

October 2007

Dear *Colleague*,

Firstly, I would like to introduce myself as the new Chair of the Wound Care Society and to advise you of what we will hope be an exciting new era for the Society.

I am currently employed at the University of Worcester as the Head of Continuing Professional Development in the Institute of Health, Social Care and Psychology. My background in Surgical Nursing has led to a keen interest in wound care and the need to ensure patients receive care based on the best evidence. I am proud and privileged to be the Chair of the Wound Care Society and I hope I can continue the work of my very able predecessors in moving the Society ever forward. This leads me to a proposal from the Wound Care Society's Board of Trustees that we hope will enthuse you in the way that it has us.

It is proposed that the WCS and the Tissue Viability Nurses Association (TVNA) are dissolved and a new Charity established that will build on the success of, and incorporate the values and ethos of the two current organisations into a united organisation, with charity status. The merger will give the newly formed body the opportunity to take the work of the existing organisations further with a stronger voice, larger membership and renewed vigour. Please indicate whether you support this proposal by completing and returning the voting form at the end of this letter.

If the memberships of both organisations agree to this way forward the objectives of the new charity will be as follows: ~

- Promote and further multi-disciplinary best practice in the prevention, treatment and management of wounds, through the provision of:
 - ❖ A members' network.
 - ❖ Educational resources.
 - ❖ Evidence-based guidelines.
 - ❖ A communication forum.
- Provide a professional voice for significant national and international tissue viability issues for key stakeholders in the speciality of tissue viability.
- To provide tissue viability professional support and development to both specialist and non-specialist practitioners.
- To provide user friendly tissue viability information and resources for the public.

The objectives will be achieved through: ~

- Website.
- Access to guidelines e.g. sharp debridement, Cellulitis.
- Open forum/Question and answers.
- Professional representation to Department of Health/NICE.
- Involvement of Your Turn Campaign.
- Information leaflets for the public.
- Progression of the 3M and WCS Essential Skin Care programme for Care Homes.
- Access to key speakers as a resource.
- Any other tissue viability related projects/campaigns that develop nationally.

To take the new organisation forward a transitional Board of Trustees will be established comprised of members from the existing board of WCS Trustees and the TVNA committee members. New members will be asked to join and within twelve months a new Executive Committee and Chair will be elected.

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Membership To The New Charity

All Registered Healthcare Professionals from the UK, from any field of activity, will be invited to join this non-commercial charitable organisation; this will include:

- those whose primary responsibility is the provision of tissue viability services or who have the lead responsibility for tissue viability issues within a Trust or other care giving organisation (e.g. independent sector).
- those with specific responsibility for education/research activities specifically related to tissue viability issues.

In addition, students will be particularly welcomed into the new organisation, as will patients/carers.

Membership Fees

It is intended that the membership fee will remain at £25.00 for registered healthcare professionals (£20 for on-line applications) and £15.00 for students.

Charity Name

The only area left to explore is the name of the new Charity. A few suggestions have been made as stated below. However, we would like to know your views and by way of incentive, we will issue the first five respondents via our web site (www.woundcaresociety.com) and the first five via our Freepost address (Wound Care Society, FREEPOST ANG3200, PO Box 170, Hartford, Huntingdon, PE29 1BR) **A FULL SET OF WOUND CARE SOCIETY EDUCATIONAL BOOKLETS**. Proposed names currently are:

United Tissue Viability or Tissue Viability United
(meaning ~ joint, combined, amalgamated)

OR

Tissue Viability Alliance (coalition, agreement, partnership)

OR

Tissue Viability UK

OR

Care Of Wounds UK

OR

Care Of Wounds Society

On behalf of the Wound Care Society Board of Trustees, I hope you will be supportive of the emergence of the proposed new charitable organization that can only strengthen the position of healthcare professionals in respect of tissue viability issues whilst ensuring the best evidence based care for patients.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards.

Louise Toner

Louise Toner
Chairperson Wound Care Society



WOUND CARE SOCIETY VOTING FORM

From: Miss/Mrs/Ms/Mr _____
(BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE)

Address _____

_____ Post Code _____

I agree with the proposal detailed above (please tick) _____

I disagree with the proposal detailed above (please tick) _____

My preferred choice of name for the new charity would be
(Please tick only one)

United Tissue Viability _____

Tissue Viability United _____

Tissue Viability Alliance _____

Tissue Viability UK _____

Care Of Wounds UK _____

Care Of Wounds Society _____

Thank You!

Please Return To: Wound Care Society. FREEPOST ANG3200,
PO Box 170, Hartford, Huntingdon, PE29 1BR

Replies by Friday 30th November 2007 would be appreciated.

Wound Care Society Registered Charity Number: 1013304