

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The wound care year ahead in the African environment: 2013

Dear WHASA Members,

The Wound Healing Association of Southern Africa is in the process of setting up six teams of local expertise from the fields of medicine, nursing and allied health professional practice, to form expert panels tasked on constructing a consensus document, to serve as management guideline for South Africa Wound Care practice.

Six teams will work simultaneously on six different documents, namely: Diabetic foot prevention and care, Lower limb ulcer prevention and care, Pressure ulcer prevention and care, Skin and skin assessment, Maintenance and non-healing wounds, Trauma with emphasis on burns. The consensus meeting is planned for 23 and 24 February 2013 and will take place at the St Georges Hotel venue in Pretoria.

The framework of reference for this meeting will be the Wound Bed Preparation paradigm, of which the most updated version published in Wound Healing Southern Africa September 2011 issue, will be used. The consensus document will be constructed in answering 12 clinical questions as debated and discussed by all panel members. Those answers will then be compiled and translated into a survey, that through a Delphi process, be tested and confirmed by experts that were not part of the initial construction of the documents, to confirm that the documents indeed contain South African best practice applicable to the challenges faced by South African clinicians. Documents will then be printed and disseminated to all institutions and facilities dealing with wound care delivery, to form part of a standard practice guideline approach on how wound management will be appropriate in the South African milieu. Panel members of each document will serve as the authors of the document and will be acknowledged as such. The full list of all panel members and logos of all companies who support this initiative, will be printed on the last page or outside cover of each document.

As academic initiative these will serve as the first South African consensus documents and practical guidelines on condition specific wounds, taking into account clinician concern, patient centered concern and best evidence to deal with the wound in the best possible manner within resources and restraints part of the South African clinical environment. As a practice initiative, this will serve as a documented guideline to base clinical judgment on, which may help public and private health care delivery systems alike in reaching a decision aiming at best possible care to the patient with a wound.

The day before the consensus meeting - 22 February 2013 - we have planned a Skills training day similar to the UK master class format, just to serve WHASA members and interested clinicians with an educational day and get good clinician-to-Trade contact. This day is open to any clinician dealing with wounds who needs to have wound care skills updated on Diabetic foot prevention, making a decision between infection or inflammation in a wound and on the appropriate use of the new advanced dressings available in current wound management practice, in both public and private wound care settings. For more information or to book for attendance please visit the WHASA webpage at [www.whasa.org](http://www.whasa.org) or contact [hiskesmart@woundhealing.co.za](mailto:hiskesmart@woundhealing.co.za) in her capacity as president of WHASA 2012/13.

We are looking forward to a year of translating knowledge into practice where our patient is placed first and foremost in this endeavor.

Regards  
Hiske Smart

President: Wound Healing Association of Southern Africa