

Canadian Association of Wound Care News

Pressure Ulcer Awareness Pilot Program Completed

At the end of September 2006 the CAWC's Pressure Ulcer Awareness Pilot Program (PUAPP), involving five sites across the country, came to an end. The facilities chosen for the pilot were selected to reflect the variety of care common in Canada, ranging from small to large facilities, with acute and long-term care represented. The six-month-long pilot supported knowledge transfer through a "layered" implementation of educational sessions, printed materials, a Web site and changes in procedure within each facility with the aim to improve awareness of pressure ulcers—what they are, how they develop, and how to prevent them. The ultimate aim of the program was to create a "culture shift" that would actually reduce the prevalence of pressure ulcers in each facility. Clinicians, facility administrators, and patients and their families, were all involved in the educational, practice and research aspects of the program.

At this year's CAWC annual conference, the theme will be "Working Well: Taking the Pressure Off," and the results of the PUAPP will be a highlight of the proceedings. A plenary session featuring Elizabeth Ayello and Barbara Braden, as well as pilot team leader Heather Orsted, will showcase findings from the pilot program and discuss the implications of those findings. The CAWC forums immediately following the plenary session will go into more detail about the specific clinical practice, research, education and public policy aspects of the program. If you are concerned about the prevalence of pressure ulcers in your facility or agency, you will not want to miss these sessions!



Spotlight on the CAWC Boutique

Monofilaments for Sensation Testing

Before the CAWC stepped in to fill the need, monofilaments had been difficult to purchase in Canada. Developed by our own clinicians to meet our specifications for sale in Canada, CAWC monofilaments are now available to Canadian clinicians through the online CAWC Boutique. These simple devices are used to test patients for loss of protective sensation and are invaluable to both clinicians and patients. Monofilaments come in two types: with instruction cards and without instruction cards (available in either English or French). The option that includes instruction cards are particularly useful for patients and lay caregivers, and they can be used in conjunction with the patient enabler on page 41 of this issue of *Wound Care Canada*.



Generic CAWC Products Are the "New Normal"

The CAWC Boutique contains many different products, and over the years we have altered our stock to conform to changing circumstances. Originally, we required the support of industry to help us underwrite the production of many of the Boutique items, such as the wound rulers and Quick Reference Guides. Without industry support we would not have been able to launch these items, and we are very grateful to the companies who have supported these initiatives. However, the board has decided that we are now in a position to underwrite the costs of production ourselves, and that, from now on, we will be producing generic materials. These will be phased in over the next three to four months as we use up existing stock.

To purchase any item in the online Boutique, go to the CAWC Web site at www.cawc.net and click on the Boutique link in the left-hand menu for a downloadable order form.



A New Kind of Conference

As many of you know, the CAWC recently undertook a needs assessment through an online survey of members to find out what members wanted featured at the next annual conference. After careful analysis of the survey results, the Conference Organizing Committee has developed an agenda for this fall's meeting that is sure to please all attendees regardless of their level of wound-care expertise or specific areas of interest. As well, new policies that restrict the number of sessions in which any one speaker can present will reduce redundancy and ensure the presence of a wider variety of speakers and viewpoints.

The theme of this year's conference, "Working Well: Taking the Pressure Off," is an acknowledgement of two topics on every clinician's mind: how to reduce the prevalence and incidence of pressure ulcers, and how to reduce pressure in the work environment. With this in mind, the Organizing Committee has invited special guests Elizabeth Ayello, past president of the National Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel (NPUAP) and Barbara Braden, co-developer of the Braden Scale, to be part of the panel that discusses the "Launch of Pressure Ulcer Awareness," a topic of essential interest to all wound-care clinicians (see page 63 for more information on the CAWC's Pressure Ulcer Awareness Pilot Program).

Keynote speaker Dr. Marla Shapiro will deliver an inspirational presentation entitled "Work, Family and Self" that will help audience members balance work and family demands while maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

To provide a diversified program for improving practice in a format that gives attendees structured choice, each of the conference's four major streams has been designed to be a mini symposium within the larger conference format. Attendees may choose to attend all of the sessions in one stream or move between the streams, depending on each individual's particular needs. The four streams are

- Foundations in Wound Care: for the beginning clinician, to lay the groundwork for the fundamentals of wound care
- Research Topics: what's new in evidence-based wound care



- Clinical Topics: challenging issues that are encountered in everyday practice
- Health Service Delivery: practitioner and patient education, the use of validated tools and the growing complexity of health-care delivery affecting our practice

Within the four-stream format, topics will range from updated favourites to all-new presentations on

- Special needs of Aboriginal populations
- Bacteriology 101
- Interprofessional education for collaborative patient-centred practice
- Hyperbaric oxygen treatment
- Limb salvage—new vascular surgery techniques
- The basic science of growth factors
- Pressure ulcers as quality indicators
- Pressure reduction/relief surfaces—new thinking about the evidence
- Psychosocial aspects of living with wounds
- Bariatric complexities and effects on the health-care system
- and more!

Two new post-conference workshops will also be offered:

- So Glad You Asked: A Case Study Discussion Workshop
- Nutrition and Wound Healing

A series of great social activities will complement the main sessions, ensuring something not only for the mind but also for the heart and soul, including

- the President's Banquet, which will kick off with a cocktail reception followed by a celebration featuring a delicious dinner with wine, a great live band, dancing, prizes, award presentations and more
- for first-time attendees, a special CAWC reception that will provide an opportunity to meet CAWC board members, buddy-up with other first-timers, and get some great insider information on how to make the CAWC conference experience meaningful, productive and fun!

The conference will take place November 16-19, 2006, at the Ottawa Congress Centre in Ottawa. For more information and to register online, please visit www.cawc.net.

S-Series 2007

The CAWC will be offering two S-Series sessions in 2007: (1) in Kelowna, British Columbia, at the Grand Okanagan Resort, March 23-24, and (2) in Halifax, Nova Scotia, date and place to be announced. Visit the CAWC Web site at www.cawc.net for updates and online registration.

Scholarships Help Advance Practice

The following are excerpts from letters written by the recipients of the 2005 CAWC scholarships, outlining how the courses they have taken or the research they are doing is advancing their practice. To learn more about the benefits of receiving a CAWC scholarship, visit the CAWC Web site (click on the Scholarships link in the left-hand menu) to read all the letters in their entirety.

From Dr. Warren Rottman Educational Scholarship recipient **Lyla Reichart**: "This course [International Interdisciplinary (now Interprofessional) Wound Care Course (IIWCC)] has most certainly advanced my practice, and in turn has allowed me to pass along the knowledge I have gained to my patients. The opportunity to educate and enhance the wound-care practice of fellow nurses has been very rewarding as well."

From T.J. Smith Global Wound Academy Award co-recipient **Kimberly LeBlanc**: "The knowledge gained during this process has been very valuable over the past few months as I have been working with a group of physicians in Ottawa to establish an ambulatory wound-care clinic."

From T.J. Smith Global Wound Academy Award co-recipient **Marjorie Fierheller**: "This research project involves an investigation into the relationship between increased peri-wound skin temperature and localized wound infection in patients with chronic non-arterial leg ulcers. It is hoped that enough data can be generated to support the use of infrared thermometry in routine clinical assessment of chronic leg wounds."

From Cathy Harley Educational Grant (in memory of Aldora Harder and Cathy Foster) recipient **Karen Barratt**: "Not only has the course [IIWCC] advanced my competency and practice confidence in skin and wound care, but it has also provided me with a wonderful network of wound-care practitioners and other resources that I can access for advice or to help me problem-solve or find answers for difficult wound situations."

Tendra Wound Care Educational Scholarship [now called the Mölnlycke Health Care Educational Scholarship] recipient **Kevin Woo**: "The study I am conducting is titled 'Pain during dressing change: How does attachment style affect pain in older adults?' The finding of this study may inform us of the importance of the psychosocial environment where pain is experienced, interpreted, and expressed."

Elise Sørensen Award recipient **Nancy Giles-McIntosh**: "This course [IIWCC] was so valuable for me ... with regards to learning current therapies. It has also given me much more confidence and credibility when dealing with my peers and wound-care issues in the critical-care setting."

From CAWC Research Award recipient **Carla Wells**: "In my study, I am speaking to patients who have a diabetic foot ulcer to learn about their experience caring for and living with their ulcer ... I anticipate completing interviews by December 2006, and I hope to have the analysis and writing completed in 2007."

Heather L. Orsted Scholarship for Team Development recipients **Barbara Shanks** and **Jennie Hollings**: "Our selective [in the IIWCC course] 'Pressure Ulcers-Awareness, Prevention, Education and Management' is an education-based initiative to improve practice. Our group is one of five pilot sites selected by the CAWC to test materials, delivery and outcomes of a campaign to decrease pressure ulcers."

CAWC Online Discussion Forum Is Better than Ever!

Over the past several months the online CAWC Discussion Forum has been invaded by hackers in the form of automatic programs called "crawlers." These programs crawl across the Internet looking for bulletin boards and then post inappropriate messages. The programs play no favourites, and all bulletin boards, including the CAWC Discussion Forum, can be victimized. It took us a couple of months to come up with what we hope is a permanent fix, but we think we have solved the problem.

If you haven't visited the discussion forum lately, please do. It is a vibrant, living space that facilitates the exchange of ideas and information between wound-care clinicians across the country. Just go to the CAWC Web site at www.cawc.net and click on the Discussion Forum link in the left-hand menu.



Technology Update

To serve members better, the CAWC has moved more of its systems online. Now you can apply for scholarships by filling out online forms, submit conference poster abstracts, and register for all CAWC events. For most people, online submissions provide an easy way to get business done at any time of the day, any day of the week, from a computer at home, work or even the public library!