Proud to support the Inaugural JWC WUWHS Awards

As a registered charity, a primary objective of the Leg Club Foundation is to advance education to increase awareness and understanding of leg ulcers and associated conditions and facilitate their prevention, diagnosis and treatment. The Foundation was therefore delighted to have the opportunity to participate in the inaugural JWC WUWHS Awards evening held in Florence this September.

The aim of these awards was to recognise health care professionals who think 'out of the box' and go beyond the accepted norms of research, education and medical technology. The category supported by the Foundation was entitled: Contribution to Education in Wound Care. The judges were looking for excellence and innovation within the field of education, and nominations submitted were of a remarkably high standard.

There is evidence that the UK currently has a shortage of nurses, and a challenge confronting academia is encouraging employers to release staff to attend classroom-based education. It is costly and time consuming for health professionals to attend courses in order to remain up to date and develop professionally. There is a need for a modern, efficient, and flexible approach to the provision of continuing professional development for health professionals.

A successful academic programme must respond to the existing and emerging needs of the health professional. It must also reflect best therapeutic practices and positive restorative interventions within clinical nursing procedures. Increased demand for post-registration education has lead to an expansion of distance learning opportunities and the internet can offer a logical solution for clinical education. For example, eLearning applications (such as wound management modules) can provide up-to-date and cost-effective evidence-based teaching to enhance knowledge and skills.

Following a rigorous selection process, the judges recognised the University of Huddersfield team as the overall winners for their distinctive approach to modern day education. The team, lead by Dr Karen Ossey, designed an interactive online teaching and learning tool for practitioners undertaking a Masters level programme in the field of tissue viability and wound management. The innovative modules were designed to offer a multidisciplinary approach to current challenges in everyday practice and promote an awareness of professional roles. This distance learning course for tissue viability and wound management and management of leg ulceration and is open to all professionals who care for patients with wounds and leg ulcers.

The Foundation was delighted to participate with the JWC WUWHS in presenting this award, recognising all that is best in our profession

2016 Annual Leg Club conference report

Practitioners should be challenged and motivated by the prospect of leading in developing new ways to deliver evidence-based practice in partnership with their patients and colleagues. However, the prospect of changing culture and practice can be daunting in the current business-oriented, market-driven economy of health care.

With this in mind, our popular annual two-day Leg Club conference always aims to address current thinking in wound management. The 2016 conference was held at Worcester, with

JWC Award winners

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nurses travelling from as far afield as Ireland, Wales, Scotland and Greece. In partnership with the Foundation Leg Club Industry Partners (LCIP) the first day comprised 7 workshops lead by renowned experts in the field of wound management. The extremely popular workshops supported by the LCIP were specifically designed to question old thoughts and be courageous to try new things. Hence the rationale for the workshops being interactive and thought provoking, stimulating debate on issues ranging from revalidation to timely diagnosis and options for interventional management of venous disease.

Following an exhausting day, everyone enjoyed the Leg Club Gala Charity Dinner. We were privileged to have Foundation, Patron Alistair McInnes, as After Dinner Speaker. The ethos of the Leg Club model is only possible with the help of community volunteers. The Volunteers Awards, presented by Jacqui Fletcher (Patron) and Col. Steve Jeffery, highlighted and celebrated this group of people whose sterling work, with no reward or personal gain, keeps their Clubs thriving.

The second day was opened by Robin Walker, MP for Worcester. Prior to the opening he spent time meeting LCIP members, exhibitors and delegates. The main day presentations were filmed and interviews with experts recorded (visit www.legclub.org). Evaluations of both days were very positive and next year's conference will again feature inspiring speakers on the latest developments in wound management. As usual it will be a fantastic opportunity to share best practice and work together to improve services.

Cooperation between two charities: The Lindsay Leg Club Foundation and The Leg Ulcer Charity

Working in partnership with another like-minded organisation where there is a willingness to cooperate and support each other provides an opportunity to share best practice. In addition, the Charity Commission reminds trustees of their responsibilities: "Trustees of a charity have a duty to consider regularly whether the charity could be more effective at achieving its objects by collaborating with other charities". The nature of our work within the third sector varies according to culture and ambition. However, there is common ground for everyone working in the field of lower limb management. Communication between the Foundation and The Leg Ulcer Charity quickly established synergies in their core aims associated with education, prevention and treatment of leg ulcers and the wellbeing of their client group.

The Leg Ulcer Charity was founded by entrepreneur Professor Mark Whiteley, a vascular surgeon and lecturer at Oxford University. As a lateral thinker, Professor Whiteley recognised the need to pursue alternative methods of treatment to improve quality of life for individuals experiencing living with an ulcer. This lead him to become the first surgeon in the UK to perform keyhole surgery on patients for the treatment of varicose veins and the setting up of The Whiteley Clinic in 2001, and The College of Phlebology in 2011. In 2013 he founded The Leg Ulcer Charity.

The purpose of our cooperation is to promote the fact that the two charities are working together to achieve the same purpose. As a Foundation we are delighted to liaise and work with Professor Whiteley, as both charities share a dedication and determination to improve treatment and quality of life for those affected by chronic leg problems.

The Leg Club movement has made considerable progress, raising the level of awareness of its activities within government, the NHS and with the public at large. Together with The Leg Ulcer Charity we aim to forge a strong, productive working relationship.

Annual Leg Club conference 2017

Don't miss this chance to gain the tools needed to improve your clinical practice and patient care. Join your colleagues at the 17th Annual Leg Club conference for the latest research, techniques and technology in the treatment and management of wounds. You will meet people who question old thoughts and are motivated to try new things. The programme addresses the full spectrum of wound management through hands-on demonstration, workshop sessions and presentations by internationally renowned experts.

As usual the conference will feature inspiring speakers on the latest developments in wound management and it will be a fantastic opportunity to share best practice and work together to improve services. CWC

Save the date

The 17th Annual Leg Club Conference and Gala Dinner – Worcester Rugby Club, 27–28 September 2017

Wound management: sharing knowledge in pursuit of best practice

PATIENTS COMMUNITY DISTRICT NURSES LEG CLUB® www.legclub.org

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