

Canadian Association of Wound Care News

Conference

The CAWC conference in Quebec City will combine the best elements of both a regular conference and a process-focused workshop to create a one-of-a-kind event. Join us from October 29 to November 1, 2009, at the Centre des congrès de Québec in Quebec City for four days of learning, networking, showcasing the latest research and socializing with wound carers from across Canada and around the world.

Frontline clinicians, health-care decision-makers, educators—and even people who aren't currently working in wound care

but would like to get into it—will benefit from attending this event. For the most complete experience, BYOT (bring your own team)!

Highlights of the conference include the following:

- A unique three-step approach (delivered on day two of the conference)

designed to change practice. You won't want to miss these interactive plenary and breakout sessions!

- A variety of streams for customized learning. The range of topics covered will provide something for everyone.
- The latest from industry in a full day of satellite symposia sessions, learning lunches, power breakfasts and the country's largest wound-care trade show.
- Professional networking opportunities.
- Social events for every taste!
- Post-conference workshops focused on specific clinical topics.

All sessions will be fully bilingual. For more details and to register, visit the CAWC Web site at www.cawc.net.



New Leadership, Expanded Vision

The CAWC is pleased to announce that Dr. Karen Philp began her tenure as chief executive officer on July 13, 2009. She comes to the CAWC from the Canadian Diabetes Association where she was vice president for public policy and government relations and a strong advocate on behalf of Canadians affected by diabetes, as well as the health professionals who care for them. She has worked with government, the medical and research community, other health charities and business leaders to make a real difference to the quality of life of patients and their families.



"We're extremely pleased to have Karen join us in our efforts to support the education, prevention and treatment of various forms of wounds," said Cathy Burrows, president of the board of directors. "Karen has distinguished herself as a strong leader who will proactively champion the CAWC's vision to promote the prevention and management of wounds on behalf of Canadian patients and health-care providers."

Coming Soon: A New-look Web Site

With traffic to the CAWC Web site at an all-time high, we needed to do some significant upgrades to the site. Over the course of 2009, we have been busy creating an exciting new hub for the CAWC's communications. To be launched in 2010, the revised Web site will have a new look, expanded functionality and some brand new sections to better serve the needs of health-care professionals, decision-makers, patients and their families and caregivers, media representatives and government personnel.

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Educational Programming Reaches the Next Level

After an extremely successful year of presenting educational events, the CAWC is once again expanding its complement of educational programs. In 2010, clinicians will be able to choose from a wider range of educational events and programs than ever before! Here are some highlights of the year ahead.

Conference

The 2010 wound-care conference will be in Calgary, Alberta, from November 4 to 7. The Board of Directors will be announcing the theme at this year's conference. More details will be coming soon.

Onsite education

Our popular S-Series will expand in order to meet the enormous demand we have received from all over the country. To accommodate the need, we are planning

four or five one-day S1 events, rather than the usual three. These will be smaller events in smaller centres, requiring fewer people to travel large distances.



In 2010, the S2 program will be expanded into a two-day event, allowing for a deeper exploration of the wound-bed preparation workshop, an increase in the length of the dressing-selection workshop and an increase in both the lower leg assessment and compression therapy sections of the lower leg workshop. There will be an addition of two other shorter workshops—one

on foot care and one on footwear—making for a truly transformative event. We will offer two S2 events. Attendance at an S1 event will continue to be a prerequisite for enrollment in an S2 event.

Online education

To complement the onsite education, an online education program will be launched in 2010. The online modules will provide an economical and convenient method of education for those who prefer to study at their own pace or who would like to reinforce learning that has already taken place during the S1.

Over time, the online education program will provide wound-care clinicians and others with an exciting range of courses for all disciplines and levels of expertise (including patients).

Stay tuned!

Getting the Most Out of a Conference ...continued from page 57

Networking

- Introduce yourself to someone new in each session you attend. The fact that they're at the same session means you share an interest—and before you know it you will have started a mini-network!
- Bring business cards to exchange with people you meet.
- Attend the social events. While there, don't just hang around with the people you already know.

“I like to set a couple of objectives for every conference I go to. For the upcoming CAWC conference, one of my objectives is to talk with two other wound/ostomy clinicians to see how they ‘do business’.”

—Janet Kubnke, Victoria, BC

“In order to get the most out of the conference I always spend the evening before going through the syllabus to choose which sessions I want to attend. I highlight them so it is easy to follow in the days to come. The other recommendation I have is to make sure you meet as many people as you can. Business cards are a great way to connect. The people you meet will be great contacts for the future.”

—Cathy Burrows, Halifax, NS

- Check the event bulletin board every day to see if anyone's looking for you or if a group that shares your interests is meeting.

When You Get Home

- Set aside some time to organize your notes. Summarize next steps so you can create an implementation plan. Then implement it!
- Write a report for yourself and your supervisor. This will help you focus on how to transfer what you've learned into positive

practice changes.

- Talk to colleagues who also attended the conference to debrief the high points and discuss implementation issues.
- Fill in any online survey forms relating to the conference. Organizers rely on feedback to ensure that next year's conference meets your needs.
- Reflect on whether you met your objectives for the conference and what you would do differently next time. ☺



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A hand is shown holding a square, white, fibrous absorbent dressing. Above the dressing, a powerful vortex of water is being pulled down, illustrating the dressing's superior absorbency. The background is a light, neutral color.

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New **Melgisorb Ag** is a highly absorbent alginate dressing with CMC fibres and ionic silver. The high wet strength of the alginate fibres does not allow the dressing to disintegrate in the wound bed so it may be removed easily in one piece. For deep, exuding cavity wounds at risk of infection, choose the dressing designed to outperform: Melgisorb Ag.

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