

The North American Wound Care Council

BY Cary Steinman

At the recent Symposium on Advanced Wound Care (SAWC) meeting in Orlando, Florida, last May, the CAWC invited all the wound-care associations in North America to attend a special breakfast meeting. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the joint development of a new international initiative: The North American Wound Care Council (NAWCC). All invited associations sent senior executives to the meeting, where the CAWC outlined the concept and facilitated the discussion. This was the first meeting specifically for North American wound-care societies to date.

The following associations were represented at the meeting: The American Association of Wound Care (AAWC), The Canadian Association of Enterostomal Therapy (CAET), The Canadian Association of Wound Care (CAWC), The National Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel (NPUAP), The Wound Healing Society (WHS) and representatives from Mexico, who are currently working on establishing a Mexican wound-care association.

The NAWCC is an idea that the CAWC had been developing for the past 18 months. The NAWCC is not another symposium, congress or conference. It is contemplated as a biannual council of North American wound societies, the primary objectives of which will be to

- bring the officers, executives and committee heads from North American wound-care associations and similar bodies together every second year for meetings on topics of mutual interest
- facilitate communication between existing wound-care associations and similar bodies regarding international co-operation on the following topics: education, clinical practice, research, public policy, international initiatives and general management issues
- share information, ideas and resources to improve the quality of wound care in North America as well as the efficiency and effectiveness of participating societies
- develop initiatives to assist wound caring in less developed countries
- work together to ultimately improve patient outcomes and the day-to-day lives of North American wound-care clinicians

The NAWCC would meet every second year and would be hosted by a different participating society each time. Each society would be invited to bring a maximum of seven delegates, including the following personnel: president,

executive director and committee heads for education, clinical practice, research, public policy and international initiatives.

All association executives in who attended the Orlando meeting voiced their interest in further pursuing the development of the NAWCC concept. It was decided to hold a planning meeting at the CAWC's annual conference in Calgary in November to develop a mission and vision statement for the new group as well as a charter, calendar and set of goals and objectives. The CAWC is very pleased to be hosting this inaugural meeting. To date all the associations who attended the Orlando meeting have agreed to send delegates to the first planning meeting.

We at the CAWC believe that this is a very powerful idea that can add significant value to the North American wound-care continuum. The outcome of the November 2004 meeting will be published on the CAWC Web site as well as the sites of the participating societies and will be printed in the spring 2005 issue of *Wound Care Canada*. ☺

Cary Steinman, BA, MA, is the Executive Director of the Canadian Association of Wound Care.

Web sites of participating organizations

American Association of Wound Care (AAWC) www.aawc1.com
Canadian Association of Enterostomal Therapy (CAET) www.caet.ca
Canadian Association of Wound Care (CAWC) www.cawc.net
National Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel (NPUAP) www.npuap.org
Wound Healing Society (WHS) www.woundheal.org