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No. 62
January 2008

Wound Wisdom

Newsletter of the
South Australian Wound Management Association Inc.

Box 1144 Blackwood, SA 5051
Telephone: 0406 440 813

Education Meeting & AGM Wednesday 20 February 2008

Putting the pressure on pressure

- Beth McErlean & Peter Stewart will present the findings of the recent SA Department of Health pressure ulcer prevalence survey
- Andrea Smallman will present a case study – managing a pressure ulcer

Trade display & supper 1845

AGM & Education meeting commences 1930

All Welcome

Non members \$5.00 Members & students free

SAWMA is a multidisciplinary association and is non-partisan in its approach to wound products

Important dates 2008

Education nights:

20 February

22 May

20 August

19 November

Wound Awareness Week

31 March – 6 April

Memberships now due

It's that time again when SAWMA membership is due. Prompt payment will ensure you continue to receive the many benefits of membership, including:

- Quarterly 'Wound Wisdom' newsletter
- Subscription to national journal
- Free education evenings
- Reduced fees to other education opportunities

Changes to SAWMA

Please note following changes:

- New education night venue
- New post office box
- New phone number

More details inside...

Education night venue: Julia Farr seminar facilities

NEW!

104 Greenhill Road, Unley
East of King William Road, Opposite the Adelaide Hockey Club

President's report

Happy New year to all our members!

Now that the festivities of 2007 are over, SAWMA is busy planning for the 2008 year ahead. Once again, the SAWMA Committee remains committed to providing you with education meetings of the highest standard that will continue to increase your knowledge and skills in wound management. To ensure this, we will be conducting a member survey during the year to assist in identifying your preferred topics and learning needs. We encourage you to participate in this activity.

For our February meeting the theme is pressure ulcer prevention and management. Beth McErlean will present the results of the Department of Health, state wide pressure ulcer prevalence survey, followed by a case study by Andrea Smallman. Preceding this we will hold a brief Annual General Meeting.

Members are reminded that there are several formal SAWMA Committee positions up for nomination: Membership Officer, Secretary and three general committee members.

Joining the SAWMA committee provides a great opportunity to become actively involved in an energetic and fun group. If you are interested, there is a nomination form within this newsletter.

31 March to 6 April 2008 is "Wound Awareness Week". This is to become an annual AWMA incentive to raise the public and Government awareness of the impact of acute and chronic wounds. SAWMA will participate in this campaign which will focus on diabetic foot ulceration. More information on activities planned for Wound Awareness Week will be available on the SAWMA website soon.

A reminder to register for the 2008 AWMA Conference, "Dreams, Diversity and Disasters" to be held at the Darwin Entertainment Centre and Holiday Inn 7 -10 May. For details and registration, visit <http://www.awma.com.au/conferences/conference.php>

January is membership renewal time. I encourage all members to get one colleague interested in wound management to join SAWMA.

The opportunities offered by SAWMA membership can increase knowledge and confidence in wound management, benefitting you, patients, colleagues and workplaces.

Once again we would like to thank the Trade for their continued support and involvement in all our activities. And, thank you to our members for your desire to continue learning and enhance the care for every individual with a wound.

We look forward to the year ahead.

With Kind Regards,



Margi Moncrieff
SAWMA President

Tribute to a SAWMA member

It is with great sadness that the SAWMA committee informs you of the unexpected and sudden death of one of our members, Janet Vincent on 8 December 2007.

Janet had been a SAWMA member for several years and was a current member of the SAWMA committee. Janet was a vibrant, passionate and committed member.

In recent years she devoted her work to the care of the aged. She strived to make a positive difference to persons with a wound and guided her colleagues.

Janet's friendship, sense of humour and enthusiasm will be sorely missed.

Her wide network of family in health professions was certainly very much appreciated in organising the last SAWMA seminar day!



The SAWMA committee expresses our love and condolences to her husband Richard, family and friends. A shining light extinguished too soon.

Important changes

There have been several changes to SAWMA operations this year. It is important you note these changes for your reference.

Education night venue:

Due to changes in the conditions at Enterprise House it has been decided to move the venue. From February 2008 Education evenings will be held at the:

Julia Farr seminar facilities
104 Greenhill Road, Unley

We hope this move does not cause you undue inconvenience.

New postal address:

Due to a change of Treasurer SAWMA has a new postal address. This is:

PO Box 1144
Blackwood SA 5051

Mail will be redirected from the Rundle Mall post office box for a while, but using this address will ensure prompt receipt of correspondence.

New phone number:

As the pager is reaching the end of its lifespan, SAWMA have replaced it with a mobile phone. The procedure to contact SAMWA remains unchanged. Leave your name and return contact details on the voice mail and your call will be returned as soon as possible. The mobile phone number is:

0406 440 813

Clinical Corner: Pressure ulcers

The focus at the February 2008 SAWMA education night on pressure ulcers provides a good opportunity to review how to stage a pressure ulcer. The pressure ulcer staging system provided here is reproduced from the 2001:

Australian Wound Management Association Clinical Practice Guidelines for the Prediction and Prevention of Pressure Ulcers

Available at www.awma.com.au/publications

Stage 1: Observable, pressure related alteration(s) of intact skin whose indicators as compared to the adjacent or opposite area on the body may include changes in one or more of the following: skin temperature (warmth or coolness), tissue consistency (firm or boggy feel) and/or sensation (pain, itching).

The ulcer appears as a defined area of persistent redness in lightly pigmented skin, whereas in darker skin tones, the ulcer may appear with persistent red, blue or purple hues.

Stage 2: Partial thickness skin loss involving epidermis and/or dermis. The ulcer is superficial and presents clinically as an abrasion, blister or shallow crater.

Stage 3: Full thickness skin loss involving damage or necrosis of subcutaneous tissue that may extend down to, but not through underlying fascia. The ulcer presents clinically as a deep crater with or without undermining of adjacent tissue.

Stage 4: Full thickness skin loss with extensive destruction, tissue necrosis or damage to muscle, bone or supporting structures (for example, tendon or joint capsule). Undermining and sinus tracts may also be associated with stage 4 pressure ulcers.

Note: When necrotic tissue (eschar or slough) is present the true extent of tissue damage is masked. Accurate staging of the pressure ulcer is not possible until the necrotic tissue has sloughed or the wound has been debrided. Pressure ulcer staging systems should be used to document the deepest anatomy involved in the ulcer after necrotic tissue has been removed. *Editor's comment: Some organizations are now using a Stage 5 classification for ulcers that cannot be staged or are covered in greater than 50% thick, non-viable tissue.*

Further resources

There are many resources related to the prediction, prevention and management of pressure ulcers on the SA Department of Health, Safety and Quality web site.

www.safetyandquality.sa.gov.au

Once in the site go to: For Health Professionals / Local Initiatives / Pressure Ulcer Prevention / Resource Document Tools

Available resources on this site include:

Braden pressure ulcer risk assessment tool	Patient education pamphlet
Equipment choice chart	Pressure ulcer staging test
Example patient positioning chart	Example dressing treatment protocol
Example skin assessment chart	Example wound assessment tool
Malnutrition screening tool	Example point prevalence survey tool

SAWMA encourages all members to become familiar with this valuable site

**South Australian Wound Management Association
Incorporated
Annual General Meeting 2008
Committee Nomination Form**

In 2008 vacancies on the SAWMA Committee will occur at the Annual General Meeting to be held 20 February 2008. Committee terms are for two (2) years.

Persons nominating must be financial members of
SAWMA.

A copy of the Constitution is available from the Membership Officer, Michael Arthur through the SAWMA mobile phone: 0406 440 813

Nominations in accordance with the SAWMA Inc. Constitution (1995) are now required for the positions of:

- Secretary
- Membership secretary
- Committee members x 3

To nominate for a committee position please complete the form below and post to SAWMA, PO Box 1144 Blackwood, SA 5051. Postal nominations must reach SAWMA by 5pm Friday 15 February 2008. Alternatively, the nomination form can be placed in the box at the AGM Wednesday 20 February 2008. This nomination form can be photocopied if required.

Position nominated for:

Nominee (name):

Signature:

Proposed by (print name):

Seconded by (print name):

Only financial members of SAWMA are eligible to hold office, propose or second nominations.

SAWMA welcomes new members to its committee
The committee is a dynamic, fun, working group who work hard for SAWMA members and wound management in South Australia.
Committee members assist SAWMA in meeting its objectives through commitment and active participation.
The SAWMA committee meets from 6.00pm on the second Wednesday of the month at Glenside.
Some out of committee meeting activities may also be required by members.

RDNS Wound Courses

RDNS offers a five day internal Wound Management Course. The course can be completed as a certificate or a 3 unit credit option within the School of Nursing, Flinders University of South Australia. The next five day course is being held on:

28 - 29 February and 3 - 5 March 2008.

RDNS also offers individualised education programs, sessions and workshops to suit your organisation.

For further details phone RDNS: 8208 5300 and ask for the Education Centre.

Understanding Wound Dressings

Ausmed Publications are offering a one day seminar for nurses to discuss and examine the contemporary use of a variety of wound dressings.

Date: Thursday 21 February 2008 Time: 9.00am – 4.15pm
Venue: Old Adelaide Inn: 160 O'Connell Street, North Adelaide
Cost: \$220

For further information contact Ausmed Publications:

Ph (03) 9375 7311

Email ausmed@ausmed.com.au or Web www.ausmed.com.au

This seminar will cover: Wound Assessment; Basic Dressings; Advanced and Specialised Dressings; Therapeutic use of Compression Garments and include Case Studies. Delegates will be provided with opportunities to see many different dressings and ask specific questions related to using dressings in clinical practice.

SASVN & MINA VASCULAR STUDY DAY

The South Australian Society for Vascular Nursing (SASVN) and the Medical Imaging Nurses Association of Australia (MINA) are presenting a one day seminar on:

Saving the Brain

Date: Saturday 23 February 2008 Time: 8.30am – 3.00pm
Venue: TQEH Level 2 Lecture Theatre, Woodville Rd, Woodville
Cost: \$20 members, \$100 Non members

Topics covered include: Stroke risk factors, Medical management, Diagnostics, Thrombolysis, Emergency stroke management, Clipping, Carotid endarterectomy, and Carotid stenting.

Enquiries and registration forms are available from:

Sheri Sandison: sheralee.sandison@rgh.sa.gov.au

Karen Buckley: karen.buckley@rgh.sa.gov.au

or phone the Repatriation General Hospital Vascular Unit: 8275 1734

AWMA 7th National Conference

Invitation to attend

The organizing committee is pleased to invite everyone with an interest in wound practice and research to attend the:

7th national Australian Wound Management Association
Conference
Darwin, Northern Territory
7 – 10 May 2008

The theme: Dreams, Diversity and Disasters will focus on traditional and scientific wound management. The conference program will cover many issues including: cultural diversity, service provision, contemporary and cutting edge treatment regimens and the leading role Australia plays in disaster-induced wounds. There will be a wide range of presentations and workshops to choose from.

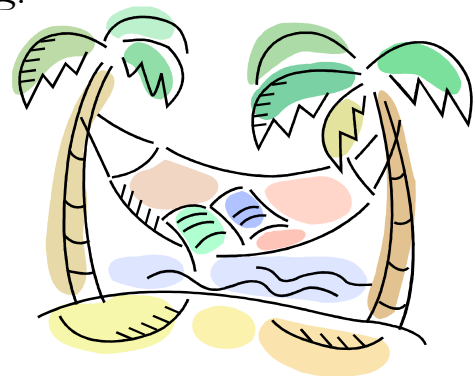
Speakers from Australia and overseas will share their experiences and expertise, making this the most important event in wound management in the Asia-Pacific region in 2008.

The SAWMA committee encourages all members to consider making the trip to Darwin to attend this important event.

The conference provides many opportunities for learning, skill acquisition, networking and socializing.

Darwin provides an exciting backdrop to the conference. Why not consider combining the conference with a few days in 'The Top End'? Darwin's weather is perfect in May. It is the dry season, with mild days and cool nights.

Early bird registration for SAMWA members: \$595
(prior to 29 February 2008)



For further details and a registration brochure visit the
AWMA web site: www.awma.com.au

Important dates 2008

SASVN: Seminar day: 23 Feb - Study night: 29 April

www.sasvn.com.au

June 4-8: 3rd World Union of Wound Healing

Societies Meeting, Toronto, Canada: www.wuwhs.org

May 7-10: 7th National Conference of the Australian
Wound Management Association, Darwin, Australia

This newsletter aims to share information about contemporary issues in wound management. We welcome your contributions, resources, tips, case studies etc.

Submit contributions to the editor
Sue Templeton Ph 1300 364 264 or
editor@sawma.org.au

Web address
Visit us at:
www.sawma.org.au

SAWMA Committee Members

Office Bearers

Ms Margi Moncrieff	Ph 8204 5311	President
Ms Sue Templeton	1300 364 264	Vice President & AWMA rep
Ms Andrea Smallman	8204 4311	Secretary
Ms Bec Daebeler	8201 4884	Treasurer
Mr Michael Arthur	8355 3500	Membership Secretary

General Committee Members

Ms Chris Bashford	Ph 1300 363 262
Ms Lindsey Brooks	0437 771 605
Ms Veronica Dottore	8222 4413
Ms Beth McErlean	8275 1090
Ms Helen Pecanek	0419 845 619
Ms Maree Prendergast	1300 364 264

All phone numbers are work contact numbers

Committee members can be contacted via e-mail, the mailing address or through a message left on the SAWMA phone:
0406 440 813

All expressions of opinion and all other statements in this newsletter and any attachments are published on the authority of the writer/s over whose signature they appear and are not to be regarded as expressing the views of the South Australian Wound Management Association. Where clinical information is provided readers are encouraged to verify this independently. Whilst every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of information, no responsibility is taken by SAWMA for any inaccuracies or omissions.