



# Allied Health Professionals

## and Their Role in Skin and Wound Management

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**B**est practices speak to the value of building a team of health-care professionals for the management of many health issues. All patients deserve access to a skilled and knowledgeable team. This team should include professionals to address physical, mental and spiritual aspects of the patient's health. Team members such as physicians, nurses, physical and occupational therapists, dietitians, social workers and the patient and their caregivers are invaluable. For some health conditions, such as cerebral vascular events, the roles of these team members have been well established. In other areas, such as wound care and skin health, the

roles for allied health-care professionals in particular are less well known.

In the spirit of building strong interdisciplinary teams, this year the Canadian Association of Wound Care has joined forces with the Canadian Association for Enterostomal Therapy, along with the World Alliance for Wound and Lymphedema Care, to hold a joint conference. Attending will be health-care professionals from many different professions and parts of Canada—and indeed the world.

### Strength in Numbers— and Variety

Come and network with health-care professionals who are at the forefront of wound and skin health research and are leaders in wound care, both in Canada and

internationally. Learn not only how your current knowledge base and skill set can be used to help patients with skin health issues but also expand and grow with new ideas and skills. Build partnerships with like-minded individuals with similar passions and desires to make a difference in patients' lives. Collaboratively problem-solve on issues faced by health-care providers in many different settings. Be inspired about your potential role in wound care and skin health. Perhaps create a niche within your current practice that is currently unfulfilled and build up a new client base.

### Expert Advice on Products

The vendor exhibits are opportunities to explore and ask questions about the many wound care and skin-health products available. The companies' know-

#### Conference Tip:

Talk to strangers. A conference is a great place to network with people from other parts of the world who are grappling with the same issues you are and a great way to make new friends!





ledgeable staff are there to help you understand not only dressings but a wide range of products for the toolbox of allied health professionals, including pressure distributing surfaces, compression devices, modalities, nutrition supplements and much more. This is another great networking opportunity, as our industry partners are also valuable members of our wound care teams.

### The Latest Research

The conference will also be showcasing the most current research in the field of wound

care and skin health with our poster displays and oral poster presentations. Connect with the researchers and learn about what is up and coming. Generate ideas. Submit your own work, whether it be a case study, implementation of goals or a controlled trial. Tell your story. Get your name out there.

### Recharge Your Batteries

Working in health care is not easy. The current financial climate has hospitals and agencies pinching pennies in many ways. Many health professionals complain of burnout. Attending

a live conference is a way to re-energize and reignite your passion for health care. It is a break from the common grind of daily routine that allows you to “rest and reflect.” When was the last time in your workday that you truly invested in yourself and learned something new? Attend the conference, have a change of scenery—one that is rich in educational and networking opportunities—and spark your creativity, develop new ideas and think in innovative ways. The new tools, important contacts and renewed energy will bring much value to your organization. 🍏

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## Top 5 Reasons Action 2014: Skin Health for Canada is a conference for all health-care professionals to attend

1. Skin health issues are on the rise. Learn how your skills can help patients with wounds and other skin-health issues.
2. Interdisciplinary teams are considered a best practice approach in the treatment of skin issues. Network and build a team.
3. The number and types of products can be overwhelming. Come and see the products first hand and ask the experts your questions face to face.
4. The latest research will be showcased. See what’s new.
5. Working in health care can be very rewarding but also draining. Invest in yourself. Recharge. Reboot. Re-energize.