

Canadian Association of Wound Care News

Two New Members Join the CAWC Board of Directors

We are pleased to announce the following new members of the CAWC board of directors.



Dr. Greg Archibald

As a volunteer board member for CAWC, Dr. Archibald hopes to draw from his experience in academic family medicine procedural curriculum development to influence the provision of enhanced wound care by family physicians and primary care providers through working with various interprofessional academic environments. He also hopes to stimulate research in community practice, particularly in the nursing home sector, to improve wound care outcomes and develop outcomes research initiatives.

The development of team-based care practice standards also interests Dr. Archibald, from the perspective of creating learning environments for future clinicians. As a family physician educator, he recognizes the need to refocus learner experiences to garner enhanced wound management knowledge as a core skill development from undergraduate to postgraduate training. "Our patients and the public we serve deserve attention to this often neglected area of medical care, especially in the face of advanced wound management and the need to further engage in more rigorous research to refine best practices," he says.



Dr. Richard Belley

Wound management is an important part of a first-line physician practice. In the emergency room, Dr. Richard Belley often meets patients afflicted by wounds. These patients can present challenges that are not fully understood by healthcare providers because of a lack of scientific knowledge about chronic wound care in the medical community and a lack of awareness from healthcare policy-makers. Bridging this gap in knowledge requires wound care education for medical and nursing students throughout the country, and an understanding of the socioeconomic aspects of chronic wounds for healthcare providers and policy-makers so that more resources will be allotted to wound prevention and treatment. "I sincerely believe that I can contribute to these goals, and to the making of a better world for patients afflicted with chronic wounds as a volunteer board member for the CAWC," says Dr. Belley.

June is Wound Management and Prevention Awareness Month

Starting this year, June is officially Wound Management and Prevention Awareness Month in Canada. In line with this, the CAWC is launching a campaign promoting greater awareness among Canadians about the importance of effective wound management and prevention.

Evidence shows that avoiding preventable wounds is best, but we also know that healing as quickly as possible improves the lives of Canadians suffering from wounds. Each year, June will be our month to acknowledge the dedication and hard work of wound care professionals in caring for Canadians. Join us in facilitating awareness activities throughout the month of June.

Stay tuned to find out how you can participate in and support our efforts. For more information on Wound Management and Prevention Awareness Month, please visit www.cawc.net in the weeks to come.

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CAWC goes to Queen's Park



In March, the CAWC led a group of wound care volunteers to meet with MPPs at Queen's Park in Toronto to ask for a wound management and prevention plan for Ontario.

The CAWC told Ministers and MPPs about the needs of more than two million Ontarians at high risk of developing ulcers, wounds and infections.

"Wound care is the most easily preventable medical cost," said Patricia Coutts, President of the CAWC. "At a time when healthcare spending is under pressure, effective wound prevention and management strategies provide quite possibly the quickest return on investment for all governments, with potential savings of over \$1 billion to reallocate for better health outcomes for all patients in Ontario."

"Last year 75,000 Ontarians were diagnosed with a diabetic foot ulcer," added Karen Philp, Chief Executive Officer of CAWC. "Of those diagnosed, 1,500 people had a limb amputated as a direct result. The majority of these amputations were preventable if the foot ulcer had been prevented or treated effectively."

Christine Elliott, MPP Whitby-Oshawa and Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario Health Critic, and Michael Prue, MPP Beaches-East York and NDP Critic for Disabilities, and Community and Social Services, both congratulated the CAWC and the more than 35 volunteers for raising awareness of the importance of effective wound management and prevention in Ontario.

CAWC Calls on Healthcare Professionals to Support Relief Effort in Haiti

The CAWC urges Canadian healthcare professionals to help Haiti in the aftermath of the January earthquake. Approximately 300,000 Haitians were injured and thousands continue to suffer from wounds related to amputation, surgery and acute injuries.

The CAWC encourages Canadian wound care experts to donate time or money to Canadian-based international healthcare charities working in Haiti. In February, CAWC announced its donation of \$2,500CAD to the Canadian arm of Doctors Without Borders. The donation is eligible for matching government funds.

"The majority of injuries affecting Haiti's citizens are wound-related, and the country's lack of infrastructure is seriously affecting the recovery of patients," said Patricia Coutts, President of CAWC. "Our donation to Doctors Without Borders will help recruit medical personnel, including wound care specialists like Dr. Alavi, to treat injured people in Haiti."

Dr. Afsaneh Alavi, a CAWC volunteer, travelled to Haiti's capital, Port-au-Prince, on 2 February to provide wound care to Haitians suffering from injuries.

"The need for proper wound care in Haiti is mounting," said Dr. Alavi. "Due to a lack of proper hygiene, inaccessibility to clean water, and habitation in shelters and tents, wounds are rapidly becoming infected and difficult to treat. Poor nutrition, especially in Haitian children, also delays wound healing. Many nations are providing resources, but supplies and personnel are limited, and they need to keep coming."

"I urge CAWC members to go online and volunteer to help the people of Haiti," said Coutts. "The need for effective wound care grows daily."

For more information and to donate to Haiti, please visit the following websites:

- **Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières**
(www.msf.ca)
- **Canadian Medical Assistance Teams**
(www.canadianmedicalteams.org)
- **Health Partners International Canada** (www.hpicanada.ca)
- **Health Care Volunteer** (www.healthcarevolunteer.com)

Wound Care Canada Welcomes Fiona Hendry, Editor

The CAWC is pleased to welcome Fiona Hendry as editor of *Wound Care Canada*. Fiona, a freelance writer and editor since mid-2008, was previously director of publications with the Canadian Diabetes Association. Her extensive writing, editing and project management experience in the healthcare sector will be imperative to enhancing *Wound Care Canada* as it transitions to four issues a year with new authors, more ground-breaking research and even more of the latest news and best practices in wound management and prevention. Please join us in welcoming Fiona to the CAWC!

New Diabetic Foot Ulcer Tools for Patients

The CAWC is delighted to introduce *Diabetes, Healthy Feet and You*, a brochure and interactive web tool for people living with diabetes. Available in English and French, these tools were developed in collaboration with a patient focus group and an expert advisory group. These tools were funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada and is designed to help educate people living with diabetes about proper foot care practices and empower them to be proactive in managing their care. In addition, the project aims to expand the capacity of health professionals and organizations to apply best practices to screen, educate and counsel Canadians living with type 1 or type 2 diabetes on proper foot care procedures.

Patients with diabetes can use these tools to identify the risk factors associated with foot ulcers and develop habits for daily foot care. The brochure captures the key points related to foot care,

while the website offers visitors the opportunity to take an interactive questionnaire, search for a foot care professional in their region, build their understanding of proper foot care, develop a personal plan for increasing their foot health, read and share personal stories regarding foot care, review a lengthy list of frequently asked questions and more.

Combining the personal experiences, opinions and concerns of patient focus-group members with the professional expertise of our skilled advisory group, the brochure and online tool represent a fusion of thought, perspective and need. Patients speak passionately about the concerns they face and the need for educational materials that are easy to access and understand.

For more information regarding these tools, contact us at info@cawc.net.

2010 CAWC Annual Professional Conference



Please join us for the CAWC's 2010 Annual Professional Conference on 4–7 November, 2010, in Calgary, Alberta. The theme of this year's conference is "Wounds, Neuropathy and Diabetic Foot Care." More than 800 healthcare professionals, clinicians, patients, institution and government administrators, researchers and academics are expected to attend. A preliminary agenda and early-bird registration will be available online soon. Visit www.cawc.net for further information.



CAWC Institute L-Series Wound Care Workshops

The CAWC Institute L-Series wound care workshops were launched in early 2010 in response to the need across Canada for practical wound management and prevention education.



The CAWC built the 2010 program on the former three-event S-Series to deliver L-Series wound care workshops from coast to coast to coast.

The workshops are extremely interactive, hands-on learning sessions led by an interprofessional team of wound care experts, supported by regional wound care leaders who volunteer their time to educate other health professionals about the best in wound care.

Please contact us at info@cawc.net or 416-485-2292 for more information and to register for upcoming workshops.

"This course is very well-organized, informative and interactive. There is nothing I can think to change."

- Participant at Toronto L1, L2

"Presenters are enthusiastic, informed and empowering."

- Participant at Toronto L1, L2

"I can't wait for the L3!"

- Participant at Toronto L1, L2

"Met a wonderful array of people with knowledge and expertise in this area."

- Participant at Toronto L3

"Excellent and empowering."

- Participant at Toronto L3

"I am very impressed with the increased knowledge that I have gained over the past three days. I will be able to take this back and provide my clients with better assessments and mobility."

- Participant at Niagara Falls L1, L2
