

Leg Club News – August 2009

Dr Stanley Allen, 1930-2009

We have witnessed many changes in wound management education over the past four decades, and a current emphasis on nurses attaining an in-depth understanding of both theoretical and practical aspects. In 1994 I was privileged to obtain educational sponsorship to further my education by undertaking a four month training programme in leg ulcer management at the Battersea Central Mission leg ulcer clinic. Working alongside Dr Allen and his devoted team of volunteers, I witnessed unfailing commitment and enthusiasm towards their patients, colleagues and visiting nurses.

Dr Stanley Allen, an entrepreneurial GP based in London, introduced his weekly leg ulcer clinic at Battersea in 1964, a 'drop in' centre in a non-medical environment. His dedicated group of nurse volunteers was led by Pamela Evans, a DN committed to disseminating her knowledge and expertise whilst delivering effective wound management for all patients experiencing leg ulcers and chronic lower limb oedema. Between them, the team established education programmes for nurses, and their work was disseminated through publications. Records show that, between 1964 and 2000, 8,000 nurses attended this unique clinic for practical and theoretical training. In addition, Dr Allen and Miss Evans participated in presenting lectures to a total exceeding 30,000 nurses at study days around the UK.

For 40 years a Director of the Battersea Central Mission leg ulcer clinic, Dr Allen was a founder member of the Venous Forum, Royal Society of Medicine and in 1970 became a champion advocating Specialist Nurses. In 1994 he was made a Freeman of the City of London, and in 1975 was appointed clinical assistant at St James Hospital, Wandsworth and St Georges Hospital, Tooting.

Through his dedication and example I was inspired to take Dr Allan's social patient centred approach to holistic wound care into my community nursing practice. The concept of the 'Leg Club model' was born.

Leg Club news:

Forging links with the Patients Association:

There is generally strength in numbers and charities would do well to take this to heart, especially when the hard financial times hit. The Network for Patients met for its inaugural meeting in May in London led by the Patients Association (www.patients-association.com). The Leg Club Foundation, alongside 24 other charities, showed their determination to work together to generate the most influential voice possible wherever and whenever the decisions that affect patients are being made. There was enthusiastic agreement to meet again and work on behalf of their members, while retaining each organisation's autonomy, and to do so in the most efficient and effective way. The next meeting is already in everyone's diary.

New Leg Club opens in Wales.

After intensive planning based around the lambing session, the doors have opened to Knighton and Presteigne Leg Club. This is the latest Leg Club in Wales which takes the total number now open in the country to five. Leg Clubs are currently running in Blaenau Gwent, Llandrindod Wells & Builth Wells, Blaenavon and Llansantffraid. Tissue Viability Nurse Jackie Griffin is pleased to be involved with this initiative and others in North Powys. She is able to use the Leg Clubs as centers of excellence, ensuring local Health Board competencies in wound management, bandaging and undertaking Ankle Brachial Pressure Recording.

Foundation Awards

In June the Leg Club Foundation was delighted to receive recognition as a finalist at the HealthInvestor Awards 2009, for its work relating to Public Health. The ceremony was held at the Park Lane Hilton, with after dinner speaker Michael Portillo presenting the winners' awards. Also in June, the Wounds UK Awards ceremony took place at Tatton Park, Manchester. Following a formal dinner with over 300 guests, awards were presented in over 10 categories. The Foundation Trustees were delighted to receive a highly commended award in the 'Innovation in Patient Care' category for the work the charity has undertaken relating to patient centered care. We were delighted and proud to stand alongside the well deserved, overall winner Kath Vowden, TVN Consultant.



Leg Club conference

Work is well underway for this year's Leg Club conference, again with our eminent Patrons and international speakers. The 9th annual conference will be officially opened by the Mayor of Worcester and takes place on 30th September & 1st October at the Worcester Rugby Club. The two day conference event for nurses at the frontline of patient care will include a full day of interactive workshops on the first day.

More details of the Leg Club conference will be placed in relevant journals and on the Foundation website www.legclub.org or contact Lynn Bullock for details 01473 749565 or email lynn@legclubfoundation.com