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No. 66
January 2009

Wound Wisdom

Newsletter of the
**South Australian Wound Management
Association Inc.**

Box 1144 Blackwood, SA 5051
Telephone: 0406 440 813

EDUCATION MEETING
WEDNESDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2009

Annual General Meeting & Drugs & Wound Healing

SAWMA is proud to present Greg Duncan to discuss the issues surrounding medications and solutions and their effects on wound healing.

Trade display & supper 1845

Annual General 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*

CAMPAIGN FOR ACCESS TO SUBSIDISED DRESSING PRODUCTS

Sign the petition at www.elephantintheroom.com.au to support subsidisation of dressing products across Australia in all care settings. Don't be an elephant and ignore the problem. SAWMA strongly encourages its members to sign.

Encourage your colleagues and patients to sign too!

EDUCATION NIGHT VENUE: JULIA FARR SEMINAR FACILITIES

104 Greenhill Road, Unley

East of King William Road, Opposite the Adelaide Hockey Club
Parking on Greenhill Road, outside the venue

NEW!

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Happy New Year to all our members. The SAWMA committee has been busy planning for an exciting year ahead and are committed to providing you with education meetings of the highest standard. Since 2007, SAWMA has been working to a strategic plan with four key objectives that underpin our annual goals. These objectives are:

- Ensuring a strong governance framework
- Developing relationships with health professionals, professional bodies and key organisations/groups
- Promotion of contemporary wound management
- Promotion of evidenced based best practice education and research

I am proud to share with you all the achievements of the hard working committee that were accomplished in 2008.

- Increased attendance at education evenings
- Held a joint education meeting with the South Australian Orthopaedic Nurses Association (SAON)
- Maintained membership at approximately 300
- Maintained and expanded the web site
- Reviewed the SAWMA constitution
- Held several events to promote wound awareness week
- Published four SAWMA 'Wound Wisdom' newsletters
- Continued to offer a \$5000 research grant
- Developed the 'Janet Vincent Education Scholarship'
- Continued to distribute SAWMA promotional material to residential aged care facilities and other health professionals & organizations
- Wrote to the Chief Nurse with an offer to contribute to the implementation of the South Australian PUPPIES (pressure ulcer) project.
- Met with the project officer coordinating the implementation plan for the PUPPIES project.
- Represented and actively contributed to the AWMA national committee
- Raised AWMA issues for SAWMA information and decision making
- Participated in the following AWMA initiatives
 - Review of the AWMA Standards for Wound Management
 - Review of the Clinical Practice Guidelines for the Prediction and Prevention of Pressure Ulcers
 - Development of the inaugural Australian Venous Leg Ulcer Clinical Practice Guidelines
- Promoted the 2008 AWMA 7th National Conference
- Promoted the HEMI/Hartmann scholarship
- Explored strategies for provision of consumer resources
- Conducted a member survey
- Identified key clinicians in regional areas to promote SAWMA activities

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Based on our member survey, SAWMA has developed an exciting plan for 2009, which includes Greg Duncan as our guest speaker at our February AGM. Greg is a dynamic and well known lecturer in pharmacy practice and we have no doubt that you will find him both entertaining and educational. During Wound Awareness Week in April, SAWMA plans to host an extra education night, in addition to other activities that we are still busy planning. In May, we will hold joint education evening with the South Australian Vascular Nurses Association and August the theme will be "nutrition and wound healing". For final meeting for the year in November, we are considering "the challenges of wound management overseas." I believe 2009 is looking fabulous.

Members are reminded that there are several formal Committee positions up for nomination at our February AGM, including President, Vice President, Treasurer and four general Committee members. Joining the committee provides a great opportunity to become actively involved in an energetic and fun group. If you are interested, there is nomination from within this newsletter.

On a final note, this will be my last report and I would like to take the opportunity to thank both the Committee and members for your support during my term of SAWMA President. It has been a challenging and rewarding journey that involved an enormous learning curve initially. I have grown both personally and professionally from the experience and am looking forward to continuing as a general Committee member. SAWMA is such a great organization and I encourage you all to continue with your involvement and pursuit to make a difference in the lives of those who are wounded.

With Kind Regards,



Margi Moncrieff
SAWMA President

CLINICAL CORNER: WOUND PLANIMETRY

Wound Planimetry!? I hear you say? It's something that you would have certainly have heard of, and arguably something most wound practitioners would have utilised at some point in their practice. Put simply wound planimetry is the planar measurement of wounds. Yes that's right, its those wound tracings that many clinicians are so fond of.

Wound Planimetry entails measurement of a wound surface area (length x width) and relative depth. There are numerous methods of performing wound planimetry, the most common include use of a simple ruler or tracing grids. Recently more advanced methods of planimetry have been made available to the clinician, these include the Smith & Nephew Visitrak and the Nutricia Wound Healing Analysis Tool (Planimetry based on clinical photography), these planimetry devices offer clinicians a greater degree of accuracy when calculating wound surface area.

Why wound Planimetry?

As most of us know, quantifying progress in the wounds we are treating can often be a very subjective process. Even tools such as clinical photography can introduce subjective bias to the way we view wound progress, what with variance in angle, focal length, camera type and light quality, to just name a few variables that may impact upon what you see. With the increasing need to quantify the outcomes of the wounds we manage, wound planimetry performed at standardized (14-21 day) intervals, provides the ability to demonstrate the impact of your wound management via quantifiable changes in wound size.

Limitations

There are some limitations to the use of wound planimetry, these limitations relate to both the user and the patient and are based on 'human factors'. As we all know wounds are often non-planar in location and thus certain physical locations may prove an obstacle for accurate measurement. There has been some question of inter-user variance and accuracy raised, although this bias may be reduced through the use of electronic aids such as the Visitrak or the computerised photography based wound planimetry tools.

Ultimately wound planimetry should accompany clinical photography and documentation as part of a comprehensive system of recording a patients wound healing progress.

Wound Planimetry and Patient Outcomes

Wound planimetry offers the wound clinician the ability to provide a standardised statistic which reflects the impact of their wound care. Changes in wound size are most commonly expressed as a percentage change in surface area (preferably decrease!). Within the literature, percentage change in wound size has been slated as a strong predictor of healing. Flanagan (2003) summarises that:

"a percentage of area reduction of less than 20% to 40% over the initial 2 to 4 weeks is a reliable indicator that the wound is not responding well to treatment" – *Ostomy Wound Management* 49(10) 2003

The ability to objectively demonstrate the impact of your wound management practice is essential in these times of evidence based practice, wound planimetry offers the clinician a tool with which to objectively measure wound outcomes and then report these outcomes in a standardised scientific fashion.

NOTICE OF CHANGE TO SAWMA CONSTITUTION

All SAWMA members are to be advised that there will be a vote on proposed changes to the South Australian Wound Management Association Constitution. The proposed changes concern committee structure, simplification of Association processes, clarification and updating of terminology. The changes also seek to better align the SAWMA constitution with that of its interstate counterparts and with the national wound management association AWMA (Australian Wound Management Association).

The draft Revised Constitution will be available for download and review on the SAWMA website (www.sawma.org.au) from mid January 2009 or via email (secretary@sawma.org.au). Members without internet access may obtain copies of the draft Revised Constitution by leaving a message on the SAWMA phone message bank (0406 440 813), please be sure to leave contact details and a postal address.

A **VOTE** on the Constitutional revisions will take place at the SAWMA Annual General Meeting to be held on **Wednesday 18th February**. Financial members only, will be eligible to vote on the constitutional changes.

RDNS WOUND EDUCATION

RDNS Wound Care Master Class – The Cutting Edge

Saturday the 29th March 2009, a single day Master Class featuring 5 key note speakers, presenting on a variety of contemporary wound management issues. Presentations will focus on wound pathophysiology which will be further illustrated with case examples.

12th, 13th, 16-18th March 2009. RDNS Wound Management Course, A comprehensive 5-day wound care course, covering a wide range of wound care topics including Wound healing fundamentals, product education, advanced wound management skills and knowledge. Lecturers include renowned wound experts: Margie Moncreiff, Sue Templeton and Tal Ellis.

15th January 2009. 3½ hour workshop for practitioners who want to become accredited in measurement of Ankle Brachial Pressure Index (ABPI) using hand-held Doppler ultrasound.

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.

**South Australian Wound Management Association
Incorporated
Annual General Meeting 2009
Committee Nomination Form**

In 2009 vacancies on the SAWMA Committee will occur at the Annual General Meeting to be held 18th February 2009. 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:

- President**
- Vice President**
- Treasurer**
- Committee members x 4**

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 13 February 2009. Alternatively, the nomination form can be placed in the box at the AGM Wednesday 18 February 2009. 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.

IMPORTANT DATES 2009

Australian Association of Stomal Therapy Nurses (AASTN) 37th
National Conference, 11-13 March 2009 Burswood Resort, Perth

Australian National Wound Awareness Week, March 30th – 4th April

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 5511	President
Ms Sue Templeton	1300 364 264	Vice President & AWMA rep
Ms Andrea Smallman	8204 4311	Secretary
Ms Bec Daebeler	8204 4884	Treasurer
Mr Michael Arthur	8355 3500	Membership Secretary

General Committee Members

Ms Lindsey Brooks	0437 771 605
Ms Veronica Dottore	8222 4413
Mr Tim Garfield	8823 0286
Mr Frank Guerriero	8222 2996
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.