

SOCIETY UPDATE



The British Lymphology Society (BLS) launched its new website and corporate identity in May 2007 at www.thebls.com. As well as incorporating some of the information from the old site, for example, the directory of BLS members' lymphoedema services, there are many new exciting additions both for members and non-members, including a resources section with an up-to-the-minute reference list, summaries of articles, links to abstracts and lists of ongoing research projects. Much work is being undertaken to achieve the current BLS business plan, including: the society is looking to develop a service specification for lymphoedema in an attempt to standardise service provision in order to develop healthcare resource groups (HRG) as part of the Department of Health directive, 'Payment by Results'; and significant progress has been made with the part of the plan which seeks to support BLS members in developing and strengthening their services. A document has been produced in association with the Lymphoedema Framework Project (LFP) which will be of help to all those developing lymphoedema services and will be launched at the BLS conference in October.



The Lymphoedema Association of Australia (LAA) was founded by John and Judy Casley-Smith in 1982 to encourage research into lymphoedema and its treatment, and to spread information 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 is being 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. It will become interactive again by March 2008. 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*) celebrates its 11th anniversary in 2007. 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 physicians working within the fields of lymphology, breast surgery, plastic surgery, rehabilitation and radiology, as well as physiotherapists, nurses and occupational therapists (OTs) trained in the treatment of lymphoedema. The society has an annual meeting, often featuring international lecturers. It supports evidence-based surgical as well as conservative treatment of lymphoedema. Some of the board members have also played an active role in preparing the National Best Practice Document for Lymphoedema Treatment, which aims to ensure uniform treatment and management of lymphoedema throughout Sweden. For more information please go online to: www.lymfologi.nu.



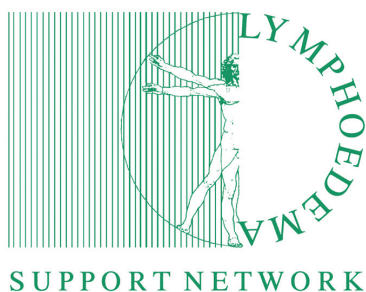
The Leg Clubs have been politically busy. In July, representatives attended a Parliamentary showcase at the Houses of Parliament. The event provided an opportunity to outline the benefits of the model and the work of Leg Clubs to representatives from The House of Commons and The House of Lords. In his opening speech, Norman Lamb MP (Liberal Democrat Shadow Health Secretary) stressed the importance of continuing to develop effective services and technology that facilitate the empowerment of patients. He went on to cite the Leg Club model as an example of this approach. Members of Parliament (MPs) were keen to hear about the positive impact of the implementation of the model. Representation from the Leg Club Foundation has also been invited to attend all the three party political conferences being held in September and October. The official launch of our 'Healthy Legs for Life' awareness week (16–21 September 2007) is taking place at a British Motorcyclist Federation event. On 20 September 2007 the Leg Club conference, 'Expanding our Horizons: leg care in the 21st century' (in partnership with the Wound Care Society [WCS]) is being held at Walsall Football Ground. Rebecca Billingham, a lymphoedema nurse consultant, will be presenting on the management of chronic oedema and lymphoedema.



The German Society of Lymphology is holding its 31st Annual Congress, 'Current, approved and future diagnosis and therapy of lymphological diseases' on 20–22 September 2007 at Philipps-University, Marburg/Lahn. The congress will cover: Molecular imaging — perspectives; ultrasound — new indications; lymphological compression therapy; optimisation of physical oedema treatment; alternative modalities, self-treatment; the view over the boundaries; future aspects and healthcare development — perspectives for lymphoedema patients. The President of the Congress is Winfried Schneider (e-mail: schneider@lymphklinik.com). For further information contact: Pia Hermann, Central Office German Society of Lymphology, Lindenstr 8, D-79877, Friedenweiler; Tel: (+) 49 (0)7651/971611; Fax: (+) 49 (0)7651/971612; e-mail: lymphdgl@t-online.de; or go online to: www.dglymph.de.



The National Lymphedema Network (NLN) is an internationally recognised non-profit organisation founded in 1988 to provide education and guidance to lymphoedema patients, healthcare professionals and the general public by disseminating information on the prevention and management of primary and secondary lymphoedema. The NLN's 8th international conference, 'Lymphedema: Riding the Wave of Discovery' is scheduled for 27–31 August 2008 in San Diego, CA. Conference registration opens 1 August 2007, all medical professionals, including physicians, nurses, allied healthcare professionals and basic scientists interested or involved in the field of lymphology are encouraged to register and submit an abstract. The primary goal of the conference is to promote interdisciplinary collaboration and to share the breakthroughs and innovations in the field of lymphology. The conference is an opportunity for new practitioners and investigators to exchange treatment principles and philosophies with established experts to further the field's pioneering status, as the discipline continues to press forward. For more information, go online to: www.lymphnet.org or email: nl@lymphnet.org.



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 encouraging self-management. The LSN also operates an information and support telephone line, produces a quarterly newsletter and promotes the formation of local support groups. The charity is the largest information resource for lymphoedema in the UK, with two self-help videos/DVDs and an extensive range of fact sheets that are widely distributed to patients, hospitals and lymphoedema clinics throughout the country. A new fact sheet, 'The Use of Compression Garments in the Management of Lymphoedema' is now available. The LSN promotes better awareness of lymphoedema as a major health condition to health authorities, healthcare professionals and politicians, and actively campaigns for improved national standards of care. The LSN has recently launched a new phase in its campaign to influence primary care trusts (PCTs) and health boards to provide equitable local services for all patients. 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 manual lymphatic drainage (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 a national lymphology body, which strives to improve the management of those with, and at risk of developing lymphoedema. The association endeavours to enhance communication between healthcare professionals, educators, relevant authorities and Government with regard to oedemas and lymphoedema. It advocates for equitable access to lymphoedema treatment in Australia and New Zealand. Over the past twelve months a subcommittee of the ALA in conjunction with the School of Enterprise of the University of Melbourne has been working towards the establishment of a 'Graduate Certificate in Lymphoedema Management'. The university-based course will offer the opportunity of progressing to a master's degree (MA). Further to this, the ALA is developing the National Lymphoedema Practitioner Register (NLPR). The accreditation criteria for this register will be outlined in future newsletters and at the ALA Conference 2008 in Fremantle in Western Australia (27–28 March 2008). The call for abstracts is available on the website: www.lymphology.asn.au. The ALA welcomes international colleagues to this conference.



The Dutch Lymphedema Network (NLNet) provides a unique forum in the Netherlands for both patients and healthcare professionals involved in lymphoedema and lipoedema. It started in 2000 and offers information and contact details for therapists, regional support groups, as well as a discussion forum. In 2006, NLNet was joined by other leading organisations in the Netherlands involved in lymphology. It facilitates discussion and the exchange of ideas on the internet; enhances public awareness; stimulates multidisciplinary healthcare cooperation and encourages an interest among professional stakeholders. To achieve these goals, there is a HON (www.hon.ch) certified internet website, a journal (*Lymfologica*), regional patient support groups and an annual congress. Membership costs 20 euros per annum, which entitles you to full access to the internet platform and other offers from NLNet. NLNet carry out the national and international guidelines on lymphoedema and are actively cooperating in the development of an European Lymphedema Network (www.european-lymphologic-network.de) and links to other international organisations. For further information please visit: www.lymfoedeem.nl.

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.

Closing date for the next issue of *Journal of Lymphoedema* is Friday, 15 February 2008