

Editorial



This interesting issue of WHSA has been delayed somewhat by a few factors, the first being because of our attendance of the 5th World Union of Wound Healing Societies (WUWHS) meeting, held in Florence. We wanted to give our readers some feedback regarding this.

There was a record attendance, in excess of 4 000 delegates, the largest number for this congress to date. Although we heard many interesting things, the most significant thing I noted was that our wound care in South Africa is of an extremely high standard, with our private sector being on par with most countries. Although there are many fantastic wound services in our state sector too, there are of course some challenges due to lack of resources and training.

We also saw the release of the World Consensus Guidelines on Incisional Negative Pressure Wound Therapy (iNPWT), for which there is an ever-growing amount of evidence regarding its efficacy on high risk wounds. We will attempt to add them as a supplement in an upcoming issue but a summarised version has been included in this issue.

We were pleased to see that the next WUWHS meeting will be held in Abu Dhabi in 2020. This puts WHASA in good stead to put in a bid for the meeting in 2024!

The second reason for a delay in this issue is perhaps a little less encouraging than the first. We are struggling to obtain sufficient good quality articles to formulate an issue! Although unusual case reports are interesting and can be educational, we would like to see more original research articles. However, I was pleased

to have spoken to a few South African wound care nurses at WUWHS, who expressed a desire to undertake research but felt they lacked the capabilities for this and the skill required to write an article.

I am enthused by this, as it implies that there is a silver lining after all. If there is a desire to publish, then we have won half the battle. This has highlighted the need to educate those members who require skills in research and publication. To this end we resolved in November that we will implement short workshops to assist WHASA members in undertaking research and writing papers.

To undertake research, however, one needs data. The larger the datasets and the more controlled the collection thereof, the higher the quality of the research. With this in mind, we are designing a purpose-built software system for our woundcare practitioners, which will not only simplify record keeping and administration but will be specifically designed to capture and mine data.

The application will capture the same standard set of data for every patient, allowing for both prospective and retrospective studies and trials on new and existing products. It will incorporate many other user-friendly features to enhance the service that our practitioners can offer, should they choose to make use of it. Watch this space!

In this issue, we have a potpourri of research articles, case reports, poster presentations and guidelines. I trust the wait for it was worth it!

Nick Kairinos