

News in Wound Care

National Conference: October 21–24, 2021

Wounds Canada's National Conference, including the day-long French Symposium, was another huge success for Wounds Canada and everyone in the Canadian wound care community. We were proud to offer 31 sessions in English and 11 in French to a total of 1390 delegates. As always, we were happy to see a diverse range of participants from industry and across multiple health-provider roles, including nurses, physicians, wound care specialists and foot specialists. We had a total of 8890 visits to our virtual Exhibit Hall, and were

thrilled to see participants from across Canada join us, along with representation from 15 countries internationally.

Throughout the conference, our community of co-chairs, moderators, and speakers emphasized the importance of recognizing systemic barriers faced by marginalized populations and addressing health-care inequity in the delivery of wound care. Our slate of empathetic and knowledgeable panellists urged us to treat the patient, not just the wound, and

to look closely to see what barriers our patients may be facing. How can we empower patients and encourage their decision-making and autonomy? How can we gain their trust? How can we inspire a system-wide change in our health-care systems?

Our panellists inspired us by introducing our community to new treatments, technology and approaches to improve the quality of life for people living with or at risk for wounds.

We were pleased to have the opportunity to present 36 posters highlighting new and exciting research in our Poster Hall.

Our fully virtual conference platform provided innovative ways for participants to network in the lounge, win prizes through a trivia quiz and other fun challenges, and review the latest technology and products in the Exhibit Hall.

We were thrilled to see so many photos of participants (and their dogs!) in our virtual photo booth.

The enthusiasm and dedication of the wound care community was palpable throughout the event. Dialogue was sparked and connections were made in the panel discussions and sessions (those Q&A chat boxes were on fire!), virtual networking lounge and on social media (#EndWounds #ProtectSkin #WoundsCanada2021).

Thanks to our conference co-chairs Idevana Costa, Ranjani Somayaji, Maryse Beaumier and Jérôme Patry for their leadership and inspiration.

We'd also like to thank the members of the Scientific Planning Committee and the accreditation team for making this a successful and informative event:

- Greg Archibald
- Maryse Beaumier
- Julien Bernatchez
- Yoan Blondeau
- Mariam Botros
- Idevania Costa
- Corey Heerschap
- Louise Forest-Lalande
- Crystal McCallum
- Deirdre O'Sullivan-Drombolis
- Elizabeth Parfitt
- François Paquet
- Jérôme Patry
- Isabelle Reeves
- Ranjani Somayaji
- Suzanne Stewart
- Maria Weatherbee



Fall 2021

**Virtual
Conference**

Poster Abstract Reviewers			Poster Judges
Crystal McCallum, <i>Team Lead</i> Nicola Bartley Maryse Beaumier Stephanie Berger Megan Brittain Jillian Brooke Magali Brousseau-Foley Karen Bruton Stephanie Chadwick Susan Chandler Sunita Coelho	Rebecca Dyck Sébastien Hains Jolene Heil Marc Jeschke Nicholas Joachimides Shauna Kadavil Kimberly Lacey Kimberly LeBlanc Susanne Lu Jane McSwiggan Marie-Philippe Mercier	Deborah Mings Sukaina Muhammad Christine Murphy Deirdre O'Sullivan-Drombolis Anthony Papp Kelly Sair Omar Selim Ruth Thompson Eliot To Marlene Varga	Laura Teague, <i>Team Lead</i> Maryse Beaumier Megan Brittain Stephanie Chadwick Susan Chandler Jolene Heil Marc Jeschke Suzanne Lu Deirdre O'Sullivan-Drombolis Kelly Sair Omar Selim Marlene Varga

Thank you to the poster abstract reviewers, poster judges and team leads for their expertise and hard work, and to education co-ordinator Tobi Mark for the huge effort in logistical support related to the academic programming.

Pressure Injury Symposium: November 18, 2021

New this year is our **Pressure Injury Symposium**, held on November 18, 2021. This one-day symposium had an outstanding line-up of international and national experts on topics such as:

- Living with a Pressure Injury: The Patient's Voice
- Community Care of Pressure Injuries
- Contentious Topics in Pressure Injury Care
- A Sustainable System of Care: Lessons Learned

Research

Research is a key pillar of the Wounds Canada strategy, informing the work of our other areas of focus:

Missed out on an online event?

If you were unable to attend any of our events this year, there is still time to register for access to recordings of the sessions. Head over to our conference platform to sign up today!

education, advocacy and awareness. The Wounds Canada approach to research is to ensure that it also establishes collaborative research networks in the areas of skin and wound care. The collaborative project with Cape Breton University on the impact of COVID on the delivery of wound care, which has been underway for some time, has published preliminary results and will be wrapping up soon.

Projects begun in 2021 include:

The Diabetic Footcare Facebook Group Study

Wounds Canada collaborated with researchers from Queen's University to conduct a research study exploring the feasibility of using social media to engage persons with diabetes in preventing foot ulcers.

Participants randomized to the experimental group were invited to join a virtual community through a private Facebook group. These participants received ongoing education based on incorporating core components of Wounds Canada's Diabetes, Healthy Feet and You program. A trained peer leader, also living with diabetes, co-moderated the Facebook group alongside the principal investigator to help participants problem solve and identify realistic goals.

This study has now concluded, and we invite people living with diabetes to join the open Facebook group to access many resources and to serve as a support network to help prevent diabetic foot ulcers. For more information, email info@woundscanada.ca.



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Collaboration with Cape Breton U and SCI Ontario

This research aims to determine how the delivery of care to individuals living with pressure injuries and/or with spinal cord injury has changed during the pandemic. We will survey participants (three times over 12 months) about how they have adapted to changes to access, prevention, assessment, treatment and management in relation to their skin and wound care needs. The study aims to provide practical evidence to Wounds Canada and Spinal Cord Injury Ontario as it continues to support clinicians through educational activities and the delivery of informational resources.

Patients' Voices, Stories and Journeys of Navigating Social Life while Having and Managing Complex Wounds: A Knowledge Mobilization Project

"Patients' Voices, Stories and Journeys" project is a collaborative project between Lakehead University and Wounds Canada focused on gathering and disseminating individuals' and families' video stories about balancing everyday life while living with complex wounds. See page 34 for a full description of this important research project.

Advocacy and Awareness

Government Outreach

At Wound Canada, we are continually advocating for a better future for people living with or at risk of wounds. We do this in multiple ways. We:

- Ask governments across Canada to make wound prevention and management a priority
- Bring awareness to decision makers about the burden of wounds in Canada and how they might improve access to care and reduce costs
- Encourage the provinces to provide funding to support access to our **SHARP program** for their health-care professionals
- Inform governments about and encourage them to distribute our free resources, such as our extremely popular **Care at Home** series

Catch up on our latest **government newsletter** to stay in the loop!

WOUNDS CANADA INSTITUTE

Wounds Canada Programs for Unregulated Care Providers

In the **Programs for Unregulated Care Providers** students will explore common conditions, including pressure injuries, diabetic peripheral neuropathy, moisture-associated skin damage and venous leg edema, as well as learn about factors that increase a person's risk of skin damage and methods to reduce risk and treat minor wounds should they occur.

These programs are designed for unregulated care providers, such as personal support workers, health-care aides, home support workers, personal care attendants, and even family members looking after vulnerable loved ones.



Addressing the Full Spectrum of Skin Health with the SHARP Program

Crystal McCallum, Wounds Canada's Director of Education, developed and launched the **SHARP (Skin Health Advocate and Resource Professional) Super Program #1** in collaboration with phys-

ician lead Robyn Evans after identifying gaps in the educational opportunities for health-care professionals. The program includes 23 interactive modules, eight synchronous webinars, two robust outcome measures and access to a discussion forum with the program faculty. The full spectrum of skin health is addressed through topics such as skin anatomy and physiology, the Wound

Prevention and Management Cycle, local wound care and the prevention and management of common wound types. The ultimate goal of SHARP, according to McCallum, is "in the long run, to have more clinicians who are experts on the front lines of wound care."



Care at Home Book

The feedback we received on turning our *Foundations of Best Practice for Skin and Wound Management* and *BPR Briefs* into eBooks has been extremely positive, so we decided to give another favourite resource—the Care at Home series—the same treatment. Soon, all our valued Care at Home resources will be available in two easy-to-read documents (one each in English and French). Look for it soon in our **eBoutique!**

Social Media Awareness Campaigns

In November we joined the global community on World Diabetes Day (November 14) to raise awareness about preventable lower limb amputations due to diabetes and celebrated Stop Pressure Injury Day (November 19) by launching a social media campaign and highlighting Wounds Canada's Pressure Injury Symposium.

Scholarships and Grants

Congratulations to all our educational **scholarship** and research **grant** winners for 2021. The scholarships and grants were provided by our charity arm (Wounds Canada Foundation). Wounds Canada board member Irmajean Bajnok announced the recipients at the closing ceremony of our #WoundsCanada2021 National Conference.

Congratulations to:

- Holly Calliou, BScN, Home Care Coordinator at Enoch Cree Nation: Indigenous Health-care Professional Scholarship
- Sacha-Gay Forbes, an RN(NP) from Saskatoon: Morty Eisenberg Scholarship
- Peter Tsang, a chiropodist at South Riverdale Community Health Centre in Toronto: Advanced Education Scholarship
- Barbara Hill, who operates a footcare clinic in Grenville, Quebec: Unregulated Care Provider Scholarship

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- Sharon Gabison: Wounds Canada Open Grant
- Virginie Blanchette: Pamela E Houghton Grant

To help us continue this important work, please consider donating to the **Wounds Canada Foundation**. Through your generous donation, we will be able to continue to bring awareness of wounds to the forefront of health care and patient self-management.

Leadership Program


New in 2021, Wounds Canada's **Leadership Initiative** was designed to bring together leaders from across Canada to explore what it means to exercise leadership within the field of wound care. This experiential learning journey is a unique opportunity for wound care leaders to learn from and with one another. Participants—including wound care practitioners, administrators, scholars, patients and community advocates—meet to reflect on and share stories from their own lived experience while

bridging research and practice through the review and application of current literature.

This innovative program uses a hybrid learning model consisting of synchronous virtual gatherings and asynchronous virtual discussion board forums. Through these mediums, participants are immersed in a learning community in which new insights, understanding and applications surrounding leadership in today's landscape are co-created.

Through this initiative we aim to inspire:

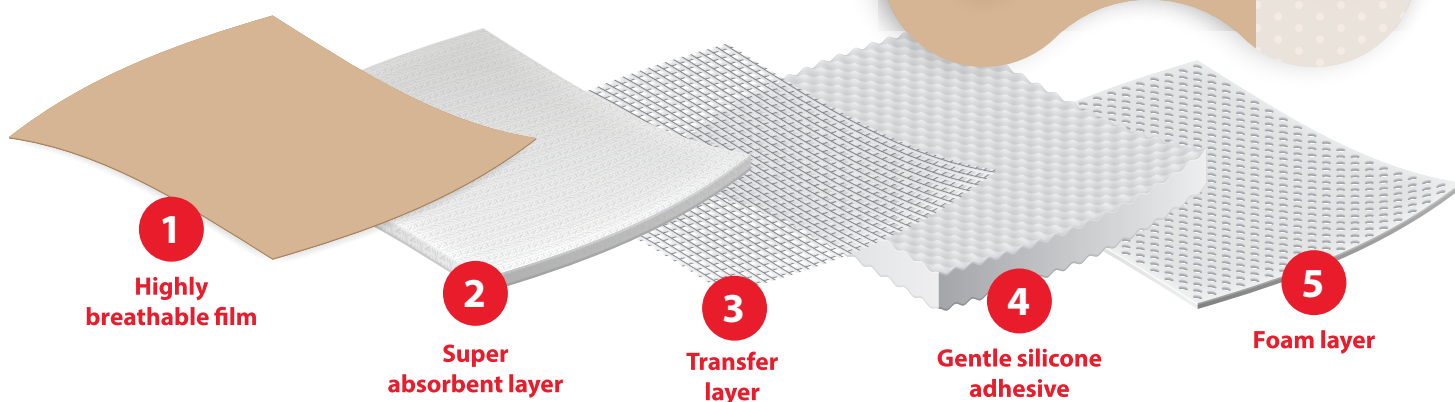
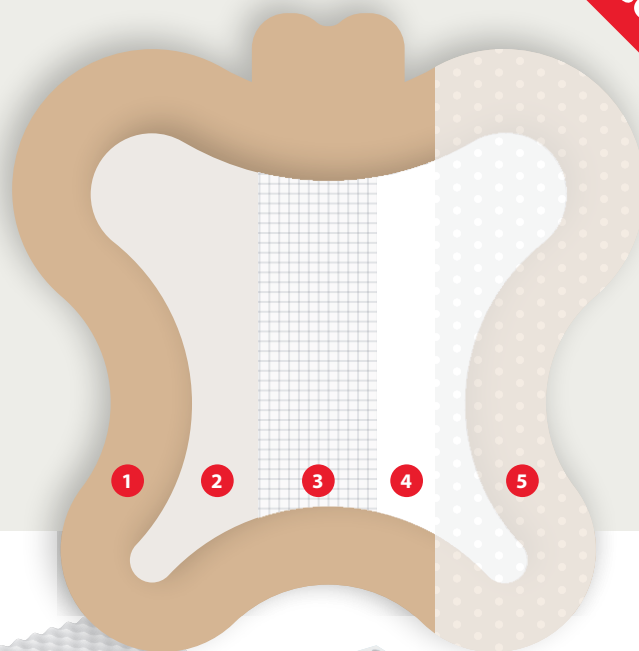
- Personal growth through reflection, dialogue and shared leadership
- Connection to a learning community and network of support through synchronous and asynchronous engagement
- Systematic change as new models of leadership are co-created and applied across wound care

To learn more about this initiative, please contact Heather Ibbetson, Project Co-ordinator at heather.ibbetson@woundscanada.ca. 

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References:

1. Padula WV. Effectiveness and Value of Prophylactic 5-Layer Foam Sacral Dressings to Prevent Hospital-Acquired Pressure Injuries in Acute Care Hospitals: An Observational Cohort Study. J Wound Ostomy Continence Nurs. 2017;44(5):413-419.
2. Data on file. Cardinal Health, 2021.

