

CAWC Scholarships Provide Opportunity and Improve Wound Care

The Canadian Association of Wound Care (CAWC) is dedicated to the advancement of wound care in Canada. One of the activities the CAWC co-ordinates on behalf of itself and its partners in wound care is the awarding of educational and research scholarships worth up to \$2,500 each, which serve to support educational and research initiatives to promote best practice and improve patient care within the wound-care community.

Winners of the 2007 scholarships:

The Dr. Warren L. Rottman Education Scholarship sponsored by 3M Canada Inc.: Rebecca Rose Cottrill

The Mölnlycke Health Care Education Scholarship sponsored by Mölnlycke Health Care: Susan Travanut

The Cathy Harley Educational Grant in Memory of Aldora Harder and Cathy Foster sponsored by the CAWC: Mary Elizabeth Beresford

The Elise Sorensen RN Memorial Scholarship sponsored by Coloplast: Eileen Maria Emmott

The T.J. Smith Global Wound Academy Award sponsored by Smith and Nephew: Ashleigh Middleton

ConvaTec Scholarship for Advancing Wound-care Education sponsored by ConvaTec: Diane Patricia Markle

Scholarship winners are required to submit a report to the CAWC outlining the activities that have taken place within the framework of the scholarship and demonstrating the impact the scholarship has had on both the

recipient and on wound care. These reports demonstrate the variety of activities undertaken by the winners and show the value of the scholarships to the recipients, their colleagues, and ultimately, their patients. Below are excerpts from the 2006 winner reports:

TJ Smith Global Wound Academy Award: Krista Lee Baldwin

The award was used to attend the International Interdisciplinary Wound Care Course (IIWCC). My personal goals were to elicit change in my current practice setting, to incorporate best practices into my practice setting, and to disseminate knowledge to my colleagues and my client-care team.

Networking and collaborating with a variety of colleagues from around the world was a phenomenal, empowering experience. As one of two occupational therapists who were enrolled, I was also presented with opportunities to communicate the role of occupational therapy in wound management with my classmates and obtain a better appreciation of the pivotal role that each team member can provide to enhance client care.

I was provided with an opportunity to integrate further principles of adult learning and adjust clinical guidelines to align with current best practices and influence policy development. As a result of the knowledge gained by completing this course, best practice guidelines were adapted for a long-term care corporation in Nova Scotia.

Dr. Warren L. Rottman Education Scholarship sponsored by 3M Canada Inc.: Denis Okan

In 2004, I finished a three-year undergraduate degree in Health Sciences at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario. I then began medical school at Memorial University.

In addition to my studies at Memorial, this scholarship allowed me to attend the CAWC conference in Ottawa in November 2006. There, I had the opportunity to present a case study entitled "So what if you're blue? Oral colloidal silver and argyria are out: Safe dressings are in." The CAWC conference was an important experience that allowed me to network and communicate with professionals from across Canada who deal with chronic wound care on a regular basis.

ConvaTec Scholarship for Advancing Wound Care Education sponsored by ConvaTec: Doug Baron

I was able to purchase a laptop computer and cover some expenses to assist me in completing the International Interprofessional Wound Care Course (IIWCC).

The final selective or practical portion was a project related to my current practice (paediatric burns). . . .

My new laptop has enabled me to work on my modules and my selective wherever I needed to. My selective project involved creating a quick reference guide (QRG) including clinical practice guidelines for the assessment and treatment of partial thickness burns and management of blisters. The QRG was well received by my physiotherapy colleagues at the Alberta Children's Hospital, and I hope to expand its use to other care providers in the hospital (emergency) and perhaps throughout the Calgary Health Region.

The Mölnlycke Health Care Educational Scholarship: Lisa Maria Cuschieri

I chose to further take part in this integral educational movement by embarking upon a Master's level program in tissue repair and wound healing at the University of Cardiff, Wales.

I'm often asked why I chose a Master's program. Firstly, it seemed like a logical next step, as I am continually looking for opportunity to advance my realm of knowledge. But more importantly I believe education, particularly in health care, is the key to opening many doors, not just for the learner but for all those involved, including the patient, colleagues, and in health-care delivery. This is important, as advanced wound care is not an area taught in university medical or nursing programs. Hence, the need for leaders to disseminate knowledge, and to identify when and where change is required.

Having completed the didactic portion of the Master's program I have a renewed vision in my evaluations of everyday practice, research and delivery of care. . . . Thank you [CAWC and Mölnlycke] for assisting me to further my education so that I might in turn open doors or help provide leadership for others.

Cathy Harley Educational Grant in Memory of Aldora Harder and Cathy Foster: Elizabeth Anne Girling

This educational scholarship has enabled me to participate in the University of Toronto's International Interprofessional Wound Care Course 2006-2007. Financial barriers were eliminated and I was able to study "worry-free."

Successfully completing the IIWCC course has given me the knowledge and self-confidence to continue to pursue and participate in evidence-based skin- and wound-care management educational opportunities and projects. I was asked to be one of the presenters at the Calgary Health Region (CHR) Home Care Skin and Wound Assessment and Treatment Team (SWAT) Fall Education Day . . . and for the SWAT Educational program, "Pressure Management Module-Level One". . . . I have also undertaken a leadership role within the CHR Home Care SWAT Occupational Therapy (OT) Team and have the energy to push forward with new ideas for program development, implementation and education. Inservicing staff on SWAT OT information at Home Care OT meetings and Team meetings has increased colleagues' awareness of the SWAT OT role, which has not only increased the number of SWAT referrals I now receive but has also created an interest in others to become more involved. Clients and caregivers have also benefited from my new knowledge and passion for skin- and wound-care management. Utilizing client-centred best practice, client adherence to plan of care has improved.

Heather L. Orsted Scholarship for Team Development sponsored by the CAWC: Joy Dunbar, Elizabeth Girling, Celine Feagen, Iveta Heffernan, Carol Fossheim

Throughout the course and our work together on our team selective project, we have come to realize the value of colleagues that share the same enthusiasm. We

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