

## Making global wound care local

The International Wound Care Conference in Kuala Lumpur on 18–20 October was attended by more than 800 delegates from Malaysia and the Asia Pacific region. The theme of the conference was ‘Global wound care made local’, and throughout there was an emphasis on sharing experiences from different regions around the world. This was echoed by the deputy director general from the Malaysian Ministry for Health, who opened the conference with the launch of World Wound Week, an initiative of the Malaysian Society of Wound Care Professionals (MSWCP), World Union of Wound Healing Societies, and the Asian Academy of Wound Technology.

The conference has been an important step in the development of wound care in Malaysia. In the past year, all state hospitals in the country have appointed wound care teams as part of a government directive. This has not only raised awareness of wounds, but is also helping to standardise wound care in Malaysia. However, these teams require leadership through education and an understanding of the size of the problem to ensure judicious use of money.

Of course, it is not just about the cost of managing the patient, but the cost to the patient, which Geoff Sussman (Australia) eloquently stated in his presentation on ‘Advances in dressing technologies and innovations’. Saving limbs and reducing the impact of living with a wound is important. Next-generation dressings need to be smart — to address the cause, the needs of the patient and the wound.

It is an exciting time with new advances in wound care, including stem cells, growth factors and pharmacological interventions. For Malaysia and some parts of the Asia Pacific region, the process of registration is fairly simple with early adoption of wound care products. In Kuala Lumpur, this was evident from the range and number of companies exhibiting at the conference, with over 30 stands in the exhibition and hospitality areas.

The varied programme delivered by both international and local speakers reflected these advances in wound care practice, while emphasising the importance of collecting accurate data to ensure appropriate use of products. Over the 3 days, *Wounds International*, with the support of Professor Keith Harding and Jacqui Fletcher (UK), delivered three plenary sessions on the science of pressure ulceration, elevated protease activity in wounds (supported by Systagenix) and wound infection, resistance and the role of topical antimicrobials — the latter delivered in association with the International Wound Infection Institute. In addition to the morning presentations, there were a number of afternoon workshops and free paper sessions. These were all well attended and offered delegates a choice of topics and a greater level of interaction.

*Wounds International* is delighted to have had this opportunity to work with Dr Harikrishna Ragavan Nair, President of MSWCP, and his unstinting efforts to build a collaborative wound care community for both doctors and nurses working in the Asia Pacific region. Thank you to the speakers for providing such interesting sessions — it has been a pleasure working with you. We would also like to thank all those who attended and for sharing the excitement about what the future holds for wound care in Malaysia and the wider Asia Pacific region. *Wounds International* looks forward to continuing this important collaboration and supporting clinicians in their day-to-day practice. ■

Kathy Day  
Publisher, *Wounds International*

*If you would like further information about the resources available on Wounds International and how these can be used to support ongoing education and best practice, please contact Kathy Day, the Publisher of Wounds International, at: [kathy.day@woundsgroup.com](mailto:kathy.day@woundsgroup.com)*

### The 2013 International Wound Care Conference



*The opening ceremony, International Wound Care Conference, Kuala Lumpur.*



*Delegates attend a plenary session.*



*(L–R) Kathy Day, Rob Yates, Harikrishna K.R. Nair, Jacqui Fletcher.*



*Professor Keith Harding delivers a presentation.*