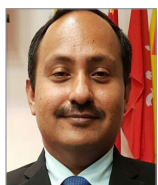


Wound wars: how conferences have changed to keep us safe



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Dear wound family and friends, it is truly a pleasure to be able to present the last edition of the *Wounds Asia* journal for 2020. It has been a tumultuous year with the COVID-19 pandemic causing a massive change in the lifestyles and the way we had been living. The 'new norm' as it is being known involves social distancing, personal protective equipment, hand washing, hand sanitisers and various others measures.

In some places schools are closed and students are learning online. Virtual meetings and conferences have become part of the 'new norm'. We as speakers have to do everything virtually by online sessions, prerecorded presentations and videos. Quarantine has become a necessity if we travel and 14 days is a long time to be stuck in a hotel room. The numbers of COVID-19 positive patients in Malaysia has gone up dramatically up to 2188 cases today alone which is the highest number so far (Source Ministry of Health Malaysia).

Conference organisers have started to emulate this all over the globe. Many conferences are now as fully virtual or hybrid. The Ho Chi Minh Wound Association from Vietnam organised a hybrid meeting this year. So did the Taiwan Wound Care Society and the Chinese Medical Association of Taiwan. We had prerecorded sessions and had to standby for the question and answer session. Wounds Canada and the European Wound Management Association (EWMA) had fully virtual meetings recently. The Indian Society of Wound Management will be organising WoundCon on the 5–6 December 2020 while the International Wound Healing Technologies Association will be having their meeting in December too. The Malaysian Society of Wound Care Professionals (MSWCP) will be having a virtual meeting with the support of Urgo Medical titled '*Best Practice in Chronic Wound Management*' with speakers from the Asia Pacific region on the 19 December 2020. I would like take this opportunity to thank the industry for changing with the times and supporting virtual education in Asia.

However, the International Surgical Wound Complications Advisory Panel (ISWCAP) and the 3rd Global Wound Conference has been

postponed to the 4–6 of March 2021 due to the third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in Malaysia. This conference will most likely be a hybrid meeting as international travel might still be restricted. The theme of the conference which was coined in 2019 is '*Wound Wars: May the Cure be with you*' — a fitting theme during this trying period. Incidentally the World Union of Wound Healing Societies (WUWHS) conference has also been postponed to 2022 in Abu Dhabi. I would like to congratulate and welcome the first Woman President of the WUWHS Ms. Gulnaz Tariq. I know you will be able to bring the WUWHS to a different level during your tenure.

Let me also welcome Dr Rachel Webb as the Managing Editor of the *Wounds Asia* — a Scopus indexed journal. It's truly an honour to have her as she is a great friend for many years and will excel in her new role. I look forward to working with Rachel, this is her inaugural issue. I would also like to thank Edda Henry who was the first Managing Editor of the journal. My best wishes in your new endeavours.

A host of new articles are showcased in this edition including a qualitative analysis of an evidence based lymphoedema booklet. Various products such as honey, hypochlorous acid oxidizing solution, technology lipido-colloid and new novel barrier creams are highlighted. Bioelectric dressings too have found its way into Asia. Microcurrent therapy is also new in terms of perfusion. In addition, Doppler has been evaluated against the electronic Ankle Brachial Systolic Index device which speeds up time and improves accuracy in detecting peripheral arterial disease. I know you will find this edition fascinating.

The *Wounds Asia* is an open access journal which is free, allowing all walks of life to have access to it, meaning the information published can be disseminated easily. I hereby invite you to submit your noble work in this journal. A lot of clinicians are doing good work and the only way to show your this is by publishing. So come on board as an author.

Finally, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Spend time with the family and friends where you can, as I will.

Stay safe, take care and God bless.

WAS