



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**T.I.M.E. To Heal - Inaugural Caribbean Wounds Network (CariWN) Hybrid Symposium & Exclusive training agreement with Wounds Canada**

**Saturday, June 29, 2024**

**Barbados, Wednesday June 12, 2024** – The Caribbean Wounds Network (CariWN), a non-profit knowledge network and community, is excited to announce its inaugural symposium, 'T.I.M.E. To Heal,' scheduled for Saturday, June 29, 2024, 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM AST/EDT, at The University of the West Indies. This hybrid event will offer both in-person and virtual attendance, allowing broader participation from across the Caribbean and beyond.

The launch of CariWN marks a pivotal step in addressing the escalating costs of wound care in the Caribbean region, which currently total an estimated \$7 billion annually. Many of these costs stem from complex wounds and amputations, a significant portion of which can be prevented through targeted education, proactive health-care services, and public health campaigns.

As part of its mission to develop local capacity, CariWN seeks to unite health-care professionals, researchers, and policymakers from Caribbean nations and the diaspora to share resources and best practices. This collaborative approach aims to improve wound care outcomes, reduce health-care costs, and ultimately enhance the quality of life for patients in the region.

CariWN's partnership with Wounds Canada, Canada's leading wound care organization, underscores this commitment to advancing best practices in skin health and wound care. Through an exclusive training agreement with the Wounds Canada Institute, CariWN will develop wound care competencies and expertise in the region. This partnership not only strengthens the Caribbean's health-care ecosystem but also serves as a bridge for knowledge exchange across borders.

Alan Warner, a third-year medical student at The University of the West Indies and a founding member of CariWN, emphasizes the network's goals: "Our aim is to educate health-care professionals, advocate for evidence-based policies, and promote best practices in wound care across the Caribbean. By working together, we can make significant strides in patient care, leading to better health outcomes and economic benefits for our communities."

The 'T.I.M.E. To Heal' symposium will feature leading experts in wound care, with sessions on managing venous ulcerations, pressure injuries, and diabetic foot wounds/ulcers, which are prevalent challenges in the region. Attendees will have the opportunity to gain insights from industry leaders and build a robust network of professionals dedicated to improving wound care.



Warner adds, "we invite health-care professionals, researchers, policymakers, and anyone with an interest in wound care to join us at the symposium. This event represents a unique opportunity to learn, collaborate, and contribute to a brighter future for wound care in the Caribbean."

Registration for the symposium is free. For more information and to register, visit [CariWN.org](http://CariWN.org).

**About Caribbean Wounds Network (CariWN):** The Caribbean Wounds Network, a non-profit association, extends a warm welcome to healthcare providers from diverse disciplines engaged in both the prevention and treatment of challenging wounds. Our association serves as a comprehensive and educational platform for healthcare professionals, fostering excellence in wound healing and championing patient advocacy. Through this collaborative forum, we aim to enhance knowledge-sharing and elevate the standards of care within the field of wound management.

At the heart of our organization is a dedicated board comprising compassionate individuals who share a common goal: improving patient outcomes and supporting skin health and wound care. Together, we strive to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those affected by wounds, contributing to a healthier and more informed community.

The mission of the Caribbean Wounds Network is to offer assistance to individuals across the Caribbean grappling with wounds or facing the risk of such conditions. This encompasses a spectrum of issues, including pressure injuries (bedsores), surgical wounds, diabetic foot ulcers, burns, traumatic wounds, and lower-leg ulcers. Our primary objective is to emphasize the significance of prevention and awareness in wound care, ensuring these aspects take center stage in the provision of healthcare.

To date, we have garnered participation from Antigua, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Curacao, Guyana, Jamaica, Martinique, St. Kitts, St. Maarten, and Trinidad and Tobago. We have over 15 countries participating at this time, and a number of registrants from these various nations.

For more information on the Caribbean Wounds Network please visit [cariwn.org](http://cariwn.org)

For more information on Caribbean Wounds Network (CariWN) please contact:: Joel Alleyne ([jalleyne@cariwn.org](mailto:jalleyne@cariwn.org))

**About Wounds Canada:** Wounds Canada, a health charity founded in 1995, leads the way in advocating for best practices in wound prevention and management. We address the silent crisis of wounds, which affects countless Canadians and costs our health-care systems billions each year. We specialize in providing essential wound-related information, aiming to reduce the occurrence of life-altering wounds and ensure those affected by wounds receive adequate care.

Our mission extends beyond individual health. We strive to mitigate wounds' wider impact on families, communities and our health systems. By offering resources, advocacy, education and events, we support diverse networks of patients, families, health-care professionals, researchers, policy makers and sector leaders across the country.

For information on Wounds Canada please visit [woundscanada.ca](http://woundscanada.ca)

The Wounds Canada Institute (WCI), a department of Wounds Canada, builds on our decades of excellence in educational programs for health-care professionals in the areas of skin health and wound management. Through the WCI, health-care professionals at all levels and in all disciplines can access flexible, interprofessional education that supports their learning needs and professional career growth.

For information on the Wounds Canada Institute please visit [woundscanada.ca/institute](http://woundscanada.ca/institute)

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