

Evidence versus experience: the wound care dilemma



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Dear friends and family,
it feels like life is returning to a form of normality, as we move away from the global COVID-19 pandemic and begin to live with this coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) as we have done with other coronavirus and indeed other viruses. Many wound care centres are back to their full strength, this is crucial to make sure that the standard of care is maintained. The online courses and applications have been helpful during the COVID-19 pandemic, but this must go hand in hand with clinical judgement and evidence-based practice.

As life moves forward I am really looking forward to Asia taking over the Presidency of the World Union of Wound Healing Societies (WUWHS), with the silver jubilee of the society to be celebrated in the picturesque Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in October 2026. The theme of the meeting will be “*Global paradigm shift: wound care speciality recognition*”. It can be a contentious issue among wound care professionals, the lack of recognition for wound care as a speciality. I sincerely hope WUWHS will lead the way in this promoting recognition for healthcare professionals who have been at the forefront of wound care for many years.

Meetings are once again on the agenda with many now providing a hybrid option. This is a one positive outcome from the COVID-19 pandemic as it allows participation from all over the world, where costs might otherwise be prohibitive.

Commonwealth Wound Care Resource Alliance (CWCRA)

Earlier this year we formed the Commonwealth Wound Care Resource Alliance (CWCRA) (www.cwcra.org), with 54 member countries. The CWCRA is a global family of clinicians, scientists and academics committed to producing original work that contributes towards research, education, and evidence in identification, prevention and management of wounds. The CWCRA will be formally launched during the Commonwealth and 4th Global Wound Conference, in the Sunway Pyramid Convention Centre Malaysia, from the 28–30 October 2022 (www.woundconference.com.my). The theme of

the conference is “*Evidence versus experience: the wound care dilemma*”. David Sacketts introduced evidence-based medicine in 1996 (Sacket et al, 1996), however, in 2020 Wang et al. wrote about “*Real World Evidence*” in the *British Medical Journal*... and so the dilemma. Incidentally, this is a huge problem in low and middle income countries where the resources are limited and other cheaper resources are used, such as banana leaves, local honey and other products. These items seem to be healing wounds and are found readily in these low income countries, but the need to be fully researched. In addition, education, especially online basic education, on wound management needs to be introduced in many low income countries.

Wound assessment, wound infection, danger signs and basic management involving cleansing, debridement, dressing and offloading with available resources needs to be shared with the local healthcare professionals. In addition, we would like to work together to enable them to have access to conventional dressings and slowly more advanced materials, while making sure their normal dressing material has a place in the clinical pathway of wound management. This is a noble initiative and wound healers across the Commonwealth have come together to lead the way, helping the low and middle income countries. There are very passionate wound care professionals in these regions who are working in their silos and need to be recognised and encouraged to share their experience, expertise and clinical knowledge with their peers and colleagues across the world.

Other notable upcoming conferences include Wounds Australia in Sydney, Australia, 14–17 September 2022; the Asia Pacific Association for Diabetic Limb Problems and the Diabetic Society of India will hold a joint conference in Goa, India, 14–16 October 2022.

I would like to invite all clinicians to submit to the *Wounds Asia* journal, where we hope to publish all your great work from the Asia Pacific region. Knowledge should be free and shared with everyone.

Thank you for reading.
Take care and God bless |

References

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