



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wounds Canada partners with Memorial University to host key policy roundtable at its national conference on October 16 in London, Ontario

Oct. 10, 2024

Toronto, ON – Wounds Canada, a non-profit association, is partnering with Memorial University (Newfoundland/Labrador) and the Limb Preservation Alliance to bring the “Canadian DFU Policy Roundtable: Moving Recommendations to Action” to the public at the annual Wounds Canada National Conference on October 16 at RBC Place in London, ON.

The burden of diabetic foot complications (e.g., diabetic foot ulceration [DFU] and amputations) is alarmingly high in Canada. For individuals with diabetes, these devastating foot complications can lead to illness, lower quality of life, amputation, disability and death. For Canadian health-care systems, the financial costs are staggering. A factor contributing to this burden is limited health-care policies that effectively address the prevention and treatment of these complications.

Dr. Kathleen Stevens, assistant professor and researcher in the Faculty of Nursing, Memorial University, and Wounds Canada CEO, Mariam Botros, DCh, DE, IIWCC, Med, will participate in the roundtable with a keynote address from Dr. Zulfiqarali Abbas, president of D-Foot International. Facilitators include Joel Alleyne, Simone McConnie and Georgia Krehbiel.

This event is a crucial component of an international policy study titled “Systematic Priority Setting of the International Working Group of the Diabetic Foot Recommendations to Inform Health Policymakers: A Q-Methodological Study.”

This policy roundtable will be the first event for this partnership and will focus on the priority setting of the diabetic foot recommendations to inform health policymakers. The roundtable will reflect both global and Canadian regional evidence and perspectives.

The roundtable will serve as an integrated knowledge translation initiative, fostering dissemination of study results and knowledge exchange.

Dr. Abbas said: “Our patients with high-risk feet are walking step-by-step towards the road to amputation, and by implementing this project, we wish to take them step-by-step to the road of safety. Education is the only powerful tool we have in the world that is free for patients and effective, if properly implemented.”

The study outcomes deliver valuable insights to inform advocacy efforts for health policies supporting the IWGDF recommendations. The roundtable will focus on defining strategies for each of the key policy areas to advance their implementation, ultimately improving quality of life for all Canadians.

“I am excited about sharing our study findings and engaging in collaborative problem-solving with key stakeholders, which will lead to an action plan to address the burden of diabetic foot complications in Canada,” said Dr. Stevens.

To arrange an interview please contact: Larry Sawyer at
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Established in 1995, Wounds Canada is the voice for people in Canada at risk of, or living with, wounds and their providers. Our mission is to build a healthier Canada by advancing skin health and excellence in wound management. Wounds Canada is holding an educational conference October 17-19 in London, Ontario and the public is invited. For more information contact www.woundscanada.ca.