



Thirty Years Of Progress, And A Future Built On Patients' Rights



This year, Wounds Canada proudly celebrates 30 years of advancing skin health and excellence in wound management.

Looking back, we are deeply grateful to the clinicians, researchers, patients, caregivers and partners who have journeyed with us. Together, we have transformed wound care in Canada—from an often-overlooked aspect of health care to a national priority rooted in evidence, compassion and collaboration.

Our mission has always been simple yet profound: to build a healthier Canada by advancing skin health and excellence in wound management. This mission continues to drive everything we do, through education, research, advocacy and awareness.

At this 30-year milestone, we are excited to launch our *Patients' Bill of Rights and Responsibilities*, a document co-created with patients, caregivers and experts across Canada. It affirms that everyone living with, or at risk of, deserves timely, equitable and compassionate care, and that every patient is a partner in their own healing journey.

The Winter 2025 issue of *Wound Care Canada* reflects this vision in action. The articles in this issue highlight innovation, education and interprofessional collaboration, all aligned with the principles outlined in the Bill.

Education: Transforming Practice

Education has always been Wounds Canada's cornerstone. Through our Wounds Canada Institute and continuing professional development programs, thousands of clinicians have gained the knowledge to deliver evidence-based wound prevention and care.

For example, this issue features *Appropriate Bedding on Low Air Loss Mattresses* by **Dugas** and **Kuta-George**, a project that grew out of the IIWCC. Their initiative demonstrates how **education drives practice change**, improving outcomes and protecting skin integrity in long-term care settings.

In *Rethinking Mobility in PAD Patient Care* by **Nicholas** and **Alper**, and *Reframing Amputation Prevention* by **Voltaire**, education becomes empowerment. Both call for 'earlier intervention and holistic thinking'—seeing the person, not just the limb, and preserving independence through proactive, coordinated care.

Research: Innovation For Better Outcomes

Research fuels the evolution of wound care. This issue highlights how science and technology are helping us care smarter and heal faster.

Gefen's *Bioengineering Computer Models for Efficacy Research in Wound Dressings* demonstrates how simulation-based tools are redefining product evaluation and patient safety. Costa and Woo's *Healing Without Harm* underscores that innovation must be paired with 'antimicrobial stewardship' to protect future generations.

Meanwhile, **Alleyne's** *Welcome to the Newest Member of the Interprofessional Wound Care Team: Artificial Intelligence* presents AI as a trusted collaborator—one that can amplify human judgment and extend compassionate care through ethical integration.

Advocacy: Turning Knowledge Into Action

At Wounds Canada, we believe knowledge must lead to policy change. Advocacy ensures that the rights and responsibilities of patients and providers alike are reflected in systems of care.

Do You Hate Policy? If so, If So, Come To The Policy Café by **McSwiggan** captures this spirit of engagement. Through dialogue, participants turn frustration into focus and policy into possibility.

Complementing this is the *True Cost of Wounds for Canadians: Annual Update (2024)* by **Queen** and **Botros**, which provides essential evidence to guide decision-makers. Together, these works remind us that advocacy is not just about policy—it's about people.

Awareness: Listening To Patients' Voices

Healing begins when we listen. *Using Indigenous Knowledge to Improve Persons' Quality of Life When Living with Skin Conditions* by **O'Donnell et al.** beautifully illustrates the value of Indigenous wisdom and holistic healing traditions.

Closing the Distance: Engaging Patients Using Remote Wound Monitoring by **Bavaro** and **colleagues** showcases how digital tools can reduce inequities for patients in underserved regions.

And in *The Association Between Sleep Disorders and Diabetes-related Foot Ulcers*, **Brocklehurst** reveals how sleep—something so fundamental—can profoundly influence wound outcomes and quality of life.

We are also pleased to feature our *Presentation Digest* section, highlighting the high quality, expert-driven and well-attended educational seminars sponsored by our industry partners at our successful *Wounds Canada 2025 Wounds Canada National Hybrid Conference* held this past October in Toronto.

Together, these articles reflect Wounds Canada's commitment to awareness and inclusion, ensuring every voice is heard and every story informs better care.

Looking Ahead

As we move into our fourth decade, we remain steadfast in our mission. Through our four pillars of education, research, advocacy and awareness, we will continue to champion excellence in wound prevention and management, and strengthen Canada's capacity to care.

The *Patients' Bill of Rights and Responsibilities* will serve as our guiding light, uniting our community around shared values of respect, equity and accountability.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Here's to the next 30 years of innovation, compassion, and collaboration, toward a healthier Canada for all.



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