

## Editorial



I am not sure if the articles in the last two issues on how to undertake research and how to write and publish an article have anything to do with it or whether it's because the journal is now accredited, but we have had a record number of submissions for this last issue. Unfortunately, they were almost all submitted in the last two months before publication, leaving us with five articles ready for publication.

Please remember that the peer-review process takes time, as will the subsequent revisions you may need to make should your article be accepted. So please submit timeously if you would like your article published in the next issue.

Nevertheless, this is an excellent start to the year for the journal and an encouraging indicator of our wound care practitioners' apparent growing enthusiasm and confidence to publish their interesting cases or research.

I would also like to update you on the ongoing indexing application process to publish the journal on all the major scholarly search engines (Pubmed, MEDLINE, etc.). There are delays because of the new website that the journal is migrating to and the updating process involved. Only once this is finalised, and all licenses are in place, can the publisher re-apply for indexing. I will keep you posted on this ongoing matter. In our ongoing attempt to improve the journal, we added Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) to articles in this issue and will do so going forward. This makes your article more searchable and will hopefully increase your exposure as an author.

We also mentioned that members of WHASA who publish in this journal will receive 50% off their WHASA membership for a year, and the best paper will receive 100%. Congratulations to those WHASA members who published and received their 50% discount. We also congratulate Drs Rajchrtm and Allorto for the best paper in this issue, entitled, "A case series of toxic shock syndrome in a low-middle-income country burn service: creating awareness about the lesser known and potentially lethal complication." This is an unusual yet interesting and important condition. Despite it being potentially lethal, there are some wound care practitioners that are not familiar with it. I urge you all to read this important article.

In this issue, we also find a case series and review of the literature on pyoderma gangrenosum. This, too, is an uncommon condition and can easily be overlooked by wound care practitioners if they are not aware of it, resulting in wounds being mistreated for prolonged periods. I implore you to familiarise yourselves with this condition and refer these patients to a multidisciplinary team or physician/dermatologist if you suspect a patient may have it. As this is such an important topic, it was chosen as this issue's CME article. Please take the CPD test, even if you don't need the points!

Infection prevention and control continue to be an important topic in the wound care industry, particularly in independent wound management facilities. These facilities are often run by a single practitioner and there are often no protocols or guidelines in place to ensure good infection control practice. This journal issue sees an article discussing exactly that and makes for thoughtful reading to all our practitioners running such clinics.

Sternal wound sepsis, particularly if accompanied by osteomyelitis, can result in a mortality rate of up to 50%. Negative pressure wound therapy (NPWT) has helped reduce this risk to as little as 10%. In this issue, we see a great article on the innovative use of NPWT with TopClosure®, a device that takes advantage of mechanical creep, which is the gradual stretching of tissues, to allow for the effective closure of a sternal wound. I suspect we'll be seeing more of this device, which may allow for the closure of wounds without surgical reconstruction.

One of our podiatry colleagues has published an article on the use of activated charcoal combined with silver for diabetic foot ulcers, yet another arrow in our quiver.

Lastly, we haven't forgotten about the abstracts of posters from our last congress, which took place after the last issue was already in print. These will be published online due to the format of these posters. Congratulations to Trish Idensohn for her winning poster, titled "Human amniotic membrane accelerates healing in a hard-to-heal diabetic foot ulcer".

I hope you enjoy reading this issue, and please keep up the publishing enthusiasm!

**Nick Kairinos**

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