

THE CHAIR OF THE WORLD UNION OF WOUND HEALING SOCIETIES DISCUSSES CONGRESS 2008 – ONE PROBLEM, ONE VOICE

Dr. Gary Sibbald, president-elect of the World Union of Wound Healing Societies (WUWHS) and chair of the third meeting, discusses the innovative structure of the meeting.

Q: What is unique and innovative about the third congress of the WUWHS?

GS: The organising principle of the Toronto 2008 meeting is the evaluation of the evidence base in wound care, which will be considered in the context of efficacy, efficiency and effectiveness to form a framework for best clinical practice. The synthesis of these three major pillars of evidence-informed practice will provide clinicians with a new and comprehensive way of reviewing their practice and ensuring their care is patient focused

Q: How does the scientific program support this innovative design?

GS: The scientific program is divided into streams that provide an in-depth review of a range of clinical problems. The keynote addresses will echo the importance of evidence and patient care. An expert panel will discuss the clinical significance of evidence-based medicine; Stephen Lewis will examine healthcare systems, advocacy and AIDS in Africa; and Marla Shapiro, MD, will focus on life/work balance and her own experiences. The closing plenary session will present highlights from each stream, and provide participants with a congress overview.

Toronto 2008 also takes a pioneering approach to evidence, choosing to evaluate evidence quality according to the type of information, from guidelines to preclinical data. This methodology allows a broader range of knowledge to be considered in developing a clinical strategy, and it is being used in the development of a comprehensive set of evidence-based summaries on all major topics in wound care. These summaries provide clinicians with rapid access to up-to-date practical information in a quick and easy Web-based format.

Q: To which healthcare professionals will this congress be of interest?

GS: Toronto 2008 is being hosted by the University of Toronto, with the active participation of the following co hosting groups: the Canadian Association of Wound Care, Canadian Association of Enterostomal Therapists, Registered Nurses Association of Ontario, National Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel, and American Professional Wound Care Association. The scientific program will be relevant to all clinicians irrespective of professional background, researchers, and teachers working in the field of wound healing and tissue repair caring for patients with wounds of all aetiologies.

Q: What's next for the WUWHS?

GS: Toronto 2008 is a key step in building the WUWHS as an international association. After the congress, we will focus on disseminating the educational toolkits developed at the meeting and sharing expertise between associations.

Register now to participate in this ground-breaking congress (www.wuwhs2008.com).