

Press Release

For immediate release
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Lindsay Leg Club Foundation agrees charity partnership with RAFT

The Lindsay Leg Club Foundation has agreed a charity partnership with The Restoration of Appearance and Function Trust (RAFT). The partnership will see the two charities combine their strengths with the ultimate aim of providing a better quality of life for patients with leg ulcers.

RAFT is an independent charity carrying out pioneering research into practical and affordable ways to save and repair skin. It is currently working on taking 'Smart Matrix', an artificial skin scaffold, to patient trial by the end of 2011.

Leonor Stjepic, chief executive of RAFT said: "RAFT has successfully developed a material known as Smart Matrix to be used by surgeons to rebuild skin in clean wounds, i.e. following surgery. We all heal less well with age and relatively minor injuries can develop into chronic ulcers, which become life threatening. These wounds present major clinical challenges as the threat of fluid loss and overwhelming infection continues until the wounds are healed. We share the same goal as the Lindsay Leg Club Foundation of improving the lives of people who suffer from ulcers, and we are very excited to be working with the Foundation."

Ellie Lindsay, founder and lifetime president of the Lindsay Leg Club Foundation introduced the concept of community-based leg ulcer care, which has grown into a network of evidence-based leg ulcer clinics, known as Leg Clubs. Leg Clubs provide community-based treatment, health promotion, education and ongoing care for people of all ages who are experiencing leg-related problems. "I'm sure that we can accomplish a great deal by working closely with RAFT. We share a responsibility to improving the lives of people who suffer with leg ulcers," she said.

Notes to editors:

1) Leg ulcers (and other chronic leg problems like lymphoedema) can affect people at any age, but are particularly common in people over 60. At present, over 80 per cent of all leg ulcers are treated in patients' own homes by district nurses or by practice nurses in GP surgeries. However, patients often find it difficult to adhere to treatment plans, or to maintain the preventive measures needed to avert recurrence of the ulcer. Many leg ulcers consequently reoccur, or remain unhealed for many months or even years.

2) The Lindsay Leg Club Foundation exists to promote the national development of Leg Clubs. The Foundation also provides the necessary support and training for nurses to establish Leg Clubs and follow the Foundation's guidelines, as well as ongoing training in new developments in leg care.

3) The Leg Club is an innovative model of care that has been shown to improve the health and wellbeing of people with chronic leg conditions. By healing chronic leg wounds and keeping them healed, Leg Clubs also have the potential to save commissioners up to 80 per cent of their wound care budget in comparison with conventional leg ulcer treatment. A Leg Club is a local partnership between community nurses, patients and members of the community. Run by a committee of members and local people, each Leg Club operates according to strict guidelines of care, monitored by the Lindsay Leg Club Foundation. The Leg Club title, the wording and logo are protected by Registered Trade Mark in the UK and Australia.

4) RAFT stands for the Restoration of Appearance and Function Trust - an independent registered charity carrying out pioneering research into practical and affordable ways to save and repair skin. Around the world, the lives of thousands of people are affected by skin disfiguring illnesses and damage such as burns, wounds, limb amputations and skin cancer. RAFT is here to help them. Research is at the heart of what the charity does.

For further information about the Leg Club Foundation and Leg Clubs visit:

www.legclub.org

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