



In this guest editorial, Harikrishna K.R. Nair discusses the launch of the World Wound Care Week from 11–18 October and the World Wound Care Day on 18 October, and the hope that this will encourage international collaboration.

World Wound Week brings international collaboration

Interest in wound care and the need for expertise and specialist knowledge is growing in epic proportions worldwide. The interest in wound care in the Asia Pacific region can be seen by the increase in wound healing societies, such as for burns and diabetic limb problems. There is a huge variety of advanced dressings, innovations, technologies and clinical guidelines available, and there is continual potential for growth. With the increasing prevalence of diabetes there is an increase in diabetic foot wounds, as a quarter of all people with diabetes develop diabetic foot complications^[1]. Furthermore, the number of amputations has also increased, and the International Working Group on the Diabetic Foot has noted that every 20 seconds a limb is being amputated somewhere in the world as a result of diabetes^[2].

This is the reason the Malaysian Society of Wound Care Professionals launched the World Wound Care Week from 11–18 October 2013 in Kuala Lumpur Hospital, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. It was a unique event, and there was an exhibition, industry booths and a special presentation of wound care kits equipped with advanced dressings to wound care teams from various hospitals and health centres under the Ministry of Health, Malaysia, in support of their contribution to wound management. Furthermore, various programmes were organised, which included workshops, seminars, talks and surgical sessions with consultants from various disciplines and from numerous countries, including Japan, France, South Korea, USA, Australia and China.

This was a very significant event, with four key themes emerging:

- First, the week was accepted internationally and endorsed by the World Union of Wound Healing Societies. The aim was to celebrate wound care in the region and share new initiatives. Various programmes were organised to meet this objective and bring people from a number of locations together who have a common goal.

- Second, it created a political platform to provide a greater emphasis on wound care, where governments, non-governmental organisations, the industry and the public are made aware of the need for a standardised and comprehensive care in managing wounds.
- Third, we were able to share our knowledge with subspecialties and learn about new breakthroughs in wound management, such as growth factors, stem cells, new advanced dressings, new diagnostics in wound care and scar management.
- Fourth, initiatives and plans will be set in motion to make new products and innovations accessible, affordable and available to all patients, and to meet the objectives set out by the various wound care organisations attending.

In addition, the International Wound Conference 2013 was launched officially on the 18 October, which was designated as the World Wound Care Day. Participants included delegates and distributors from 33 countries. The World Wound Care Week and Day were endorsed by the World Union of Wound Healing Societies, the Ministry of Health of Malaysia, the Academy of Wound Technology, the Asian Academy of Wound Technology and *Wounds International*. Incidentally, World Wound Care Day also falls on St Jude's Day; St Jude was a patron saint of physicians. Finally, we have a day in the year that is designated for wound care, which can and will be celebrated throughout the world by all wound care professionals.

The aim is that the initiative and the momentum put into place to support wound care will continue, and will spur greater collaboration and cooperation between the various specialists and the nations in achieving advanced and timely wound care for all who need it. It is hoped that the international community will embrace and support the World Wound Care Week and the World Wound Care Day. ■

References

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