

Editorial



As this year draws to an end, most of us are starting to feel the effects of yet another difficult year in these awkward times. But I'm always pleasantly surprised to witness the unwavering resolve of our medical staff at the front line. Despite the fatigue, most stay positive and are sources we can draw positive energy from and examples of what we should all strive to be.

Some feedback on the accreditation appeal that was submitted earlier this year – the accreditation committee will hear our application towards the end of this year, so we continue to keep our fingers crossed that we will finally crack the nod to be an accredited journal.

Although we find it difficult to attract high quality research articles because most authors would want their work published in accredited journals, we would at least like to see more case series or case reports being submitted by our wound care professionals. Especially given the unusual or extreme cases we often see in this country. **In an effort to encourage more of our wound care specialists to submit these cases, the ExCo of WHASA has resolved that any member who successfully publishes an article/case report in WHSA will receive a 50% reduction of their WHASA membership for a year. In addition, the best article published by a WHASA member, will be eligible for free membership for one year.**

In this issue of WHSA, you will find a draft publication of the new negative-pressure wound therapy (NPWT) guidelines from WHASA. These guidelines, when finalised, will be submitted to medical aids to be used as a guideline for reimbursement. We invite all our readers to comment on the guidelines before they are finalised. Please send your comments to Sr Febe Bruwer, whose email address appears on the paper.

In this issue we also see the second of a two-part paper, titled, "Wounds: an overlooked burden – Wound treatment: a daunting decision", which helps us navigate the often-difficult decisions to be made regarding method of treatment of a wound. This article is also our CPD article for this issue and I encourage you to get your CPD points by answering the questions at the end. We also see an interesting report detailing the use and possible mechanisms of action of hypochlorous acid in dealing with an irradiation injury of the lower eyelid.

A short report comparing a novel negative-pressure wound therapy (NPWT) system to a more established one is also published. Without wanting to take anything away from this particular report, my recommendation to our readers is that these comparative reports should be carefully considered whenever the authors are employees of one of the two companies being compared.

An interesting case series of three rare medical conditions that presented to a wound care centre highlights the importance of having a multidisciplinary team collectively discussing complex cases. Without this team, a diagnosis would not have been reached and the wounds would never have healed.

Lastly, we have also republished (from our sister-journal, *Advances in Skin and Wound Care*) the fourth revision of the article, "Wound Bed Preparation 2021", which serves as an important guide to all our wound care practitioners.

Happy reading and stay safe.

Nick Kairinos

Editor: Wound Healing SA