



# News in Wound Care

## Events

### Fall Conference

For the first time in three years, Wounds Canada was pleased to be able to offer an in-person conference. Turning #KnowledgeToAction, held October 14–16, took place at the Sheraton Hotel in Toronto, ON, in both live and virtual formats. A total of 270 in-person and 553 virtual delegates gathered this year to address the theme of how we can turn knowledge into action in the wound care community.

A huge thank you to all the conference delegates, speakers and moderators, as well as to our co-chairs, Virginie

Blanchette, Robyn Evans and Marlene Varga, whose expertise, leadership and collaborative spirit resulted in an informative and engaging event.

A special thank you to the Scientific Planning Committee:

- **English language:** Jeremy Caul, Sunita Coelho, John Hwang, David Keast, Bernadette Mitchell-McDonald, Linda Moss, Laurie Parsons, Alan Rogers, Kelly Sair and Maria Weatherbee
- **French language:** Maryse Beaumier, Charles de Mestral, Joumana Fawaz, Luce Martineau and Jérôme Patry

Conference sessions featured expert speakers addressing important and timely topics over the course of three days. Highlights included sessions on Indigenous Cultural Safety, Hot Topics in Nutrition, Emotional Intelligence in Your Team Practice, and Wound Care and Harm Reduction for People Who Use Drugs. The session on Mental Health and Provider Burnout with Noha-Christine Guorgui and Giuseppe Papia provided support and resources for Canada's hard-working health-care providers.

Product booths and a sponsored wellness station by Saje gave attendees access to information about products and services available to health provid-

### Here's what some attendees had to say:

*"Overall, an amazing conference, with lots of helpful resources and information. A great set-up with polls, videos, interactive options, even for those who attended virtually. Good variety of topics!"*

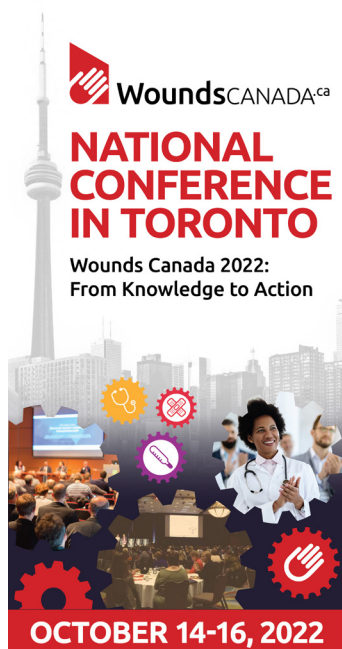
*"The virtual platform was excellent. I feel that I have walked away from this conference with new insights, ideas and goals for patient care that you don't always receive from other conferences."*

*"Well organized. Enlightening lectures. Virtual hall well done."*

*"The detailed presentations were very helpful in illustrating different types of wounds, syndromes, and diseases that lead to skin breakdown. The presenters were succinct and engaging."*

ers, patients and families.

The sessions are available on-demand on the conference platform for registrants.



## Posters Shine at the Fall Conference

Congratulations to the poster winners:

- **Best Abstract Award:** 0021 Increasing Pressure Injury Point Prevalence and Process Uptake and Action Planning in Continuing Care, by Marlene Varga and Charlene Brosinsky
- **Judges' Choice Award:** 0013 COVID-19 and Hospital Acquired Pressure Injuries (HAPIs): A Systematic Review, by Adrienn Bourkas, Michele Zaman and R. Gary Sibbald
- **People's Choice Award:** 004 Using Digital Technology to Facilitate Access to Wound Care Specialists in Times of COVID-19 Pandemic in Northwestern Ontario Communities, Canada, by Idevania Costa
- **Best Oral Presentation:** 0001 The Status of Wound Care Research in Canada: A Scoping Review, by Michael Lee

## Congratulations to 2022 Scholarship and Grant Winners

The 2022 scholarship and grant winners were announced at the fall conference. This year, scholarships were given in memory of beloved wound care community member Frank Berns.

- **SHARP (Super Program #1) Scholarship:** Nitin Aryal, Nurse Practitioner, Toronto, ON; Stephanie Jean, MD, Montreal, QC
- **Scholarship for Unregulated Care Providers:** Paula

Blackmore, Personal Support Worker, Halifax, NS; Arlene Duculan, Home Support Worker, Yellowknife, NT

- **Open Grant I:** Jacob Damant, fourth-year biomedical engineering student, Edmonton, AB, for research on the development of an artificial intelligence-driven app for tracking wound healing in three dimensions

## Pressure Injury Symposium: November 17, 2022

This one-day virtual event, hosted by co-chairs Stephanie Chadwick and Alan Rogers, coincided with Worldwide Pressure Injury Day. The event examined the risks and causes, along with the multidisciplinary comprehensive management, of pressure injuries, with presentations by dietitians, nurses, surgeons, physicians and physiatrists to encourage and facilitate the development of strategies, overcome barriers and improve patient outcomes. The conference platform provided innovative ways for participants to network in the lounge, win prizes through fun challenges and review the latest technology and products in the exhibit hall. There was an exciting line-up

of sessions with leading wound care experts to explore how to #StopThePressure, including:

- Negative Pressure Wound Therapy: Are You Ready for a Change of Perspective?
- How Do I ...? Panel Exploration of Challenging Pressure Injury-related Problems
- Infection Management: Tips, Tricks and Challenging Cases

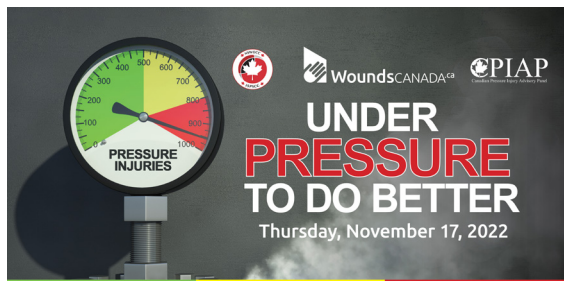
The sessions will be available on-demand on the conference platform for registrants.

## Wounds Canada Institute (WCI)

### New Interdisciplinary Wound Care Champion Program

To help address the rising incidence of acute and hard-to-heal wounds, Wounds Canada and the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO) are launching the **Wound Care Champion Program (WCCP)**, designed to deliver foundational, evidence-informed, interdisciplinary wound education across all health sectors to front-line clinicians.

This comprehensive, robust and competency-based skin health and wound education program is critical in helping to keep health-care professionals up-to-date on best practices and essential wound management skills, with online modules, skills labs, webinars, discussion forums and OSCE



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1. Carrere C et al. Community Setting Survey Evaluating AQUACEL® Dressings. Journal of Wound Care VOL 30, NO 9, 2021 Sep 2;30(9):763-774.

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**Wound Care Champion Program:**  
An Innovation in Wound Education



Champion Program is available [here](#).

## Live Skills Workshops

In October, students attended the one-day hands-on Skills Lab for Local Wound Care for completion of the Best Practice Approach to Skin Health and Wound Management: Knowledge and Skills (A100NWS) program, held at the Sheraton Hotel in Toronto, ON.

Wounds Canada Institute faculty travelled to Edmonton and Calgary, AB, during November to deliver two-day skills labs for participants enrolled in the Holistic Approach to Diabetic Foot

Offloading: Knowledge and Skills (A108MWS) program, under the auspices of the Kee Tas Kee Now Tribal Council.

For more information about these and other WCI programs, please visit the [WCI website](#).





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**Medline develops innovative skin health products that can improve care outcomes.**

<sup>1</sup>Curry DJ, Wright DA, Lee RE, Kang UJ, Frim DM. Surfactant poloxamer 188-related decreases in inflammation and tissue damage after experimental brain injury in rats. *Journal Neurosurg* 2004;101(1 Suppl). Accessed November 29, 2018.  
<sup>2</sup>Hunter RL, Luo AZ, Zhang R, Kozar RA, Moore FA. Poloxamer 188 inhibition of ischemia/reperfusion injury: evidence for a novel antiadhesive mechanism. *Ann Clin Lab Sci*. 2010;40(2):115-125.  
<sup>3</sup>Birchenough SA, Rodeheaver GT, Morgan RF, Peirce SM, Katz AJ. Topical poloxamer-188 improves blood flow following thermal injury in rat mesenteric microvasculature. *Annals of Plastic Surgery*. Accessed November 29, 2018.  
<sup>4</sup>Tharmalingam T, Ghebreh H, Wuerz T, Butler M. Pluronic enhances the robustness and reduces the cell attachment of mammalian cells. *Mol Biotechnol* 2008; 39(2):167-177.  
<sup>5</sup>Data on file.

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**Skin Health**

## Research

### Call to Participate in Our Pressure Injury COVID-19 Patient Experience Research Survey

The COVID-19 pandemic has drastically impacted how individuals access and receive skin and wound care services. Wounds Canada has committed to researching this topic in collaboration with Cape Breton University and Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) Ontario to assist in the identification of gaps in service and the development of educational and informational

resources for patients, caregivers and their families, as well as advocating to governments on their behalf.

We are seeking to understand the experiences of, and learn from, three groups:

1. Individuals living with a pressure injury
2. Individuals living with a pressure injury and a spinal cord injury
3. Caregivers and family members caring for individuals with pressure injuries

If you are a health-care provider who works with individuals



living with a pressure injury and/ or spinal cord injury, please encourage them to participate by sharing the [survey link](#). Their responses are greatly appreciated and

vital in helping us better understand how COVID-19 has affected their access to skin and wound care services. If you are a patient or caregiver with lived experience of pressure injury and/or spinal cord injury, please consider taking a few minutes to answer [the survey](#). It should take only 12–15 minutes to complete.



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### References:

1. Kim PJ, Attinger CE, Constantine T, et al. Negative pressure wound therapy with instillation: International consensus guidelines update. *Int Wound J*. 2020 Feb;17(1):174-186. doi: 10.1111/iwj.13254. Epub 2019 Oct 30.
2. Gabriel A, Camardo M, O'Rourke E, Gold R, Kim PJ. Effects of Negative-Pressure Wound Therapy with Instillation versus Standard of Care in Multiple Wound Types: Systematic Literature Review and Meta-Analysis. *Plast Reconstr Surg*. 2021 Jan 1;147(1S-1):68S-76S. doi: 10.1097/PRS.0000000000007614. PMID: 33347065.

**NOTE:** Specific indications, contraindications, warnings, precautions, and safety information exist for these products and therapies. Please consult a clinician and product Instructions for Use prior to application. Rx only.

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## Awareness and Advocacy

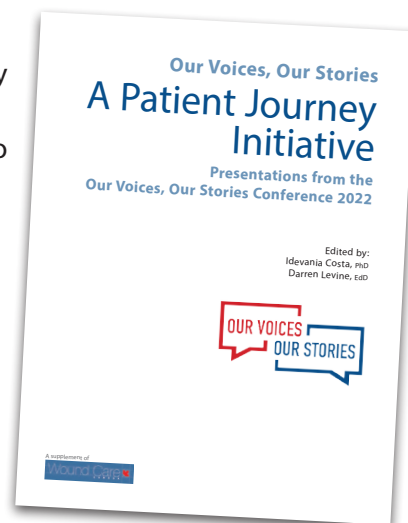
### New Patient Journey Initiative Supplement Now Available

Wounds Canada is committed to prioritizing the voices and stories of the patient. The more diverse stories we can compile, the better equipped we are to do what we do best—advocate and educate about wound prevention and management.

The complete summary of Our Voices, Our Stories: A Patient Journey Initiative is now available on our website. Wounds Canada is proud to showcase the many patient and caregiver stories of navigating life with wounds that emerged at our first-ever Patient Journey Conference in June, 2022.

Wounds Canada partnered with Lakehead University to host this national exchange focused on the patient experience and journey through wound care in Canada. This initiative was led by Idevania Costa of Lakehead University's School of Nursing, in collaboration with Michelle Spadoni (Lakehead University School of Nursing), Catherine Phillips (Lakehead University School of Social Work), Pilar Camargo Plazas (Queens University School of Nursing) and Mariam Botros (Wounds Canada).

The full supplement can be accessed at Our Voices, Our Stories: A Patient Journey Initiative.



### Raising Awareness for Worldwide Pressure Injury Day

Wounds Canada was pleased to join the global campaign to increase awareness about the

importance of preventing pressure injuries, which was led by the National Pressure Injury Advisory Panel (NPIAP). To support this initiative, the NPIAP developed an [extensive media materials package](#), appropriate for all health-care settings and organizations. Wounds Canada raised awareness on social media throughout November and, specifically, on the 17th—Worldwide Pressure Injury Prevention Day—with our advocacy partners, including patient advocate Linda Moss, based in Ontario, and Marlene Varga from Covenant Health in Alberta. We shared our popular resources to support education of health-care providers, patients, care partners, policy makers and the general public. These included the [Best Practice Recommendations](#) and the [Care at Home and DIY Health](#) series. We also highlighted the importance of the patient voice by sharing our pressure injury-related patient stories from the [Our Voices, Our Stories](#) campaign. People were encouraged to share their own stories of what they're doing to prevent pressure injuries with us on social media, and we were pleased to highlight many members of the wound care community advocating to



#StopThePressure in photos and videos from our recent fall conference.

Read [Pressure Injuries: The Problem and the Solution](#) for more information on this important issue, and check out our [Worldwide Pressure Injury Prevention Day](#) page to start planning for next year.

## Recognizing #WorldDiabetesDay at Wounds Canada

Wounds Canada was an active participant on November 14, 2022, in the world's largest diabetes awareness campaign to raise awareness about diabetes as a critical global health issue, along with our partners in awareness, [D-Foot International](#) and [The Canadian Podiatric Medical Association](#). The theme for [World Diabetes Day](#) for 2021–2023 is Access to Diabetes Care, with the specific theme for 2022 being Education to Protect Tomorrow, which resonates with Wounds Canada's emphasis on prevention and the sharing of resources for prevention and education. Check out [worlddiabetesday.org](#) for an [extensive media materials package](#) and resources.

During the campaign we encouraged participants to do the following activities to engage and amplify our messages:

- Follow Wounds Canada's awareness campaigns on

Twitter, Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn and sharing our messages and important prevention resources throughout the month of November

- Use the hashtags [#WorldDiabetesDay](#), [#EducationForTomorrow](#) and [#ActAgainstAmputation](#) to post their own awareness message and join the global conversation
- Check out [Wounds Canada's Diabetic Foot Ulcer](#) page for key resources to share.
- Download free resources, including posters and fact sheets to [spread the word](#).
- Share their diabetes story as a patient, caregiver or health-care provider on social media and through our online submission portals: [Patient/Caregiver Stories](#) and [Health-care Provider Stories](#).
- Find out what's happening around the globe in the area of diabetic foot and limb preservation by joining the free program [Crusade against lower limb amputations](#).

## In the News

On October 25, 2022, Director of the Wounds Canada Institute Crystal McCallum was featured on a CTV segment highlighting the issue of preventable pressure injuries in Canadian hospitals. For more on this story and to watch a video of McCallum's interview, please visit [www.ctvnews.ca/health/bedsores-becoming-more-common-in-canadian-hospitals-data-1.6123792](#).

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## New Faces at Wounds Canada

We're growing! Wounds Canada has added three new members to our team.

Wounds Canada is pleased to announce the appointment of **Ian Corks** as Major Publications Editor. He has extensive experience in the Canadian medical publishing environment, including

15 years as Executive Editor of Elsevier Canada, where his responsibilities included the *Canadian Journal of Cardiology*, the *Canadian Journal of Diabetes*

and the *Canadian Journal of Ophthalmology*. He will be serving as Editor of *Wound Care Canada*, *Limb Preservation in Canada* and the *Best Practice Recommendations (BPR)* documents. He replaces Sue Rosenthal, who is sliding into retirement.

**Doug Beemer** joins us as Education Manager for the Wound Care Champion Program. He is a critical care Registered Nurse by background who has worked in the private sector for over 25 years. He has held various sales and product management roles and has

come out of retirement to join the Wounds Canada team.

**Zahra Haider** has become our new Communications & Administrative Co-ordinator. She is responsible for scheduling meetings, assisting with small projects, creating and disseminating social media content and front-end website maintenance and design. She embraces outside-the-box thinking, innovation, sustainability and conscientiousness. She has a double major in Anthropology and Gender & Women's Studies from York University. 🇮🇵





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### 2 - Super absorbent layer

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### 3 - Transfer layer

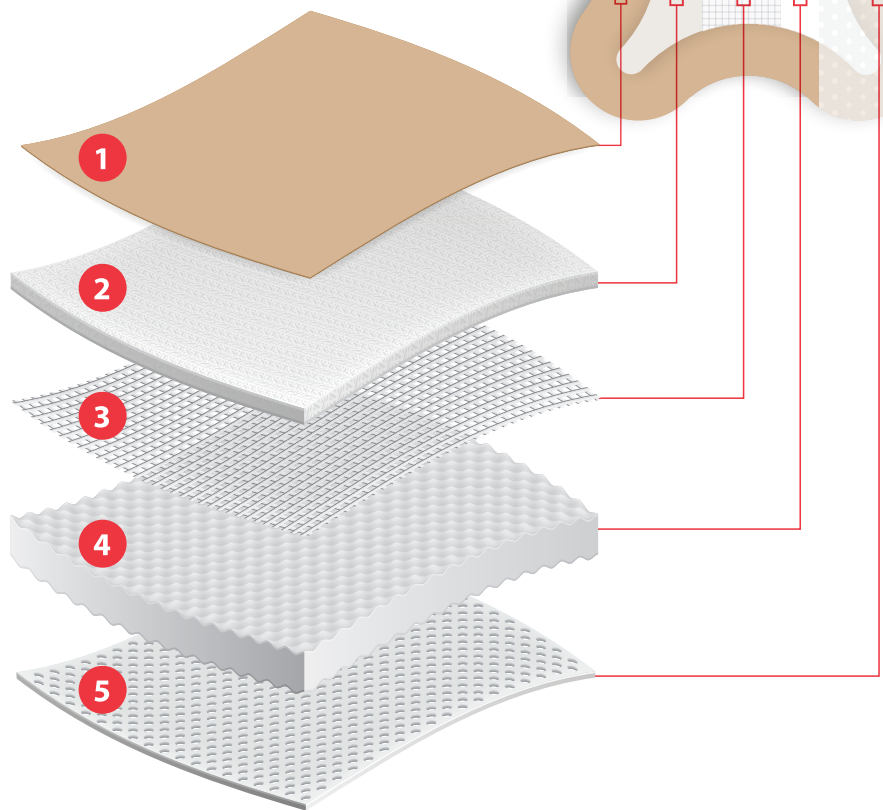
Directs fluid and exudate into the super absorbent layer, facilitating an optimal moist wound healing environment.

### 4 - Foam layer

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### 5 - Gentle silicone adhesive

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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.

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