ELSEVIER

EDITORIAL

Letter from the Chair

Dear Fellows of the College:

I thank you, the members, who have given me this opportunity to serve as the chair. I want to thank my colleagues on the board of ACCWS and on various committees for guiding me at every step of the way during my involvement with ACCWS over the past 5 years. I also want to thank Dr Aimee Garcia, past chair, who worked hard to bring direction to our College, which, under her leadership, opened doors to all the wound specialists who provide a great service to our community by enabling them to become fellows. I invite all of you to take this opportunity to get involved.

This year, our board has officially approved the new name of this organization, the name that will rightly reflect and represent all of us: American College of Clinical Wound Specialists.

With your active involvement, I would like to embark on a journey, a journey that will require us to embrace changes and to think and act in different ways. I would like to begin this journey with you to travel beyond the map our leaders have traveled, laying a path that makes it easier for us to navigate. We have started to step farther, one step at a time, making new paths.

My agenda for this year is long, but 3 things are at the top.

1. As I was planning my year in office, I traveled extensively, meeting members of our wound care community. There is a desire and a thirst at the grassroots level for more involvement. Our membership in the past year has increased tremendously, and we will continue to improve our membership in the upcoming years. Even greater effort will go into engaging the wound care community. "ACCWS connects the wound care community" is the slogan. We do not want the slogan to be just words. Our collective active participation will put the slogan into action, so please be involved. ACCWS has shaped my professional and personal goals to evolve as a leader and to serve. The sky is the limit; join the journey.
2. With health care reform and changes in reimbursement, the wound care community needs to strengthen its advocacy arm and work closely with wound care alliance

groups to face some challenges together. We need our presence to be felt in Washington. We will continue to lobby in order to educate our legislators about the importance of our specialty and of proper reimbursement so that our specialty can continue to provide a great service to patients with chronic nonhealing wounds. When I started my wound care practice 15 years ago, wound care was not talked about much, patient care was fractured, and several of our patients received amputations. With the help of huge strides in education, research, and prevention, we, as experts in wound care, have been able to save limbs. We will continue to educate our health care community about the role of a wound care clinician in making an impact in saving limbs and preventing limb loss.

3. Education has always been a forefront mission of the College. ACCWS has made strides in Latin America by conducting multiple advanced wound care courses that were very well received. We will spread our wings to Asia, Africa, and Mexico in the coming years. Hospitals, nursing homes, long-term care facilities, and all interested entities can now take advantage of our Back 2 Basics and Advanced wound courses. More information about these courses can be found on our Web site. Let us spread the word.

I look forward to an exciting journey. I am excited that you will travel with me.

I would like to thank Tony McNevin, executive director, for his leadership this past year, his vision, and his friendship.

I will close by quoting Rabindranath Tagore: "I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and behold, service was joy."

I would like to wake up a year from now to realize that "service was joy."

Thank you.

*Jayesh B. Shah, MD, CWSP, FACCWS, FAPWCA, UHM, FACHM
Chair, American College of Clinical Wound Specialists*