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EDITORIAL

Letter from the Chair

Dear Fellows of the College:

Improvements to the College's Website has been a clear priority for the Board of Directors. Updates to the Leadership page as well as the addition of conference registration systems serves as a useful segue to explain to the membership what the Board has undertaken as a means of achieving its mission in wound care education.

The Board has focused its efforts in three main areas: 1) educational courses in Latin America; 2) the alignment of the *Journal of the American College of Clinical Wound Specialists* with the international journal *Wound Medicine*, and 3) the development of a corporate advisory board to provide the a forum for the leadership of the College and wound care industry to advance wound care through research and product development.

Educational courses in wound care have been given by ACCWS members in three Latin American countries: Brazil, Equator, and Colombia. Lee Ruotsi, MD, FACCWS of New York, Don Mrdjenovich, DPM, FACCWS, Altoona, PA, Jesse Cantu, RN, FACCWS San Antonio, TX, Tammy Luttrell, PhD, FACCWS and I donated our time and educational materials to the College so that a consistent and uniform approach to educating in wound care could be offered. The result of these combined efforts by the ACCWS members was the enhancement in wound care by over 400 professional in three countries. The responses from every event were overwhelming and extraordinarily positive. The College's Education Committee will now review the results of these presentations and tailor future efforts in Latin America for even better results.

The Journal of the American College of Clinical Wound Care Specialists is in the process of becoming an international journal combining both American and European contributors. Articles previously published in the Journal of the American College of Wound Care Specialists will be indexed in Pub Med Central. This important achievement is the result of the tireless efforts of the editor in chief Richard Simman, MD, FACS, FACCWS and Elsevier. The Journal is key to our success as an organization because it reflects

the College's contributions to wound care education. The concept of 'publish or perish' could not be more germane, for without continued supply of articles from the membership, the College's role as an educator is weakened. I would ask all members of the College to contribute to the Journal. Whether it be a case report, a review of a treatment or a clinical research project in which you have been involved, please consider submitting it to the Journal for publication.

The explosion in the interest and in the treatment of non-healing wounds has been advanced by the scientific understanding of the healing a process and the development of interactive dressings by industry. Key to this process is the clinical trial. Any new product comes under the auspices of the Federal Drug Administration whose scrutiny is laborious, expensive and challenging to those who have had to navigate through this labyrinth. The recent change in reporting requirements for industry regarding payments to physicians has added yet another dimension to the interaction of industry and providers. The increased scrutiny will insure that clinical evidence is supporting the rationale behind the health care provider's treatment. There is no doubt that the burden of responsibility will fall on shoulder of the health care provider and the Federal Drug Administration will be one of the many governmental agencies looking over that shoulder. The purpose of the advisory board is to address this concern straight on where and have a transparency reveals the cost of clinical trials and the need for legitimate and logical reimbursement. Again, I would ask that all members of the College who has expertise or knowledge in these matters to get involved as there is strength in numbers.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all the members for supporting the College in all its endeavors.

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