Editorial

World Ostomy Day

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World Ostomy Day is celebrated on the first Saturday in October every three years, the next being Saturday 4 October 2025 with the motto *'Invisible Disabilities: Visible Support – The Global Unity of Ostomates'.* The theme brings light to uncover the invisible ostomy and create visible support. Fostering conversation, global awareness and ensuring equity for our communities around the world.

The idea of the World Ostomy Day was established in 1993 by Professor Dr Gerhard Englert, who at that time was President of the International Ostomy Association. The purpose of the day was to raise public awareness of the condition and improve the quality of life for people living with a stoma.

In the intervening years, the day is recognised as Ostomy Awareness Day but carries the same motto.

WCET® has now created a logo to show its support in raising the awareness of ostomates around the world.

And in our journal this month, articles really do come from around the world.

Marady Pereira et al (Brazil) detail the results of a scoping review conducted to explore issues related to variations in clinical descriptors used to identify or classify diabetic foot ulcer recurrence (DFUR). The review identified a lack of consensus in defining DFUR and consequently variations in statistics related to the incidence of DFUR after the initial diabetic foot ulcer (DFU) healed and further occurrences of DFU. The authors recommend greater adherence to or adoption of The International Working Group on the Diabetic Foot (IWGDF) definition of DFUR, which says "*a new ulcer in the patient with a history of ulceration, regardless of the location and time since the previous ulcer on the foot*".[1] This, they propose, would improve communication between clinicians and researchers and improve patient outcomes.

Wee Ting Goh et al (Singapore) relate a case study of a patient with a recurrent Venous Leg Ulcer (VLU) to demonstrate the effectiveness of a Bioelectric Dressing (BED) as an adjunct to standard care in reducing biofilm and bacterial bioburden within recalcitrant VLUs to accelerate wound healing. The BED dressing used was a single-layer polyester dressing with a matrix of silver and zinc dots printed on one side that generated low-voltage electricity through the interactions of silver (Ag+) and zinc (Zn+) ions when in contact with moisture from wound exudate.

In the first of a series of articles we'll be publishing on peristomal skin complications (PSCs), Adrian Defante (USA) reviews the evolution of hydrocolloid skin barriers (HSBs), which made such a profound difference to the quality of life of people with stomas by reducing the incidence and severity of PSCs. While the article is quite technical in nature, its purpose is to assist clinicians to understand the composition and fluid handling capabilities of HSBs that contain super-absorbent polymers (SAPs). Enhanced understanding of the role of SAPs may make selecting the correct HSB to best cater for stomal output and skin protection easier.

Mengmeng Zhang et al (China) describe the management of challenging extensive severely infected complex bipedal diabetic foot ulcers in an unemployed 47-year-old male. Using a multidisciplinary team approach and the use of lipid hydrocolloid foam dressings combined with negative pressure wound therapy, it resulted in complete wound healing thereby avoiding the potential for bilateral amputation of the feet. Three-year follow-up identified no recurrent ulcerations.

A call for papers for publication within the WCET® Journal appears on page 44. I encourage all members of WCET® to submit an article to the journal; a case study template can be downloaded from the online journal platform at https://journals.cambridgemedia.com.au/wcetcn/journal-information/test. First time authors can be mentored through writing and publication processes and will also qualify for the new Elizabeth A Ayello First Time Author Award. The author guidelines are included immediately after the call for papers to help all authors through the submission process.

By sharing our expertise through publication, we are, as ET's/WOCNs/Stomal Therapists, demonstrating our visible support globally for those living with a stoma.

With kind regards

Jenny

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REFERENCE

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