

## Editorial



Yet another year draws to an end and in this regard I think we can say it has been a good one for both WHASA and the journal. This year saw WHASA hosting yet another successful congress in Gauteng and in this issue we have a nice synopsis of the proceedings.

We have also published the abstracts of the oral and poster presentations for those of you who could not make it to the congress and we would like to congratulate the winners of the best papers. The SABS and PABS abstracts have also been included in this issue.

The journal continues to consistently tick all the boxes required by the the Department of Higher Education to achieve accreditation and, having completed the three prerequisite years of doing this, we applied for accreditation this year. We should get news regarding this by the end of the year. Let's keep our fingers crossed as this would be the most important milestone in the journal's history and will encourage even more authors to use it to publish their work.

This year also saw many of our practitioners using Signapps to discuss patients and to communicate with one another, in a secure, POPI-compliant environment. This is a step in the right

direction to protect patient information. You will be pleased to know that next year Signapps will have a complete makeover, making it more user friendly, which should encourage even more to use it.

One of the most commonly used dressings is of the foam variety. As with all commonly used dressings, there are a multitude of different types and from different manufacturers. In this issue we have a review of these dressings. Some wounds, however, require more than just dressings, particularly if there is exposed bone or tendons. One of the available methods to cover these is with the use of skin substitutes. This too is a market that is growing with a variety of these available. A review of the classification of these products can be found in this issue and has been chosen as this issue's CPD article.

WHASA is a multidisciplinary association and, in this regard, we are pleased to have an article from one of our lymphoedema therapy colleagues. We also have an interesting letter from our colleagues in northern Africa regarding the monitoring of the seal on negative pressure wound therapy dressings. Lastly, the updated WHASA classification of wound dressings is added to this issue as a supplement.

I hope you enjoy the reading and hopefully my next communication to you will be via a fully accredited WHSA!

**Nick Kairinos**

*Editor: Wound Healing SA*