sweden. For more information go online to: www.lymfologi.nu.



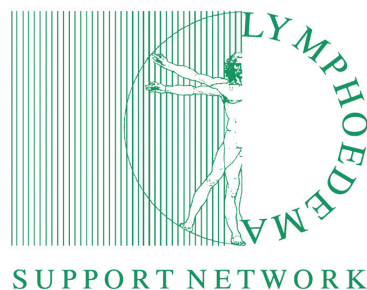
The past months have been busy for the Leg Club®, especially November 2006 as Speyside held the first Scottish Leg Club conference, the theme being 'Patient-centred Care — A Question of Balance' where keynote speaker Christine Moffatt CBE presented her work on the Lymphoedema Framework. The opening of the 20th Leg Club in Stoke-on-Trent also took place in November, with plans for a further four clubs to open in East Lincolnshire and South Leicestershire in the first quarter of 2007. Following completion of a two-year randomised control study undertaken by Helen Edwards and fellow researchers from Queensland University of Technology, Australia in conjunction with St Luke's Community Nursing Service, an additional two Leg Clubs were officially opened in Brisbane in October 2006. Michelle Gibb, a Wound Care Clinical Nurse Consultant, Spiritus Care Services (formerly St Luke's) is planning to open a further three next year totalling seven in the Brisbane and Gold Coast region. Plans are currently in progress for two clubs to open in Wollongong and Illawarra, New South Wales by Debbie Blanchfield (Chair, NSW Wound Care Association) and her team.



The German Society of Lymphology held its annual meeting with the Society for Manual Lymph Drainage (Dr Vodder) and related therapies on 29th September to 1st October 2006 in Vienna, Austria. Reports were given from physicians, researchers and therapists working in the field of lymphology and especially in the Vodder method of MLD. Hildegard Wittlinger gave a moving tribute to the life of Professor Hutzschenreuter who died in February 2006. Speakers included: Partsch who spoke about pressure and short- and long-stretch bandaging; Gallowitsch who reported that stress causes an increased contraction of the lymph vessels; Netopil who reported that breast-conserving procedures during cancer treatment have tripled in the past 10 years in Germany and, as a consequence, much more breast oedema is now being seen; and Földi reported on the 20-year follow-up results of complex decongestive therapy for children with primary lymphoedema which showed freedom from lymphoedema in 65% of cases, improvement in 24% and death in 11%. Other speakers included Baumeister, Schmeller, Schuchhardt, Hauser, Brauer, Amman-Vesti, Pritschow, Vollmer and Toepel. For more information about DGL go to www.dglymp.de/.



In November 2004, the Israel Lymphedema Association (ILA) was established by the Tel Aviv Lymphedema Patients' Support Group as a result of meetings and discussions held over 10 years. Registered in Israel, the ILA is a non-profit organisation that promotes knowledge and increases awareness about lymphoedema among patients and healthcare professionals throughout the country. The goals of the association are: to distribute professional material; to establish support groups for patients throughout Israel; the advancement of rights of patients regarding health funds, hospitals, tax authorities and social security (national insurance); organising meetings and conferences; supporting research on lymphoedema and liaising with similar associations in Israel and abroad. The ILA operates on a voluntary basis and its members include people with lymphoedema, their families, physical therapists and other healthcare professionals and interested parties. The ILA helps to distribute information and has set up the ILA website for this purpose. For more information go online to: www.ilal.org.il.



The Lymphoedema Support Network (LSN) takes the lead role in educating and supporting patients with this condition by providing a high standard of information and promoting self-help. The LSN operates an information and support telephone line (020 7351 4480), produces a quarterly newsletter, maintains an up-to-date website, promotes the formation of self-help support groups around the country and campaigns at national level for improved service provision for all lymphoedema patients. Since its inception in 1991, it has evolved into an independent and influential charity. It is the only national patient-led organisation offering information and support to people with this condition and has a unique understanding of the patient's experience. The charity is the largest information resource for lymphoedema in the UK, producing an ongoing series of factsheets. It has also produced two self-help videos/DVDs. LSN trustees are delighted to announce that the world-renowned King's Singers ensemble have generously offered to support the work of the LSN by performing a charity concert in St Luke's Church, Sydney Street, London on Wednesday 13th June at 7.30pm. Tickets are available from the LSN box office, telephone: 020 7352 4249, and cost £22.50 and £17.50. For more information visit: www.lymphoedema.org/lsn.



MLD^{UK} was formed in 1995 and has recently received charitable status. Its principal aims are to educate healthcare professionals and the general public about MLD, to maintain a register of practitioners and to set standards for the practice of MLD in the UK. From the start, MLD^{UK} has worked with the British Lymphology Society to further the acceptance of MLD as part of complex decongestive therapy in the UK. The Lymphoedema Support Network also recommends the MLD^{UK}'s register of MLD practitioners. MLD^{UK} accepts membership applications from therapists trained through Casley-Smith, Földi, Leduc and Vodder schools of MLD. These schools have been established for 2–3 decades and are internationally recognised. They have strict training schedules for their teachers to ensure good theoretical and practical knowledge. These practitioners have also worked towards the acceptance of MLD by the medical profession in their respective countries. MLD^{UK} publishes a list of courses available in the UK. It also sends an up-to-date register of practitioners on request. The association has a designated helpline for members of the public and its members. It also has a website where practitioner and course details can be found. Contact MLD^{UK} on telephone: 01592 748008 or go online to: www.mlduk.org.uk.



The Australasian Lymphology Association (ALA) is the primary national lymphology body, which strives to improve the management of those with, and those at risk of developing lymphoedema. The association endeavours to enhance communication between healthcare professionals, educators, relevant authorities and the government in regard to oedemas and lymphoedema. It advocates equitable access to lymphoedema treatment in Australia and New Zealand. The membership is a multidisciplinary group of healthcare professionals working towards a comprehensive lymphoedema education framework promoting evidence-based practice which will enable improved services to patients and greater recognition of the disease by the medical profession and government. The ALA welcomes communication with other international organisations in order to increase understanding of the condition of lymphoedema. A biennial conference is organised by the ALA for the sharing of knowledge and to stimulate the presentation of new research in all areas of lymphology. International and national speakers also share their knowledge and expertise at an accompanying patient day. The ALA welcomes the attendance of international colleagues at its next conference in Perth in March 2008.



The National Lymphedema Network is an internationally recognised non-profit organisation founded in 1988 to provide education and guidance to people with lymphoedema, healthcare professionals and the general public by disseminating information on the prevention and management of lymphoedema. The NLN is a driving force behind the movement in the USA to standardise quality treatment for lymphoedema patients nationwide. In addition, the NLN supports research into the causes and possible alternative treatments for this long-neglected condition. The NLN provides: a toll-free recorded information line (1-800-541-3259); referrals to lymphoedema treatment centres, healthcare professionals, training programmes and support groups; a quarterly newsletter (LymphLink) with information about medical and scientific developments, support groups, pen pals/net pals, an updated resource guide and more; and educational materials for healthcare professionals and patients. It also holds a biennial international conference for healthcare professionals. The next one is scheduled for August 27–31st 2008 in San Diego, CA. A biennial patient summit is scheduled for October 5–7th 2007 in Atlanta, GA. The NLN has also relaunched PLAN (Parents Lymphedema Action Network) to assist parents of children affected by lymphoedema by establishing an active parent network group. There is a PLAN questionnaire on our website along with a schedule of upcoming educational forum. For more information go to: www.lymphnet.org or email nlm@lymphnet.org.



The Asociacion Galega de Linfedema was created due to the great number of primary and secondary lymphoedema patients who were receiving bad or no treatment at all for their condition in Spain. Our primary aim is to inform patients about their illness, and to strive to ensure that every person with lymphoedema should receive good treatment. The association hopes that more lymphoedema associations will be formed in other regions and that a Spanish confederation of associations might be created in the future. For more information go online to: www.gweb.e.telefonica.net/.

To include news and events about your society in

Society UPDATE

Send your details (in no more than 200 words) plus a jpeg of your logo, to: binkie.mais@wounds-uk.com

These pages are intended to help you to share your news with others throughout the world, who are also working to improve the standards of care for those with lymphoedema and related conditions, so please contribute.