

Editorial



It's been a year since I first mentioned COVID-19 in an editorial, but sadly this virus is still with us and affecting our lives and those of our patients in many ways, with our first virtual WHASA congress being one example. Fortunately, one year later, we find that we have developed a vaccine and that most of our healthcare workers have already been vaccinated. So, there is hopefully some light at the

end of the long tunnel for our healthcare workers. However, with most of our population still unvaccinated at this stage, we will continue to endure the hardships and inconveniences of life with the virus still circulating.

You may also remember from that editorial one year ago that the journal was unfortunately not granted accreditation status and that the plan was to appeal this decision. I decided to defer the appeal to this year and, in the meantime, bolster our board with more editorial board members of high international standing. To this effect, I'm pleased and excited to welcome some very big names in the field of wound care to our team.

Prof. David Armstrong, a podiatrist from California and a giant in the field of diabetic feet, is one of the most prolific authors I've known, having published 572 peer-reviewed papers! Also from California and having co-authored many papers with Prof. Armstrong, we are grateful to have Prof. Lee Rodgers joining our team too. He is another extremely well-published podiatrist. And one of our own home-grown talents, Prof. Bernard Zipfel, who was previously head of podiatry at the University of the Witwatersrand and is currently (interestingly) Curator of Fossil and Rock Collections at said university, has also joined

the editorial team. And last but certainly not least, I have the pleasure of welcoming Prof. Willie Visser to our editorial team. He is a highly respected clinical dermatologist and current head of dermatology at Stellenbosch University.

WHASA is a multidisciplinary society and the WHSA journal reflects this in our editorial board. It pleases me to see more of our podiatry colleagues, who have significant involvement with wounds, joining the editorial team, and I hope that, in turn, more of their colleagues will consider publishing in our journal.

In this issue, Prof. Zipfel has published an article that is rather out of the ordinary compared to the usual wound articles we find in WHSA. It is a great article describing human foot development from prehistoric times and how this and external factors ultimately can affect the development of wounds of the foot. It makes for fascinating reading, and I urge you all to read it. And if I haven't persuaded you enough, perhaps you will consider it when you see that it is also this issue's CPD article.

There has been a lot of buzz recently about hypochlorous acid, despite this product having been around for a long time. A case report on its use in an infected burn wound appears in this issue. We also find in this issue the first of a two-part paper, entitled, "Wounds: an overlooked burden". The first part focuses on the assessment, while the second will focus on the treatment of wounds.

Lastly, we have an interesting case report from our vascular colleagues on venous ulceration, the commonest lower limb wound. This emphasises the importance of treating underlying pathophysiology and how imaging helps us do this correctly.

I trust you will find this issue an interesting read.

Nick Kairinos

Editor: Wound Healing SA