

# Lindsay Leg Club Foundation



Foundation president Ellie Lindsay has been speaking at a number of international conferences over the winter to raise awareness of wound care and the Leg Club model. First stop was the 20th IAGG World Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics in Seoul, South Korea, raising awareness of wound care in the older population. The conference included representatives from Canada, Japan and Australia. Ellie's presentation focused on changing policy and practice to empower older people living with chronic wounds and the benefits of the psychosocial Leg Club model. Other presentations demonstrated how a combination of biological and psychosocial approaches is required to tackle complex wound management in older people in order to alleviate personal suffering and the financial burden it places on national health-care systems.

In Australia, Sydney Adventist Hospital (SAH) convened its inaugural wound management conference, with over 250 delegates attending the event entitled ... *And now for something completely different*. The Monty Python-inspired conference title had a 'you asked—we answered' agenda, with content drawn from questions that had been asked at over 3 years' worth of wound care programmes and seminar evaluations. Ellie gave two presentations at the conference, which was organised by the SAH education team and Gary Bain (Clinical Nurse Consultant in Wound Management) who acted as the wound conference convenor.

The first presentation was on the psychosocial approach of the Leg Club model and its positive impact on leg ulcer healing, recurrence rates and reintegration of isolated older people into communities. Her second presentation addressed a survey of motorcyclists which found that bike ride position may be a contributory factor to the development of lower limb venous disease. Conference delegate evaluations indicated that each attendee gained information that they could immediately utilise in their own clinical practice. The success of the conference has led to plans for the SAH Wound Conference to be a biannual event, with the next meeting due in 2015.

## Patient wellbeing: implementation in a social environment

Two Lindsay Leg Club Foundation (LLCF) trustees, Roland Renyi and Dr Robert Bawden, received the Urgo Foundation grant for 2012/13 which enabled them to undertake an ambitious plan to identify levels of wellbeing among Leg Club members. Working alongside Professor Dominic Upton and Dr Penney Upton from the University of Worcester, the study investigated whether the Leg Club model of care has a positive effect on wellbeing,



Foundation president Ellie Lindsay (centre) with Gary Bain (left) and Mathew Dutton (right).

and aimed to develop a long-term plan for its improvement. Following encouraging outcomes from the initial literature study and a successful proposal to Urgo for further funding, the wellbeing project has been extended into 2014. The team are now in the final stages of the project.

## New chief executive

After 4 years as Foundation Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Professor Michael Clark stepped down at the end of 2013 to concentrate on his work with the Welsh Wound Innovation Initiative. Professor Clark will continue to work with the Foundation, providing assistance on research and audit data. He will also be the point of contact between the Foundation and the Welsh Wound Innovation Initiative, helping to support the eight Leg Clubs in Wales and grow their number over time.

Julie Carr has now been appointed as the Foundation's new CEO. Julie, a former registered general nurse, brings with her a keen interest in and sound knowledge of wound care following a long career in the medical sales market. Julie will have an excellent springboard to start her tenure as CEO since 2013 was a very successful year for the LLCF. The Foundation's 23rd Leg Club opened in Brentwood, Essex, and the first ever Leg Club to be commissioned by a clinical commissioning group was opened in Barnstaple thanks to the commitment, leadership and passion of Andrew Kingsley and Mark Elster from the North Devon Locality, Northern, Eastern & Western Devon Clinical Commissioning Group.

## Save the date

The 2014 Lindsay Leg Club Conference '*The 'ABC' of Wound Care: Assessment, Best Practice, Compassion*' will be held on the 24–25 September 2014 at Worcester Rugby Club. For more information, please contact Lynn Bullock, PO Box 689, Ipswich IP1 9BN. Alternatively, telephone +44 (0)1473 749565, fax +44 (0)1473 749565 or email [lynn@legclub.org](mailto:lynn@legclub.org).

## Ellie Lindsay

email: [ellie@legclubfoundation.com](mailto:ellie@legclubfoundation.com)

President, Lindsay Leg Club Foundation