

## Editorial



You may have noticed that this issue of WHSA has come out unusually late in the year. This is because we have decided to convert the journal to an annual rather than a biannual journal. The new yearly issue will now be published shortly before the WHSA yearly conference, at which copies will be made available.

This decision was taken to provide the editorial team with a larger number of articles to choose from

and thereby increase the standard of articles that are published. It will not only improve the quality of the articles but also allow for a more substantial journal with more articles.

Journals, both locally and internationally, appear to be struggling to get articles reviewed. We are very excited to announce that we have successfully negotiated three ETHICS CPD points for every article a reviewer reviews. This is a momentous step forward because for many practitioners, ethics points are often in short supply.

In this issue, we have an interesting paper on an innovative form of sutures. These "electrically stimulating" sutures may herald the dawn of a new form of sutures that interact with tissues to allow for a myriad of useful functions.

There is a case series demonstrating the useful principle of external tissue expansion, using external, adjustable strips placed onto the skin to assist in closing a wound. This principle, often utilised in plastic surgery, can accelerate the speed with which a wound is closed.

A true case of perseverance is demonstrated in a case report where a lower limb with septic burn wounds is salvaged, against expectations. We commend the team that managed this patient, despite being advised to amputate the leg.

We end with a rare case report of a patient who developed a Marjolin's ulcer in a recently healed burn wound. While Marjolin's ulcers are rare and usually occur after 20–30 years in a burn scar, this one occurred after only 2 months. This unusual case report and its review of the literature is also this issue's CPD article. Answer the questions online to get up to 3 CPD points.

Lastly, it is with some sadness and some excitement that I announce that I will be stepping down as Editor-in-Chief of Wound Healing Southern Africa next year, my tenth year of tenure. I feel it is time for a change of guard and for young blood to invigorate the journal to take it to even greater heights. I am proud of what we achieved during my tenure, the most important of which was to achieve the near-impossible and get the journal accredited. This implies that the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) awards approximately R130 000 for every publication to the University of authors who are affiliated with that university. It also allows the publisher (Medpharm) to apply for the journal to appear in search engines such as MEDLINE, PubMed, Scopus etc. and this process has already begun.

This editorial, therefore, also serves as an advertisement to invite those interested in taking on the role of Editor-in-Chief of WHSA to send their curriculum vitae to Medpharm at the following address: [info@medpharm.co.za](mailto:info@medpharm.co.za).

I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the journal by submitting articles and reviewing papers. I would especially like to thank my deputy editor, Dr Maria Giaquinto-Cilliers, who tirelessly helped out with last-minute reviews and even assisted many authors with the writing of their papers.

Lastly, to the new Editor-in-Chief, I wish you all the best in maintaining the journal's accreditation and trust that you will energise the journal to even greater heights.

**Nick Kairinos**

*Editor: Wound Healing SA*

**WHSA EiC position**



# Wound Healing

Southern Africa

*Searching for a new*  
**Editor-in-Chief**

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