

Attending the EWMA conference



JANE BANWELL
District Nurse Team Leader
Llanfyllin Group Practice Powys

The Llansanffraidd Leg Club, which was set up 6 years ago, aims to access new ideas and research within the wound care arena and introduce these into the Leg Club model. For this reason, I successfully applied for a Leg Club Industry Partners Educational Award to attend the European Wound Management Association (EWMA) Conference in Madrid in May. I gave the following tangible positive outcomes in my application:

- ▶ Patient feedback
- ▶ Continuing service provision by introducing new, sustainable initiatives within the present NHS landscape
- ▶ Ensuring members' voices were heard and their wellbeing maintained within the Leg Club service in the community.

THE EDUCATIONAL AWARD

The Leg Club Industry Partners Educational Award is a new initiative between Leg Club Industry Partners and the Leg Club Foundation. All nurses working in Leg Clubs can apply for this award (details of the 2015 award will appear on the Lindsay Leg Club Foundation website). The experience and knowledge gained from attending meetings with the assistance of an award is considerable and I would like to thank the supporters of the award for enabling me to attend the EWMA conference.

THE MEETING

The conference's theme was 'Innovation, know-how and technology in wound care' and it was dedicated to sharing and debating the latest knowledge and developments in wound care management. The diverse programme included keynote sessions, free paper sessions, workshops, full-day streams, guest sessions, sponsored satellite symposia, poster presentations and exhibitor stands. Many of the sessions I attended encompassed healthcare systems in Europe, the challenges of ageing populations and increased numbers of people living with chronic conditions with the concomitant need to optimise wound care via innovative procedures and practices.

Exhibitor stands provide a plethora of information concerning wound management that is beneficial to our role. This information is given in many formats, and there are educational gains that can benefit patient care. Industries launched many new products at the conference. By attending the symposia I was able to evaluate these products and their use in my practice. In these cases I found discussing the products' advantages and disadvantages with Natalie Freeman, a fellow Leg Club member who also attended the conference, extremely useful. Many of the symposia included practice in other countries that was already utilised within our day-to-day work. It was enlightening to find other countries have similar problems in areas such as compliance, financial concerns and sustainability.

As a strong advocate of working with the patient in managing their care, it was good to attend a session discussing patient perspectives and how non-healing wounds impact quality of life to a degree comparable with other major diseases, such as coronary heart disease. This subject linked in well with the Leg Club model. The Leg Club model is a cost-effective way of managing wounds that not only educates members/patients to be proactive rather than reactive in wound management, but also emphasises the importance of social interaction and healing outcomes.

Many challenges are ongoing within the present healthcare system, as was expressed in many of the conference discussions. There will always be challenges in the management of leg wounds, but by constantly exploring new ways of managing these problems we will be able to produce positive outcomes for the patient.

POSTER PRESENTATION

As part of my scholarship to attend EWMA, I am submitting a poster presentation at Wound UK 2014 in Harrogate. The poster shares the development and ongoing initiatives of the Leg Club in Llansanffraidd, some of which have been instigated as a direct result of attending the EWMA conference and implementing new initiatives using the knowledge I have gained. [WUK](#)