



Wounds International's clinical innovations section presents recent developments in wound care.

International Wound Infection Institute: Leaders in wound infection understanding, prevention, and management



Authors:
Terry Swanson
[top] and Keryln
Carville [bottom]

Wound infection is a source of morbidity and mortality the world over; be it in acute wounds, or the ever-growing number of chronic wounds. Much remains to be done by the clinicians in the field and researchers in the lab to better understand and manage wound infection. Though common, the nuances of many of the key issues in infection – biofilms, critical colonisation, and so on – are poorly understood.

In 2006, scientists, medical and nursing practitioners, allied healthcare professionals and academics met in Budapest to explore their shared interest in wound infection, and to discuss the possibility of forming an expert body able to participate in the expansion of understanding,

prevention, and best-practice management of wound infections. The meeting was Chaired by Professor Keith Harding, and made possible by an unrestricted education grant from Smith & Nephew.

Off the back of the Budapest meeting, and 2 years later in Toronto, the newly formed International Wound Infection Institute (IWII; www.woundinfection-institute.com) held its first annual general meeting to establish a governance structure and agree a framework for future activities. Keith Harding was elected Chair and served until 2012, at which time Terry Swanson took on the Chairmanship at the annual general meeting held during the Australian Wound Management National Conference.

WHAT IS THE IWII?

The IWII is a multidisciplinary inclusive society, providing a global perspective on the latest developments in wound infection. We aim to inform and educate specialist and generalist practitioners in wound infection prevention and management, and create a positive impact on patient outcomes.

Membership of the IWII is free and available through the website (www.woundinfection-institute.com). The IWII currently has more than 1700 registered members from more than 20 countries. We aim to build our international membership and professional and commercial networks for those interested in the prevention and management of wound infection. We seek sustainable financial support, which will enable us to advance our research and education goals and the development of best practice documents for both the health professional and the wounded.

If you are interested in wound infection or more importantly preventing them then please consider becoming a member the IWII. Members have access to a wealth of material on the IWII website, with a focus on the latest evidence, research, and education in wound infection prevention and management. [Please note: the IWII website is currently being re-designed so we apologise for the lack of updates; our secretariat hopes that the website will be fully functional by mid-year.]

Available resources include a curriculum outline on wound infection, a comprehensive matrix of evidence, an international consensus paper on infection and several reviews and commentaries, including a monthly update on the latest publications in the field.

IWII OUTPUTS

The IWII has produced a number of widely recognised and endorsed documents. Importantly, the IWII reviewed, revised, and extended the 2004 TIME principles^[1] in the *International Wound Journal*.^[2]

A review was carried out of each of the core TIME concepts: tissue (nonviable); infection/inflammation; moisture balance; and edge/epithelial advancement, to determine whether any significant changes had occurred since the original publication. Where differences were identified, they were investigated and the findings included in the updated version of the framework. The most important differences were in four key areas:

Strong when wet^{1,2}



Gentle on the budget³



- ✓ **Clean one-piece removal** – high wet strength^{1,2}
- ✓ **High absorbency** – up to 7-day wear time^{1,2}
- ✓ **Minimal dressing shrinkage** – may help sustained coverage^{1,4}
- ✓ **Minimal lateral wicking** – may help to reduce the risk of peri-wound maceration^{2,5}

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All references relate to *in vitro* testing excluding 2.

1. The role of biofilms
2. The use of negative pressure wound therapy (NPWT)
3. The use of topical antimicrobials
4. The increased understanding of molecular biological processes, particularly in relation to the use of specific diagnostic tools^[3]

This publication – titled *Extending the TIME concept: what have we learned in the past 10 years?* – is now available for IWII members to download (<http://bit.ly/1i64s5A>). It has also gained significant exposure and has been internationally referenced in leading documents and journal articles since its publication.^[4–7]

As well as the significant contributions to the TIME framework, the IWII has published work in the *International Wound Journal*, *Journal of Wound Care*, *Wounds International* and other relevant journals.^[8–12]

The IWII have also been active at international congresses. Most recently, members of the committee have presented at the Wound Management Association of Ireland conference (Cork, Ireland), the Wounds International Asian Pacific Conference (Kuala Lumpur,

Malaysia), and have been asked by the World Union of Wound Healing Societies to participate in their next meeting in Italy.

THE FUTURE

The current members of the IWII committee are listed in *Box 1*. The IWII will shortly have openings for at least four general committee positions and will be seeking nominations from the current committee for the positions of Vice Chair and Treasurer. If you are interested in becoming involved in the IWII, details on the 2014 annual general meeting are available from Terry Swanson (tswanson@swh.net.au) or Joyce Black (jblack@unmc.edu).

IWII annual general meetings are also educational events and take place as part of eminent international wound care congresses. The next IWII annual general meeting will take place on 9 May 2014 at the Australian Wound Management Association National Conference (<http://www.awma.com.au/conferences>). The focus for this year's annual general meeting will be slough, with Terry Swanson to deliver a presentation titled "Unraveling slough: What is it, how do we differentiate it and how is it best managed?" Preliminary information regarding the latest IWII project will also be provided during this presentation. At the same meeting, IWII members Professor Keryln Carville and Associate Professor Geoff Sussman will deliver an update on wound infection with an overview of best practice documents, clinical research, and new products that became available in 2013, and discuss the global concern regarding multi-resistant wound infections, respectively.

IWII committee members have also been invited to present at the Wounds International Middle East Conference in Abu Dhabi (5–6 June 2014; <http://bit.ly/1bLYvyu>). ■

AUTHOR DETAILS

Terry Swanson is Chair, International Wound Infection Institute, and Nurse Practitioner, South West Healthcare, Australia. Keryln Carville is Evidence Officer, International Wound Infection Institute, and Professor of Primary Health Care and Community Nursing, Silver Chain and Curtin University, Australia.

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Box 1. The current International Wound Infection Institute committee.

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Chair | Terry Swanson, Nurse Practitioner, South West Healthcare, Australia |
| Vice Chair | [Position currently vacant] |
| Secretary | Associate Professor Joyce Black, University of Nebraska Medical Center, USA |
| Treasurer | David Keast, Wound Care Theme Leader, St Joseph's Parkwood Hospital London, Canada |
| Education | Jacqui Fletcher, Clinical Strategy Director, Welsh Wound Innovation Centre, UK |
| Evidence | Keryln Carville, Professor Primary Health Care and Community Nursing, Silver Chain and Curtin University, Australia |
| Research | Professor Gregory Schultz, University of Florida, USA |
| Membership | Associate Professor Geoff Sussman OAM, Faculty University of Auckland, New Zealand and Monash University, Australia |
| Translation General | Jose Contreas Ruiz, Dermatologist, Mexico Marc Depatis, Vascular Surgeon, QC, Canada Georgina Gethin, National University of Ireland, Ireland Jennifer Hurlow, Wound Practitioner LLC, Memphis, USA Diane Smith, Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, Australia |

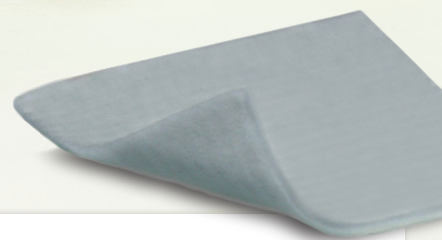
Note: The IWII acknowledge the valuable contributions of Professor David Leaper, Roland Renyi, Professor Richard White, Heather Orsted, Professor David Armstrong, and Val Edwards-Jones.

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