

Editorial



The previous issue of WHSA marked a milestone in the history of the journal, as it was the first issue which offered CPD points. The current issue of WHSA is also a relative milestone, as we have now completed three consecutive years of publications which comply with the standards required to apply for accreditation.

There are a variety of criteria one must comply with prior to applying for this status and it appears that we have ticked the boxes for all of these. We will apply for accreditation next year. This has been the single biggest hurdle for WHSA and the most important task that I gave myself and my editorial team when I took on the role of Editor-in-Chief, so let's keep our fingers crossed that the outcome will be favourable.

This particular issue appears to be quite focused on burns care, with three articles in that regard. An important and practical paper on current approaches to burn care is a must-read and it is for this reason that I chose it as our second CPD article for the year. Answer the CPD questions on-line and you could add to your collection of CPD points!

Another study compares gabapentin and chlorpheniramine in the management of post-burn pruritus, while the third burns article is an interesting case report on Serotonin Syndrome in burns.

A variety of other interesting articles can be found, including a basic science paper illustrating the flaws of laser Doppler as a measuring tool for perfusion in NPWT. This is interesting considering that the laser Doppler has been regarded as the gold standard to measure perfusion in NPWT research over the last couple of decades. In this issue, you can also read about

the South African Multi-Disciplinary Lymphoedema Position Statement. As most of you know, lymphoedema and wound care are intimately linked topics.

This year saw WHASA hosting one of its most successful national congresses. The theme, "Strength in Unity", reflects our association's multidisciplinary nature. This was further illustrated by the variety of disciplines that our fantastic speakers represented. Eloquent talks were delivered by wound specialists, lymphoedema specialists, orthopaedic surgeons, plastic surgeons, podiatrists, general surgeons and researchers, among others.

For the first time, members were invited to submit oral and poster presentations. Sr Febe Bruwer won best oral presentation for her talk titled, "Venous Leg Ulcers", while Sr Susan Thiar won best poster presentation for, "Thinking out of the Box: The Ability to Improvise and the Recycling of Rubbish into Equipment in Africa". These two abstracts are published in this issue of WHSA. We hope this inspires others to partake in such efforts for the next congress.

Further accolades that were presented during this meeting were Lifetime Achievement Awards for Prof Magda Mulder and Sr Hiske Smart, while Dr Gregory Weir was awarded a Lifetime Membership Award.

This congress also saw the voting in of WHASA's next president, Sr Johlene Sander and president elect, Sr Febe Bruwer. Although the association has been through some tough times due to various reasons in the past few years, there appears to be a spirited effort to revive WHASA through various initiatives. We trust that these efforts will go from strength to strength with these two dynamic ladies at the helm!

Nick Kairinos