



## **Press Release**

For immediate release

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### **Lindsay Leg Club Foundation forms partnership with renowned phlebologist**

The Lindsay Leg Club Foundation is to form a working partnership with Professor Sergio Giancesini, internationally renowned phlebologist and President of the vWIN Foundation (Venous-lymphatics World International Network) with the aim of helping patients with lower limb conditions to achieve a better quality of life.

As well as being the founder and president of the vWIN Foundation, Professor Sergio Giancesini is vice president of the International Union of Phlebology, on the American College of Phlebology board of directors, adjunct professor at the University of Ferrara and a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons.

Ellie Lindsay OBE, founder and lifetime president of the Lindsay Leg Club Foundation introduced the concept of community-based lower limb care, which has grown into a network of evidence-based 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 lower limb conditions.

Ellie said: "We are delighted to form this collaborative partnership with Professor Sergio Giancesini and the vWIN Foundation. Over the past two years Professor Giancesini has become a fantastic advocate of the Leg Club model of care and takes

every opportunity to profile and promote both the model and our third sector charity. I'm sure that we can accomplish a great deal by working closely with the vWIN Foundation.”

Ellie recently had the opportunity to present the work of the psychosocial Leg Club model for lower limb care to an audience of phlebologists at the vWIN Foundation vWINter international meeting in Phlebology, Lymphology and Aesthetic event held in January 2019 in the Italian Alps, gathering together the most renowned experts of the field from more than 40 countries around the globe. The not-for-profit meeting aimed to analyse the different continents guidelines in venous and lymphatic disease management, paving the way for an intercontinental scientific teamwork in future homogeneous updates of the same recommendations. A summary document of this analysis will be available from September 2019. The meeting also focused on raising public health awareness and patient involvement.

Professor Giancesini has been invited to attend the 2019 Leg Club conference this September in Worcester and will be an active participant for the big celebration of 20 years of Leg Clubs and the LLCF at the 2020 conference.

Professor Giancesini said: “It is a true pleasure and honour for the vWIN Foundation to work in collaboration with the Lindsay Leg Club Foundation. Leg Clubs have been pioneering in showing the value of co-working with patients and the community to achieve their active involvement in the management of lower limb conditions. Currently, up to 69% of leg ulcers recur and the work of organisations like the LLCF represents an example of the road to follow to improve this data”.

## **ENDS**

### **Notes to editors:**

- 1) Problems of the lower limb, 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, individuals often find it difficult to adhere to treatment plans, or to maintain the preventive measures needed to avert recurrence

of lower limb problems or their leg 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 psychosocial Leg Club model for lower limb care is an innovative model that has been shown to improve the health and wellbeing of people with chronic lower limb 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 lower limb treatment. A Leg Club is a local partnership between practice and community nurses, patients and members of the community. Run by a committee of volunteers, 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.

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

[www.legclub.org](http://www.legclub.org)

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