

From the Editor- in-Chief

Dear colleagues,
The 2020 Wounds
Canada Limb
Preservation Symposium took
place virtually and in the
midst of a pandemic that has
impacted every aspect of our
personal and professional lives.



Across Canada and much of the world, health-care professionals and patients have scrambled to understand and adapt to a constantly evolving crisis and its effects. This has understandably been traumatic for many of our colleagues battling the pandemic on the front lines. We are thankful to those who have put their lives at risk while performing their duties, and to those who have fought hard to ensure that our communities receive the health-care services they need. We salute you and are grateful for all the incredible work you do.

Patients at risk for limb loss have been hit especially hard by the pandemic. Community and hospital-based health-care services, already scarce in many parts of the country, became even less accessible. The pandemic has amplified the urgent need for better co-ordination of amputation prevention services and the creation of clearly defined pathways through which patients can be prioritized and treated.

Despite the considerable challenges faced by our community, the pandemic has also provided us opportunities to challenge the status quo and to explore ways of better serving our patients. The ability to organize large meetings virtually has allowed us to broaden our reach to corners of the

country otherwise not easily accessible. World-renowned limb preservation organizations, such as our keynote speaker Dr. Giacomo Clerici's centre in Italy, continue to provide comprehensive interdisciplinary care for their patients, despite the pandemic.

As the speakers at the Wounds Canada Limb Preservation Symposium in October 2020 made clear, significant advances have been made in the management of non-healing wounds, including the management of lower extremity infections and chronic pain. We heard about the importance of caring for patients even after they undergo an amputation, in order to prevent re-amputation. We also learned about the importance of gathering and analyzing data when conversing with health-care policy decision-makers. Finally, we were reminded of the significant challenges facing our Indigenous communities and the role that wearable and other technologies can play in addressing some of these issues. The symposium speakers have graciously allowed summaries of their sessions to be shared here with you.

Thank you for your passion for limb preservation and amputation prevention. May we all get through this difficult time together as a diverse community of practice, stronger and more knowledgeable, and committed to patient advocacy and care.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ahmed Kayssi". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Ahmed Kayssi, MD MSc MPH FRCSC