Reflection: navigation for continuous improvement

As 2017 came to a close, I reflected on the past year and deliberated on what we aimed to achieve as a Foundation over the next 12 months. I acknowledged that the past year has given us, as a Foundation board, a number of memorable messages.

This has enabled us to introduce new governance policies, which are the framework of any good organisation. However, having a code or the right governance practices in place is not enough in itself—action and behaviour in line with these codes and practices are the basis of good foundation governance. Continuous improvements, transformation and better practice through 2018 can come only from the eclectic mix of personalities around the boardroom table.

The past year had been an extremely important one for the Lindsay Leg Club Foundation (LLCF) as it continues to adapt to support the steady increase in the number of Leg Clubs internationally and provide education and research on leg health and treatment to clinical teams and the public. The board of trustees have also seen the emergence of Leg Clubs that have been started by GP commissioning groups; these clubs have great resources and innovative ways of involving members in a variety of activities that promote our social model of care.

As one of our charity objects, public information has been a priority. This was achieved through the outstanding support of our Foundation's Leg Club Industry Partners (LCIPs). We have been able to produce a raft of high-quality documents on leg ulcer treatment and prevention that we share with the public and wound care community as a whole; some of these can be found on our website: www.legclub.org.

Legs Matter campaign

The LLCF is proud to be part of a coalition campaign, Legs Matter, organised and driven by the Tissue Viability Society (TVS). The role of this campaign is to raise awareness of vascular disease relating to conditions of the lower limb, and this will be part of a permanent and interactive communication. More information is anticipated to be available on the Leg Club website during the TVS conference in April.

Parliamentary showcase

MPs, healthcare professionals and patients join the MTG at House of Commons

Helen Whately MP hosted Medical Technology Group members and more than 150 parliamentarians, healthcare professionals, patient and Leg Club member representatives at a reception on the terrace at the House of Commons in November. This was one of several activities that took place during the fifth annual Medical Technology Week (27 November to 1 December).

The theme in 2017 was the economic and social value of medical technology. The MTG's report, *Keeping Britain Working: How Medical Technology Can Help Reduce the Cost of Ill Health to the UK Economy*, which was distributed at the MTG showcase

Figure 1. Laura Talbot, Staff Nurse; Professor Mark Whiteley, Vascular Consultant; the Whiteley Clinic; Ellie Lindsay OBE, Founder and Life President, Lindsay Leg Club Foundation; Liz Grogan, Infection Control Specialist; Dr David Foster, LLCF Chair; Mary-Rose Fawkes BEM; Patron John Fawkes' Lynn Bullock, PA, LLCF; at the back: Alan Tromans, Leg Club volunteer

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at the House of Commons, explains and analyses the opportunity to reduce long-term health costs and benefit payments through greater use of medical technology devices in the NHS. Guests were able to examine a range of technologies and listen to presentations from four people whose lives had been transformed through technology (*Figure 1*).

Opening the event, MTG chair Barbara Harpham highlighted the £476 million in savings that the NHS could make through greater adoption of just eight patient technologies. The number is calculated from reduced NHS costs through shorter hospital stays and less patient dependency, and from lower benefit payments as patients would be able to return to work more quickly. It does not include the far greater economic and social value of having people back in work paying taxes or being active members of their communities.

Helen Whately MP, whose father was involved in the early days of keyhole surgery, spoke about the revolution that these procedures had led to in hospital efficiency:

> ***'It enabled people to have things done and out on the same day—things that used to involve people staying in hospital for the best part of a week. That change came from technology, and it allows us to make better use of all the resources and taxpayers' money that we put into healthcare today and in the future.'***

The next four speakers illustrated the incredible impact that medical technology has had on real lives. Whether helping to address morbid obesity or manage severe spinal damage, type 1 diabetes or cardiomyopathy, modern medical devices have transformed lives.

In her closing remarks, Barbara Harpham said getting people back to work and back to being a part of their local community was key: 'Not giving patients access to these lifesaving and life-reaffirming devices is simply a false economy for the NHS.'

Fantastic fundraiser

An LLCF fundraiser has collected more than £500 in donations after tackling and completing the gruelling Tough Mudder obstacle course last September. Toby Cobbledick, a product manager for Mölnlycke, undertook the 11-mile mud and obstacle course, which is described as 'not for the faint hearted and probably the toughest event on the planet', designed to test all-round strength, stamina, teamwork, and mental as well as physical strength and grit.

Toby Cobbledick became aware of the LLCF and the Leg Club model of care during Mölnlycke's time as an LCIP. He was so impressed by the achievements of Leg Clubs that he contacted the LLCF to ask if he could fundraise for it on a personal level.

Fundraiser Toby Cobbledick took part in the 'toughest event on the planet'

Two new patrons add their support

The LLCF is delighted to welcome two new patrons who have joined its team of supporters. Sir Muir Gray CBE, who is working with NHS England and Public Health England, and Professor Keith Harding CBE, Dean of Clinical Innovation at Cardiff University and Medical Director of the Welsh Wound Initiative, have offered to share their knowledge, expertise and time to assist the LLCF with its ongoing commitment to provide holistic lower limb care.

Sir Muir Gray entered public health service by joining the City of Oxford Health Department in 1972. He has worked on the development of NHS screening programmes, NHS Choices, the NHS RightCare programme and is the chief knowledge officer of the NHS in England. He is working with both NHS England and Public Health England to transform care with the aim of increasing value for populations and individuals.

Professor Keith Harding CBE is passionate about wound care, whether this involves innovation, research or application to practice, and is head of the Wound Healing Research Unit at Cardiff University's School of Medicine. He is also editor-in-chief of the *International Wound Journal*.

Sir Muir Gray and Professor Keith Harding CBE's values, experience and knowledge make their endorsement of the LLCF particularly significant.

CWC

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Annual Leg Club Conference
The Challenge of Improving Practice in Wound Management
26 and 27 September 2018

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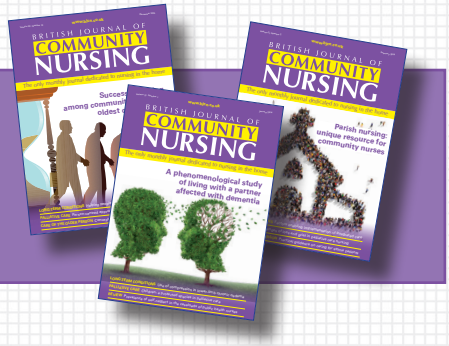

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