Communication Tools
to Improve Clinical Practice and Patient Self-management

The one thing NOT lacking in the world today is information. Everywhere we turn we are bombarded with the latest news stories, cutest puppy videos and best tips ever! With so much quantity and such variations of quality, it can be tough to make sense of it all. In this issue, we focus on communication tools. The idea behind these tools is to enable you and your patients to cut through the clutter and get to what you need quickly and effectively.

The article entitled "Interior Design: Optimize Your Environment for Healing or Preventing Skin Breakdown" provides printable info sheets for your patients who have a wound or who are at risk for developing a wound. These quick-read documents aim to pare down into key messages the sometimes overwhelming amount of information patients receive when they visit their health-care professional. Each sheet—one for each wound type—focuses on the one or two most important "design rules" for healing or preventing a wound. You can use these sheets when you talk with your patients about their conditions, and your patients can use them as reminders when they get home.

The second excerpt we're featuring from "An Overview of Advanced Therapies in the Management of Diabetic Neuropathic Foot Ulcers," a supplement of the previous issue of *Wound Care Canada (2015, Vol. 13 No. 2)*, is a tool of a different kind. It is an article entitled "Barriers to the Delivery of Advanced Therapies," and you may find it useful as a way to start discussions with your colleagues to address issues you all face. It might also be helpful for illustrating to your supervisor that the issues outlined in the excerpt are common challenges that must be addressed in order to support excellence in care delivery.

Social media tools are used by more and more clinicians every year to connect with each other, create online communities and disseminate information. "Twitter: How to set up and leverage micro-blogging to disseminate #evidence and build a community of practice" on page 30 offers readers an interesting overview and how-to on one of the most used—and often misunderstood—social media platforms. Although Twitter posts are restricted to 140 characters, a lot of pertinent information can be contained in each one. If you haven't yet created a Twitter account for yourself or your work group, I'd recommend it. By making smart "follow" choices, you'll expand your network and be able to share information with people who have the same interests you do.

If you enjoy reading this issue, please share it with your colleagues (ironic, I know). ✍

— *Sue Rosenthal, Editor*