New vice chairman welcomed and WUWHS Congress report

The Board of the Lindsay Leg Club® Foundation (LLCF) is delighted to announce that Dr David Foster has been elected its vice chairman, with effect from September 2016, and chairman elect, succeeding current chairman Roland Renyi in 2017. A highly regarded and nationally influential nurse and midwife, David has been associated with the Foundation for a number of years. He took a particular interest in the LLCF's work when he was Deputy Chief Nursing Officer at the Department of Health, and became a Foundation trustee 2 years ago after a visit to Mottingham Leg Club.

David takes up his new role at a dynamic time for the LLCF, with an increasing number of GP-led Leg Clubs opening. He said: *"I am delighted to be elected vice chair and chair elect of the Foundation. My association with the Foundation takes me back to my early days of nursing, when I first saw the debilitation leg ulcers can cause. Now I have seen how effective the social model of care the Foundation promotes can be on improving healing rates and diminishing the impact of social isolation."*

WORLD UNION OF WOUND HEALING SOCIETIES 2016 CONGRESS

Taskforce symposium

In March 2015 the LLCF set up a Global Patient Taskforce, which was developed in partnership with the World Union of Wound Healing Societies (WUWHS). The WUWHS supported the Taskforce's overall strategic plan for patient advocacy, as well as providing guidance and recommendations for setting up community-based groups for people with chronic wounds (inspired by the experience of the Leg Club model and similar schemes). Experts from international patient groups, the nursing and medical professionals, policy makers and research scientists formed the Taskforce.

The advocacy plan was launched during the WUWHS Congress in Florence, Italy, in September. The Congress welcome address was given by LLCF patron Professor Marco Romanelli, who is President Elect of the WUWHS.

The Global Patient Taskforce held a symposium on patient-centred care

The Taskforce symposium, 'Patient-centred care — a call to action for wound management', formed part of the scientific programme. The Global Patient Taskforce symposium committed to creating policies and guidelines at an international level focusing on patient-centred care. Panel members began by examining how we sometimes create obstacles for patients that leave them badly informed, disempowered and disenfranchised. Experts from Australia, America, Canada and the UK examined the tools currently at our disposal that can be used to put patients at the centre of wound management. They discussed how patients can take advantage of real and online facilities to remain informed of their own progress at all times, implying full partnership in a therapeutic relationship. The panel looked at how an international patient charter can be created based on a 'bill of rights' that can be used to show patients what they can and should expect throughout the wound management process.

Speakers addressed the role of the clinician as a patient advocate and navigator, and how these terms may provide a useful way to define how the clinician/patient relationship is explored. They demonstrated how research and development can sometimes move away from its prime objective of creating patient-centred therapies, and how it could be brought back into its original focus. Finally, there was a discussion on how national

ELLIE LINDSAY OBE
Lindsay Leg Club founder

and international patient-centred policies can be created that have real value and relevance. The symposium concluded by opening the discussion to investigate how we can ensure wound management remains a patient-centred field we can be proud to belong to.

Should patients be involved in research?

A presentation by Ellie Lindsay addressed the issues and importance of an entrepreneurial approach to wound management. She discussed how research relies on academics, patients, clinicians and the healthcare industry working collaboratively. Ellie also gave an overview on the processes and principles underlying this approach, and how the approach should be shared with patients and must include values, planning, action and reflection.

The presentation outlined how a research team could benefit from new and important information by exploring patients' perceptions of their leg ulcers, which can reveal a deeper understanding of their health status. It can also enable clinicians to gain a better understanding of patients' social, psychological and emotional needs. Having patients involved as stakeholders could be key in making sure that their views, experiences and interests are central to the team's decision-making regarding protocols and study design.

In conclusion, Ellie stressed how a collaborative approach should allow the key stakeholder — the patient – to play an active rather than passive role in research. She emphasised that, as professionals, we need to unite and work in partnership with various disciplines and research organisations, not in isolation.

Dr David Foster, Leg Club vice chairman, with scholarship winners Clare Mechen and Natalie Freeman, and Leg Club patron Alistair McInnes

Skills, knowledge, and life experience

In a second presentation, Ellie Lindsay addressed the issues of running a social Leg Club. Due to the shortage of nurses, she highlighted the importance of older people working alongside clinicians within a social model of lower limb care. She described how seniors are living longer and enjoying better health into their later years; retirement has become an extremely active phase of life.

A facet of the LLCF model is the development of roles for local retirees. Volunteers from this group are an extremely productive resource in the community. They find enjoyment and fulfilment in helping make a real difference to the lives of patients (Leg Club members) who may be isolated from family and friends. As a clinician, Ellie outlined how we should value older generations and recognise that they still have so much to give — and so much to enjoy.

Congress scholarship winners

The 2016 WUWHS Congress scholarship award was open to nurses across the UK who are involved with wound care on a daily basis. The purpose of the scholarship was to provide the winners with the opportunity to network with other professionals and gain knowledge and insight into how research and other services are provided.

Joint winners Natalie Freeman, a tissue viability nurse from North East London NHS Foundation Trust, and Clare Mechen, from the Adams Practice in Poole, attended the Congress. Natalie won her award for the work she undertook bridging the gap between social and health care providers through the Brentwood Leg Club. Her aim was to improve the management of lower limb conditions. Clare established the Best Foot Forward Leg Club as a form of primary care-led social prescribing for the Adams general practice patients. WUK