

# News in Wound Care

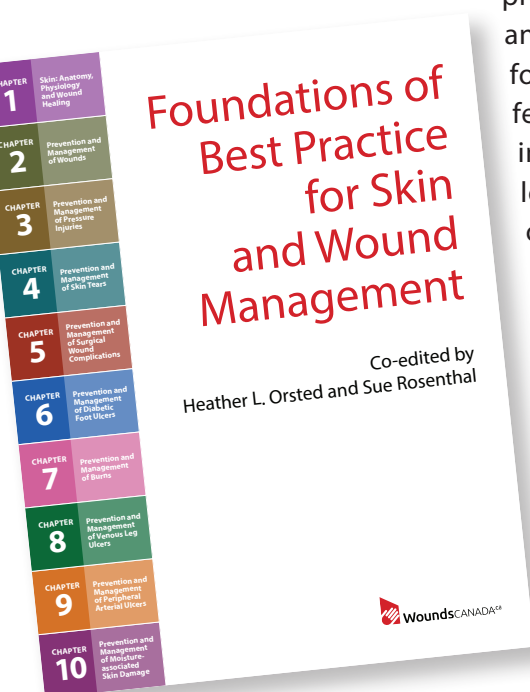
## Foundations of Best Practice for Skin and Wound Management

The *Foundations of Best Practice for Skin and Wound Management* e-book is now on sale in the Wounds Canada [eboutique](#). We're excited to offer all 10 of our popular and easy-to-use best practice recommendations articles in one comprehensive book. It's

an excellent resource for health-care professionals looking to improve their knowledge in the areas of skin health and wound management. Developed by teams of interprofessional experts with a deep wealth of knowledge and experience, the chapters that make up this book have been

written using a rigorous researching, writing and reviewing process.

*Foundations of Best Practice for Skin and Wound Management* is a 612-page book containing the full set of recommendations plus an initial chapter that provides an overview of skin anatomy and physiology and the wound healing process. It is recommended that this document be read before using any of the other forms of the best practice recommendations (BPRs). The full document can be purchased for [download](#) from the Wounds Canada boutique for CAD \$9.99 plus applicable taxes for members (or \$12 plus applicable taxes for non-members).



*BPR Briefs: A Digest Version of Foundations of Best Practice for Skin and Wound Management* is an abbreviated version of *Foundations of Best Practice for Skin and Wound Management* that can be used by clinicians who are already familiar with the full document. The Briefs offer quick and efficient access to “cues for care” as well as actions and policies that support best practice. An important feature of the BPR Briefs is the number of hyperlinks they contain, making them function more like a web-based app than a static resource.

The BPR Briefs can be purchased for [download](#) from the Wounds Canada boutique for CAD \$9.99 plus applicable taxes for members (or \$12 plus applicable taxes for non-members).

BPR BRIEFS	
A Digest Version of Foundations of Best Practice for Skin and Wound Management	
CHAPTER 1	Skin Anatomy, Physiology and Wound Healing
CHAPTER 2	Prevention and Management of Wounds
CHAPTER 3	Prevention and Management of Pressure Injuries
CHAPTER 4	Prevention and Management of Skin Tears
CHAPTER 5	Prevention and Management of Surgical Wound Complications
CHAPTER 6	Prevention and Management of Diabetic Foot Ulcers
CHAPTER 7	Prevention and Management of Burns
CHAPTER 8	Prevention and Management of Venous Leg Ulcers
CHAPTER 9	Prevention and Management of Peripheral Arterial Ulcers
CHAPTER 10	Prevention and Management of Moisture-associated Skin Damage

Co-edited by  
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WoundsCANADA

## Introducing the SHARP program

The Wounds Canada Institute is proud to announce the launch of the **SHARP** (Skin Health Advocate and Resource Professional) Super Program #1. Crystal McCallum, Wounds Canada's Director of Education, developed and launched this self-paced online program in collaboration with

**SHARP**  
Skin Health Advocate and Resource Professional

physician lead Robyn Evans after identifying a gap in the educational opportunities for health-care professionals to acquire proficiency in wound prevention and management. They wanted to offer a program that was robust and interprofessional and added value to the wound care community in Canada.

Historically, Wounds Canada had offered a variety of educational programming in the field and was ready to take it to the next level by securing accreditation. In order to achieve accreditation for the program, “a high level of scientific planning was required,” according to McCallum. A committee of 21 diverse wound and education experts was created to conduct an educational needs assessment, identify content and instructors for the program and develop a yearly evaluation plan to ensure the continued growth and success of the program.

The SHARP program was launched in January 2021. It 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. Add in a dynamic roster of instructors who are experts in wound care and education, and we have a program that appeals to a wide range of health professionals. While most of the program’s participants are nurses and physicians, there’s also a group of paramedics currently completing SHARP!

SHARP’s developers expect the program will increase capacity for wound care on the front lines, providing more clinicians with the foundational knowledge needed to prevent and treat wounds using the principles of best practices. 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.”

## Another Successful Limb Preservation Symposium

Wounds Canada’s annual Limb Preservation Symposium, held virtually on May 28, 2021, had 655 participants in attendance. This online event offered a diverse slate of educational sessions on topics ranging from limb preservation in Indigenous communities to collecting and using data for limb preservation. The event featured an

# Symposium Series

impressive roster of health-care professionals as presenters and moderators.

The gripping and emotionally resonant keynote address by Neil Hopper, titled “The Wrong Side of the Knife,” detailing his experiences as both a vascular surgeon and amputee patient, was an attendee favourite. His talk dealt not only with the physical effects of amputation on his life and career, but also the physical and psycho-socio-emotional impacts his amputation had on him and his family, along with his recommendations for improving the patient experience for others.

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. It was a packed day of events, and we were pleased to learn from our preliminary feedback that 100% percent of respondents would attend the conference again!

While living in a mostly virtual world during the pandemic has its drawbacks and challenges, it also has a silver lining—we were happy to see more participants from across Canada join us at this symposium who may not have been able to attend the event in person. We had representation from almost every province and territory, as well as attendees from the U.S. and across the globe.

## Celebrating May Foot Health Awareness Month

May was Foot Health Awareness Month, and we were happy to have the opportunity to share our world-class resources, such as our [Foundations of Best Practice](#) book and our [Care at Home](#) series, on our website and social media, and raise aware-

## Three More Events to Look Forward to in 2021

Mark your calendars now for Wounds Canada's other **virtual events** for 2021 and **register today!**

- Annual **fall conference** taking place from Thursday, October 21 to Saturday, October 23, 2021, featuring experts from across Canada providing a national perspective on key issues in wound care
- **French-language wound symposium** on Sunday, October 24, 2021
- **Pressure injury symposium** on Thursday, November 18, 2021, which addresses key issues in pressure injury prevention and management

ness about foot health and prevention of diabetic foot ulcers and other complications.

We teamed up with two organizations during the month for diabetic foot-related webinars to get our message out to a wider audience.

- We collaborated with the Indigenous Diabetes Health Circle for "Take Your Socks Off: Why It Will Save Your Feet," a Zoom event featuring Lindsey Cosh, the organization's foot care program director, John Monroe, a patient with lived experience, and Mariam Botros, Wounds Canada's CEO.
- We joined forces with Diabetes Canada for a Facebook Live event "**Foot Care to Prevent & Manage Diabetic Foot Ulcers**," where health-care experts Robyn Evans, Zaina Albalawi and Crystal McCallum discussed prevention and management techniques, as well as available resources for DFUs.

Although foot health was our focus for the month of May, we think about it all-year round. We co-hosted the interactive webinar "Your Role in Improving the Population Health of People at Risk or Living with Diabetic Foot Complications" with the Association of Family Health Teams of Ontario (AFHTO) back in April. Participants were invited to learn about their own role in improving the health of people at risk or living with diabetic foot complications across the full continuum of care settings to improve patient experience, outcomes and costs.

## Hellos and Goodbyes at Wounds Canada

**Peggy Ahearn**, our Director of Strategic Initiatives for the last 11 years, has retired. **Katie Bassett**, Wounds Canada's Communications Specialist, has moved on to a new position, but is still acting as a consultant for our various publications. Thanks to both of you for your commitment and teamwork and good luck from all of us at Wounds Canada!

**Laura Clarke** joins our team as Communications Specialist and looks forward to assisting Wounds Canada with its vision for 2021 and beyond. She will be working closely with members of the education, knowledge translation and advocacy teams to promote Wounds Canada as an important voice in Canada's health-care system and a driver of change in patient care. With experience across multiple industries including health care, non-profit, government, politics, advertising, education, publishing and travel, she is excited to assist Wounds Canada in delivering its message on a national scale.

Our current board members are:

Barbie Murray, BScN RN MCISC-WH – *President*

Andrew Springer, DCh – *Treasurer*

Janet Kuhnke, RN BA BScN MS NSWOC DrPsychology – *Secretary*

Irmajean Bajnok, RN BScN MScN PhD

Virginie Blanchette, BSc DPM MSc PhD

Robyn Evans, MD CCFP FCFP

John Hwang, MD MSc FRCSC

Ahmed Kayssi, MD MSc MPH FRCSC

Ellen Mackay, MSc RD CDE

Petra O'Connell, BSc MHSA

## Grants and Scholarships

At Wounds Canada, our aim is to make a difference in the lives of all wound patients through resources that relate to patients, their families and the wound community. The launch of our grant, scholarship and bursary programs through our charity arm is an integral part of our goals in 2021 and will help equip the next generation of front-line clinicians with the skills they need to provide the best possible wound care across Canada. These grants, scholarships and bursaries will fund research, drive wound-related education, build community, support mentorship and promote awareness.

We're particularly proud to announce two new awards honouring leaders in the wound care community. The **Pamela E. Houghton Grant** will provide one recipient with \$1000 for the purposes of research with a mentorship component. It honours Houghton's tireless commitment to fostering community and advocating for wound prevention and management, as well as her time spent volunteering with Wounds Canada in the areas of research, writing, critical review, advice and active participation in events. Many of the students she has mentored have continued to become leaders in the field themselves and, with this scholarship, we honour her legacy of research, leadership and mentorship.

The **Morty Eisenberg Scholarship** honours immediate Wounds Canada board past president Morty Eisenberg, whose visionary leadership helped to establish the Wounds Canada charity.

In 2021 Wounds Canada will be dis-



bursing funds for the following awards:

### Research Grants

- The Pamela E. Houghton Grant (\$1000)
- Wounds Canada Young Investigator Grant (\$1000)
- Wounds Canada Open Grant (\$1000)

### Scholarships

- The Morty Eisenberg Scholarship (One scholarship available: covers the cost of the SHARP Super Program #1)
- Indigenous Health-care Professional Scholarship (One scholarship available: covers the cost of the SHARP Super Program #1)
- Open Scholarships for Unregulated Care Providers (Six scholarships available: covers the cost of the Skin and Wound Care for Unregulated Care Providers Program)
- Wounds Canada Advanced Education Scholarships (Four scholarships available: \$500 each for students wishing to further their education in wound prevention and management)
- Bursaries for Students Needing Financial Assistance (Two bursaries available: \$500)

**Please visit [Grants and Scholarships and Bursaries](#) for details.**

## Do you know someone who would benefit from taking the Wounds Canada Institute's program for unregulated care providers?

Wounds Canada would like to remind you about one of our most important programs: [Skin and Wound Care for Unregulated Care Providers](#).

Unregulated care providers have played a crucial role in the delivery of care before and during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many care providers have faced a steep learning curve delivering proper wound care during the pandemic. This program is designed to help meet the skin health and wound prevention-related learning needs of unregulated care providers, such as personal support workers, health-care aides, home support workers, personal care attendants and even family members who are caring for a loved one. If you know of a team member or care partner for one of your patients



who could benefit from this program, please recommend they visit the [WCI website](#).

## RESEARCH UPDATE: Wound Care Delivery During COVID-19

The preliminary findings of our [qualitative study](#) exploring the experiences and learnings of front-line wound care clinicians during the COVID-19 pandemic were recently published in the May 2021 issue of *Wounds International*. Two hundred and forty-five individuals participated in the qualitative survey that focused on how the delivery of care changed during the pandemic and how health-care providers adapted delivery of wound care services with patients and their families. Using a Likert Scale, and the option to provide additional details, participant responses touched on five overarching themes: increased use of virtual technology, unequal clinician access to technology, unequal patient access to and expertise in using virtual care technology, increased clinician flexibility, and lack of skin and wound education. It is our hope that this research may lead to:

- additional research and the development of future policies to provide more sustainable access to wound care clinics
  - increased development opportunities of wound care competencies
  - improved usage and equitable access to virtual care in wound prevention and care.

See page 24 for a summary of this study and other information on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on wound care.

## Partnering with the Canadian Lymphedema Framework

Wounds Canada is thrilled to partner with the Canadian Lymphedema Framework in presenting the *Moving Evidence into Practice virtual conference*, December 3–4, 2021. This interactive, collaborative event gives our organizations the opportunity to highlight the association between lymphatic dysfunction and the increased risk of wound formation—and help both organizations increase the awareness about this important but not widely known link for health professionals, policy makers and the general public. Through this partnership, we can reach more people than ever.

By working together, our organizations will present a stimulating, engaging event that will increase clinician knowledge, present new research and strengthen both the Canadian and international communities of patients and practitioners.

- Specifically, this collaboration will help to:
- emphasize the importance of improving the health of patients living with lymphedema
  - highlight their risk of developing non-healing lower limb wounds
  - provide strategies and solutions to reduce the incidence of wound development
  - manage wounds when they do occur.

The results will be improved quality of life for patients and more effective use of health-care resources in all regions of Canada.



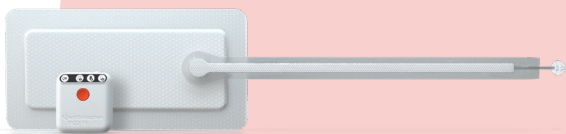
**WoundsCANADA.ca**

# + 51% more closed wounds<sup>1\*</sup>

PICO® sNPWT<sup>†</sup> has been shown to significantly reduce wound area and depth when compared with tNPWT<sup>‡</sup> in patients with VLU and DFUs over 12 weeks.<sup>1</sup>

Turn around wound healing trajectory more effectively than standard dressings and tNPWT with PICO.<sup>2</sup>

## Smith+Nephew



### PICO<sup>◇</sup> 14

Single Use Negative Pressure  
Wound Therapy System

Helping you get **CLOSER TO ZERO<sup>◇</sup>**  
delay in wound healing  
[smith-nephew.com/pico](https://smith-nephew.com/pico)

**References:** 1. Kirsner R, Dove C, Reyzelman A, Vayser D, Jaimes H. A prospective, randomized, controlled clinical trial on the efficacy of a single-use negative pressure wound therapy system, compared to traditional negative pressure wound therapy in the treatment of chronic ulcers of the lower extremities. *Wound Rep Regen.* 2019. May 14 <https://doi.org/10.1111/wrr.12727>.  
2. Dowsett C, et al. Use of PICO® to improve clinical and economic outcomes in hard-to-heal wounds. *Wounds International.* 2017;8, p53–58. \*45 vs 22%; p=0.002; ITT population. † Single Use Negative Pressure Wound Therapy (sNPWT). ‡ Traditional Negative Pressure Wound Therapy (tNPWT).  
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