



Suzie Calne explains how the various conferences, events and webcasts can enrich the world of wounds

Tales from the wound care circuit

I sometimes feel as if I am on a wound care circuit, stopping at regular intervals and attending regular events, seeing familiar faces and discussing familiar topics. I am never complacent, however, as I feel extremely privileged to attend these events and always come away having learnt something new. The fact that there are so many events and that they seem to grow in size and success every year, surely reflects the emergence of wound healing as an important and highly respected speciality.

The recent EPUAP conference in Cardiff, Wales, was a classic example, where many clinicians came together with exciting new research and sophisticated developments. This was epitomised in the execution of international goals and the excitement around the 'World Wide STOP pressure ulcer day' (see: <http://www.epuap.org/news/stop-pressure-ulcer-day/>).

There really is a genuine change in mood and resolve to stop avoidable pressure ulcers and improve wound management.

The Wounds UK Harrogate conference is one of my favourite events on the wound care circuit and this year the annual conference was held between the 12–14 November. It proved to

be a stimulating and rewarding, and I am certain that those delegates who attended will go back to their workplace feeling inspired and motivated. This year's programme, led by the clinical editors of Wounds UK, Jacqui Fletcher and Karen Ousey, was jam-packed and imaginative.

It also captured the current mood of change and provided details of the way wound management will be delivered in the future in the UK and the implications for tissue viability nurses. The programme offered a succinct series of presentations recognising the various developments and work of the different regional groups working within the UK.

It will have been a huge commitment for clinicians to take time off and the expectation from delegates and managers is that attending the event will lead to a positive change in practice. Thankfully, wound management is really gaining momentum right now and the research and understanding of the topic becomes more sophisticated every day.

The papers included in this issue of the journal pay tribute to how the speciality continues to evolve. Robert Kirsner et al report on the research they published in the *Lancet* this year. A spray cell therapy was used to treat slow healing venous leg ulcers in a study featuring 228 patients. The short report is found in the 'innovation' section of the journal — encouragingly, the study adds to the number of randomised controlled trials (RCTs) available in wound care.

Evidence is of course critical in our drive to give patients the best care and the RCT is the gold standard, although for some time in wound care there has been growing recognition of the importance of valuing other sources to support practice. Case reports provide good examples of care and the *Wounds International* case series, looking at the new protease point of care test evaluations from across Europe, including Spain, Italy, Switzerland and the UK, offer an important contribution (see: <http://www.woundsinternational.com/case-reports/using-actisorb-case-studies>).

This is the last issue of the journal for 2012 and 2013 is already emerging as a busy year for *Wounds International* with many educational events to put in your diary. Look out for *Wounds International* webcasts, made easys, talking heads and new consensus documents and, of course, the Wounds International 2013 conference in Kuala Lumpur.

Suzie Calne
Editor, Wounds International

If you would like to contribute to a future issue of the journal, please contact Suzie Calne, the editor of *Wounds International* at: scalne@woundsinternational.com