

News in Wound Care

The Year in Review

Wounds Canada has enjoyed its most active year to date, with a new name, new look and new website, alongside our popular programs and events. Here are some highlights of 2017.

We started the year by rebranding the Canadian Association of Wound Care (CAWC) as Wounds Canada to reflect a new era for the organization. The website was rebranded and refreshed as well.

To serve our stakeholders better, we expanded our team by hiring a Senior Marketing Manager and Education Manager.

In the area of policy development, Wounds Canada was particularly active in advocating for funding for offloading devices for patients with diabetic foot ulcers. The first push has been in Ontario, but we spent time during the year working as well in BC, Alberta and Manitoba to implement the offloading advocacy initiative. The articles on pages 12 and 18 provide more details on the work we have been doing and the background to the issue of implementing policy change at a provincial/territorial level.

We partnered with 16 organizations to raise awareness of diabetic foot complications on Diabetes Day and have been involved in various wound-related activities, conferences and other initiatives in BC, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec and nationally.

Education for health-care providers is always on the agenda at Wounds Canada, and 2017 saw the delivery of two conferences (Kamloops in May and Mississauga in November), along with a number of half-, full- and two-day workshops—including Diabetes, Healthy Feet and You, Practice Change through Applied Knowledge and various hands-on skills workshops—at various locations around the country.

On the publishing side, we have continued to update and increase the content on our website, including the new Diabetes, Healthy Feet and You portal at www.DHFY.ca, published three issues of *Wound Care Canada* and one *Diabetic Foot Canada e-Journal*, along with six Best



Message from the President of the Board of Directors of Wounds Canada

It is with tremendous gratitude that we say goodbye to three of our Wounds Canada Board members: Nicola Waters, RN, from BC; Anna Slivinski, Reg Dietitian, from BC; and Janice de Boer, RN, from BC. Each has made a substantial contribution to the well-being of our organization, and they will truly be missed. We wish them the best in their future endeavours.

At the same time, we are very pleased to announce the appointment of five new Board members, to take effect January 1, 2018. We are particularly excited that this group brings to our Board great expertise and diversity, in terms of both skill set and regional representation. We welcome John Hwang, surgeon from BC; Sébastien Hains, podiatrist from Quebec; Petra O'Connell, health administrator from Alberta; Janet Kuhnke, RN, from Nova Scotia; and Ellen Mackay, dietitian from BC.

I am looking forward to working with our new Board to enhance and expand the Wounds Canada footprint across Canada and globally.

Morty Eisenberg



Practice Recommendations articles, which form the first six chapters of the online document *Foundations of Best Practice for Skin and Wound Management*, available free at www.woundscanada.ca/BPRs. We have begun the French translation of these documents.

Our research activities included the launch of the Research Directory on the website and the initiation of a study of the prevalence of wounds in Canada. We improved the abstract submission process for conference posters and changed the format of oral poster delivery, which has resulted in lively discussions among presenters and audiences.

Moving into 2018

The slate for next year is also full. In addition to two conferences (Winnipeg, MB, and London, ON), additional BPRs and our usual publications, we will move more deeply into the Canadian public realm, by providing educational materials for everyone, including patients, their families and caregivers and government decision makers, as well as by creating awareness campaigns on the most pressing issues.

On the health-care professional education side, we have big news: the launch of the Wounds Canada Institute (see announcement on this page).

The website will keep expanding in content and functionality, and through eblasts and our social media channels, we will continue to keep you abreast of the latest research, activities and developments that impact you and your practice. [Click here to sign up.](#)

News from the Canadian Association for Enterostomal Therapy



Helping Ostomy Patients Navigate the Disability Tax Credit

Many Canadians who live with an ostomy are unaware of their eligibility for the Federal Disability Tax Credit (DTC), and even those

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Launching Wounds Canada Institute

In response to a growing demand for high-quality, interprofessional wound education across Canada (and internationally), Wounds Canada will launch the Wounds Canada Institute in January 2018. This will be home to an expanding suite of online and onsite educational courses, programs and resources to support the learning needs and professional career growth



WoundsCANADA Institute

of health-care professionals of all disciplines relating to the prevention and management of wounds.

Whether in the form of online modules and events, face-to-face learning or hands-on workshops, offerings will provide learning experiences to best suit the content and the specific interests, time availability, resources and expertise of each user. Our website (www.woundscanada.ca) contains the Wounds Canada Institute portal, offering easy, on-demand access and tracking features so users can monitor their progress. The portal will also offer automated registration and payment features.

In addition to our modules and workshops, the Institute will house our national publication, *Wound Care Canada*, public education development and any education-related research activities of Wounds Canada.





News from Our Industry Partners

Mölnlycke: Reducing Pressure Injury Risk

A recent Canadian survey confirmed that pressure injuries remain a frequently occurring problem associated with considerable health-related, economic and social burden. The implementation of evidence-based preventative strategies is key to reducing the impact of pressure injuries.

Mepilex® Border is the only silicone foam dressing with more than 70 high-quality published studies demonstrating the isolated effect of dressings in preventing pressure injuries. The result of one RCT demonstrated up to an 88% reduction in pressure injury incidence risk.

A real-world study on Mepilex® Border Sacrum by Dr. Padula looked at data relating to over 1.03 million high-risk patients at 38 academic medical centres between 2010 and 2015. The study showed a 64% reduction in spending on pressure injury treatment costs per patient over the study period. This indicates that hospitals could save between \$200,000 and \$600,000 per year by introducing Mepilex® Border Sacrum as part of their prevention program.

Advanced Therapies from Acelity

ACELITY™ products are focused on advancing wound care. Our solutions are built on deep scientific expertise, supported by a large body of clinical evidence.

Our advanced therapies include V.A.C.ULTA™ Therapy System, a negative pressure wound therapy system that also delivers topical wound solutions to and removes materials from a wound site. Additionally, we offer the first powered disposable negative pressure system designed specifically for the management of closed surgical incisions: the PREVENA™ Incision Management System covers and protects the incision from external contamination, while negative pressure removes fluid and infectious material from the surgical incision.

Our offerings of advanced wound dressings have proprietary technology that helps advance wound healing. PROMOGRAN™ Protease Modulating Matrix and PROMOGRAN PRISMA™ Wound Balancing Matrices are specialized dressings that help promote a moist wound environment. Our INADINE™ (PVP-I) dressing minimizes adherence to the wound bed, thereby reducing the risk of damage to the granulation tissue at dressing removal and reducing pain for patients. To learn more, please visit www.acelity.com.

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who work toward completing the application process often encounter difficulties. In response, in 2016, the Canadian Association for Enterostomal Therapy (CAET) and Ostomy Canada Society formed a joint committee to find ways to improve things for Canadians living with an ostomy. The committee decided that creating a brochure would be the best way to help communicate the information necessary for completing a DTC application. The resulting brochure's purpose is to provide information in a clear and simple format. The goal is to outline who is eligible, how to apply,

and where to access the form to submit to the Canada Revenue Agency (approval from the CRA is required before those living with an ostomy become entitled to the DTC benefit). Both English and French brochures are now available: Disability Tax Credit for People Living with an Ostomy and Cr  dit d'imp  t pour personne handicap  e (CIPH) pour les personnes stomis  es.

You can download this brochure at www.caet.ca, or order free hardcopies via www.ostomycanada.ca or by calling 1-888-969-9698.