

Leg Club news November 2009-11-02

The Lindsay Leg Club Foundation representing 5000 Leg Club members has been a member of the Medical Technology Group (MTG) since 2006. The MTG is a coalition of patient groups, research charities and medical device manufacturers working to improve access to medical technologies for everyone who needs them. Once again we exhibited at the annual MTG parliamentary showcase held in October, an event providing great opportunity to outline the benefits of the Leg Club Model and the work of the Leg Clubs. The afternoon was a great success, with many parliamentarians attending. Along with our Patron, Baroness Masham of Ilton, we met and discussed the work of Leg Clubs with MPs, the Deputy Speaker Sir Alan Haselhurst and a number of Conservative and cross-bench peers with an interest in health. The event gave parliamentarians of all parties the chance to learn more about a wide range of technologies that can help to improve patient experiences and outcomes. Guests took part in health checks and demonstrations including blood pressure monitoring, Doppler Vascular Assist and an explanation and examples of modern day Compression Hosiery.



Changes within the Leg Club Foundation

Trustees of the Lindsay Leg Club Foundation have paid tribute to Leg Club founder Ellie Lindsay as she is made its lifetime president. Having stepped down as chief executive in October. Helen Scott, the foundation's longest-serving trustee said that without her there would be no Leg Clubs and no Foundation. The new chief executive is Dr Michael Clark, a consultant and professional adviser to the Tissue Viability Society who has a wealth of experience in leg ulcer management. His appointment comes at a time when the Leg Club Foundation is poised to meet the challenges faced by commissioners and has gained recognition within the Department of Health. Although Ellie has stepped down as CEO she will remain a Trustee and consultant to the Foundation board.

Leg Club Conference “Meeting the challenges of complex wounds: a partnership approach” and Volunteer Awards

The opportunity to attend a conference which is related to one's own specific area of speciality is always greeted with enthusiasm, and it does not seem possible that a year has gone by since reporting our 2008 event! The two day conference was again held at Worcester with nurses travelling from as far afield as Wales and Scotland. The Mayor of Worcester spent time meeting exhibitors and delegates before performing the official opening. The first day comprised seven workshops led by renowned experts in the field of wound care. The workshops were specifically designed to be interactive and thought provoking, stimulating debate on issues relating to wound pain, non-surgical debridement, living with chronic oedema, nutrition and its importance in the role of complex wound management, involving & empowerment of patients, issues of the diabetic foot and best practice relating to wound management.

The popular biannual Leg Club Forum meeting concluded the first day's proceedings.

Following an exhausting agenda, the third Leg Club Gala Charity Dinner provided attendees with the opportunity to relax and socialise. We were privileged to have Professor Roger Greenhalgh, Emeritus Professor of Surgery, Head of Imperial College Vascular Surgery Research Group as our after-dinner speaker. It was clear from the feedback that everyone had an enjoyable evening (photos on www.legclub.org) and the event raised significant funds for the Foundation charity.

The ethos of the Leg Club model is only possible with the help of community volunteers. The Volunteers Awards exist to highlight and celebrate this group of people whose sterling work keeps their Clubs thriving and who do so with no reward or personal gain. Finalists were chosen after a rigorous selection process by an independent international team of assessors who are experts in the field of the Leg Club service delivery. The judges were looking for examples of innovative team working and the ability to motivate and inspire fellow volunteers, members and their communities. Everyone was delighted when Foundation Patrons Professor Christine Moffatt CBE and Mr Alistair McInnes announced joint winners Speyside and Worcester and runners-up Mablethorpe and Sutton on Sea.

On day two proceedings were officially opened by Professor Christine Moffatt CBE and commenced with Irene Anderson (Senior Lecturer, University of Hertfordshire) presenting on Concordance and Compliance followed by Jacqui Fletcher, (Principal Lecturer, University of Hertfordshire) discussing issues relating to surgical debridement. Following coffee and exhibition viewing, Ed Rusling (Director, Wounds UK) gave an emotional talk on his lived experience of an emergency hospital admission, major surgery and the reality of living with a wound – a presentation that undoubtedly led many delegates to reflect on our caring profession. This was followed by Jackie Griffiths (TVN, Powys) presenting on the importance on an holistic approach when conformed with complex wounds.

The afternoon gave attendees an insight into the importance of our NMC Code. Trudie Young (Senior Lecturer, Bangor University and Expert Witness) examined the legal aspects when the nurse is confronted by litigation. Social Enterprise is currently topical with the Department of Health and an overview of what it means in the Primary Care sector was provided by Mo Girach, Business Strategist and Special Advisor to the NHS Alliance. The conference was brought to a close by Jackie Stephen-Haynes (Consultant Nurse and Senior Lecturer, Worcester University). Jackie spoke about the importance of communication and the words patients use, and its impact on care delivery from a patients perspective.

The concurrent Healthcare Exhibition was extremely busy throughout the two days and the final tea break of the conference saw the cutting of a delicious celebratory Leg Club cake (kindly made & donated by our Leg Club resident cake maker and volunteer Valerie Westwood) by Dr Michael Clark CEO. A cheerful buzz was evident throughout the conference and with commendable (unconditional) support from the Foundations Corporate Health Care Partners, international speakers and colleagues the conference was an overwhelming success.

Ensure your 2010 diary has our conference dates booked for 29th and 30th September at Worcester Rugby Club.