



## Press Release

For immediate release

29<sup>th</sup> June 2021

### **Italy opens its first Leg Club**

Pisa in Italy is set to be the home of the country's first Leg Club, following the successful establishment of the Leg Club model of Care in the UK, Germany, Finland, and Australia. The i Cappuccini Leg Club, which was launched on 25th June 2021, aims to help people with rehabilitation and recovery from lower limb wounds, as well as reducing the social isolation that accompanies such conditions.

The Leg Club in Pisa will follow the award-winning Leg Club model founded by former district nurse Ellie Lindsay OBE and offers holistic treatment in a non-medical setting through a partnership of nurses, members (patients) and volunteers of the third sector and local community.

It is hoped that the i Cappuccini Leg Club will encourage its members to care for their own well-being, reduce their social isolation and promote wound care and prevention resulting in cost savings for the local health economy by reducing the number of hospital days and health centre visits by those with lower limb conditions.

Opening a Leg Club in Italy has been a long-held ambition of Professor Marco Romanelli, Consultant Dermatologist and Full Professor of Dermatology and Chairman of the Dermatology Unit at the University of Pisa, Italy. Professor Romanelli, who is also the Past President of the World Union of Wound Healing Societies (WUWHS) and a Patron of The Lindsay Leg Club Foundation, has been the driving force behind the opening of i Cappuccini Leg Club along with Leg Club Lead Giulia Davini.

Ellie Lindsay OBE, Lifetime President, The Lindsay Leg Club Foundation said: “The introduction of the Pisa psychosocial Leg Club model has been achieved through the commitment and motivation of clinicians and the community in Pisa working together. I would like to express my sincere thanks to Professor Marco Romanelli, Giulia Davini and the clinical team for their time and commitment to opening the first Italian non-medical social Leg Club in Italy.”

**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 the individuals’ own homes by district nurses or by practice nurses in GP surgeries. However, people 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 and foot conditions. The Leg Club is an innovative model of care that has been shown to improve the health and wellbeing of people with chronic leg and foot conditions. Recent findings from Leg Club data analysis have identified that potential savings could be made by healthcare providers in relation to their wound care budget. A Leg Club is a local partnership between practice and community nurses, patients and 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 Trademark 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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