

Canadian Association of Wound Care News

CAWC President Cathy Burrows Wins Excellence in Clinical Practice in Nursing Award

CAWC President Cathy Burrows recently received the Excellence in Clinical Practice in Nursing Award after being nominated by her peers and selected by a panel at the

College of Registered Nurses of Nova Scotia. The award recognizes an individual who "advances and promotes the practice of nursing by contributing to nursing and health policy through participation on committees ...



promotes the image of nursing by acting as a positive role model ... acquires new learning and incorporates this in the practice environment ... demonstrates strong leadership and interpersonal skills ... demonstrates commitment to evidence-based and/or best practice.

"This award was quite an honour for me," says Burrows, "especially on the 30th anniversary of my career. Throughout my career working in an operating room, burn unit, and cardiovascular surgery, I did not think my experience would prepare me to work in wound care. I have been very fortunate to have many mentors who supported my practice and who gave me the knowledge and confidence to pursue the dream of developing a Vascular Leg Ulcer Clinic at the QE II Health Sciences Centre in Halifax. I work in a multidisciplinary setting, and my colleagues are an integral part of my award as they collaboratively work to promote and advance the quality of wound care for our patients."

Get Ready for the Biggest Year in Wound Care in Canada

2008 is shaping up to be the biggest year in wound care that Canada has ever seen. Are you ready? Regardless of where you live or what your interests are, 2008 has something for you.

If you're looking for fundamental education in wound care, the S-Series is a great place to start, with three sessions for 2008—in Thunder Bay, Edmonton and Quebec City (in French). The first day, the S1, is knowledge learning from Canada's premier wound-care educators. Day two, the S2, consists of hands-on workshops facilitated by regional wound-care experts. An exhibit area provides participants with the opportunity to mingle with our corporate partners to ask questions and learn about products and services that can help provide patients with the best possible care.

If you're interested in being part of the largest wound-care event in the world, your choice should be the Third Congress of the World Union of Wound Healing Societies, being held in Toronto, June 4-8. Up to 5,000 participants are expected, with colleagues from all over the world attending. Experience the thrill of networking and learning at the largest wound-care gathering anywhere!

For a completely different experience consider the CAWC's offerings. As the premier hosting society of the 2008 World Union, the CAWC agreed to cancel its annual conference and instead will be offering two extraordinary theme meetings in 2008. Located in two of Canada's most beautiful locations, Halifax and Victoria, these more intimate meetings will offer participants a unique, interactive, hands-on learning experience, where the CAWC will deliver the most compelling ideas in wound care in our most unique agenda ever.

Some of you will be able to do it all, and you'll be in for the best professional development year of your life. But for most, choices must be made. The good news is that every choice is a great choice!

Visit the CAWC Web site at www.cawc.net for more information on each of these options and start planning now to maximize your 2008 wound-care experience. It's just around the corner!

Pressure Ulcer Awareness Program (PUAP) is Creating a Positive Buzz

The CAWC has very positive news on the PUAP front as facilities continue to sign up to improve patient care as well as their bottom line!



Team Leader Hired

Kimberly Stevenson has been hired as the first national Team Leader for the PUAP. The Team Leader is responsible for overseeing the implementation and sustainability of the PUAP, the country's most exciting new health-care initiative.

Spend a Little, Save a Lot

Can implementing the PUAP prevent patient suffering and save money for your facility? Yes it can! New results from the pilot program suggest that reduced prevalence can lead to reduced spending. According to the Champion of one of our long-term-care pilot sites, costs for dressings in the 385-bed facility were \$89,436 in 2004-2005. In 2006-2007—the year the PUAP was piloted—they spent only \$55,118, for cost-savings of \$34,318. With a price tag of about \$6,000 dollars per year—and savings of over \$30,000 in this case—the PUAP has demonstrated that it is a wise investment in improved patient care and cost-effective management. Can your facility afford NOT to have it?

PUAP Web Site a Valuable Resource for Clinicians and Patients

Visit the PUAP Web site at www.preventpressureulcers.ca for more on the program and for useful information on preventing pressure ulcers. The site also contains sections for patients at risk for developing pressure ulcers and for people caring for someone at risk. The language is accessible, the information is based on the best available evidence, and the tips are easy to implement.

Facilities Keen to Implement PUAP

The rollout for the program is picking up steam, with several "cohorts" already up and running. Is your facility one of them? If not, don't let another day go by without investigating how your facility can benefit. Just pick up the phone and give us a call at 250-764-6283. We'll help by answering your questions, providing detailed resources and speaking directly to your manager, director of care or CEO.

Special Announcement: Supporting the Ethical Delivery of Wound-care Education

In response to concerns expressed to the Canadian Association of Wound Care (CAWC) and the Canadian Association for Enterostomal Therapy (CAET) from our members, our corporate partners and other stakeholders in wound care, the CAWC and CAET are working to address the issue of delivering ethical and effective wound-care education. Over the next year or so, we will turn our attention to creating a position statement for each of the following areas vis-à-vis education: (1) Industry Responsibility, (2) Individual Educator Responsibilities and (3) Accreditation. The focus of this article is Industry Responsibility.

The key areas of concern involve the ethics surrounding the delivery of corporately sponsored educational programs. Two principal issues have been identified as potentially problematic:

- Is the education based on current evidence-based literature that supports best practice recommendations?
- Is the education obligation-free or is it tied to buying protocols?

These issues are not new, but they continue to resurface and create confusion and concern in clinicians who sometimes feel ill-equipped to evaluate the programs on their own or who feel the programs have been imposed on them by decision-makers who are unaware of best-practice principles in education. To address the problem, we are taking a multi-pronged approach:

1. The CAWC and CAET are currently working with our Canadian wound-care industry partners to develop an Industry Code of Ethics for industry-sponsored education.

2. We continue to offer support to agencies, institutions, industry and governments through existing educational programs that provide information on how to critically evaluate wound-care information.
3. The CAWC is developing new educational programs, including a wound-care symposium aimed at decision-makers in health care, such as facility and agency executives, government and private policy-makers, and purchasing department administrators. By providing education to decision-makers, the CAWC aims to improve the capacity of individuals in key positions to make informed decisions about education in their facilities/agencies.
4. The CAWC is planning to develop tools to assist clinicians, agencies and governments in accurately assessing proposed educational programs to ensure they conform to best practice recommendations and adhere to evidence-based practice.
5. The CAWC is considering offering clinicians, industry, agencies and governments a review of their educational programs and accrediting the programs appropriately.

Through these and other initiatives, the CAWC and CAET will continue to support and promote ethical, best-practice-based wound-care education. If you have thoughts on these initiatives, please visit the CAWC Discussion Forum at www.cawc.net/open/forums/discussion_forum.html and share your opinions. As well, please e-mail us directly at cawc@sympatico.ca with your comments or direct experience to help us better understand your concerns.