

A new year, a new decade: making progress in wound care education



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Welcome everyone to another exciting edition of *Wounds Asia*. The journal is now in its third year and we are starting the new decade with a blast — publishing more exciting research, interesting case studies and informative product evaluations from across Asia.

The hot topic at the moment is the novel coronavirus which has wrought havoc to this region, impacting on people's lives, finances and travel plans. However, wound management remains a major challenge as clinicians are having to look after an increasing number of patients with chronic wounds.

The sixteenth-century French surgeon Ambroise Paré is famous for saying, *"I dressed the wound. God healed it."* Faith in the healer, as well as the divine one, helps. In addition, wound care should be patient-centred, with patients and caregivers informed about and involved in the treatment. The patients' needs must be noted, their expectations managed and a holistic and best-practice approach taken when treating their wounds. The standard of care must be based on current evidence and conform to international guidelines.

World Union of Wound Healing Societies conference

I look forward to meeting some of you in Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates) at the World Union of Wound Healing Societies (WUWHS) conference (8–12 March), where printed copies of this issue will be distributed to the delegates. Held once every four years, experts from all over the world will share their knowledge and expertise. The theme of this year's conference is 'Global Healing, Changing Lives'. The objective of WUWHS 2020 is to promote greater collaboration and cooperation of all the Scientific Wound Care Societies around the world, with a passion for caring for wounds as their main objective. The scientific programme has been carefully prepared to cover many aspects of wound management. New algorithms, modalities, experiences, guidelines, principles of best practice and others will be highlighted during the various plenaries, symposiums and workshops.

International Surgical Wound Complication Advisory Panel

Incidentally, the International Surgical Wound Complication Advisory Panel (ISWCAP) will be launched in Abu Dhabi during the WUWHS conference. The board members are consultants from various disciplines and have been meeting frequently in person and online. The best practice consensus document, which was drafted in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia during the 16th Asia Pacific Diabetic Limb Problems and the 2nd Global Conference, will be unveiled here too. This is a landmark event as there is more emphasis and credence given to surgical wound complications, which occur frequently and may increase patients' mortality and morbidity. Healthcare professionals have to become more vigilant and try to prevent these complications. In other news, the 3rd Global Wound Conference will be held at the Sunway Pyramid Convention Center in Malaysia (2–4 October 2020). I would like to welcome as many of you as possible in Malaysia.

New guidelines

The National Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel (NPUAP) was renamed NPIAP — a historic name change — which coincided with launch of the 3rd International Guideline on the Prevention of Pressure Injury in Los Angeles, USA in November. The guideline will be translated into many languages to give it more extensive exposure, coverage and scope.

Also in 2019, the Myanmar Wound Care Society was launched to further strengthen wound management in Myanmar. The country is one of ten countries making up the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Wound Council, which recently ran its first train the trainer wound course in Vientiane, Laos. The mission is to educate and train wound care professionals so that they will be able to apply this newly gained knowledge and clinical expertise to managing patients with chronic complex wounds more comprehensively.

Finally, please allow me to personally thank the *Wounds International* and *Wounds Asia* team, Editorial Board, reviewers, contributors and industry partners for all their valuable input and support during the last three years. 