

Global healing. Changing lives

Well, we are finally here. For nearly 6 years now, my team and I have dreamt of bringing the World Union of Wound Healing Societies (WUWHS) to the Middle East region.

We started preparing our bid in 2014, lobbied hard for 2 years and were so pleased to have confirmation of our success at the 2016 WUWHS Congress in Florence. Without doubt, preparing and winning our bid and holding the WUWHS 2020 Congress in Abu Dhabi is one of my proudest achievements. Not only will this be the first time that World Union has been held in the Middle East, it is the first time in its history that it has elected a female president.


Now that we are finally here, I can tell you that this has been achieved through many people's hard work, tenacity, dedication and belief and I would like to thank all those who have worked so hard over the past 4 years to deliver this exciting Congress.

I have dedicated much of my working life to wound care in this region. I have seen for myself the debilitating effects that wounds have on patients and their carers, not to mention the associated costs to healthcare facilities and systems. In my own facility, I have been part of a team that for many years has been very active in creating, implementing and monitoring clinical pathways and protocols, making a demonstrable impact on improved patient care and outcomes. Additionally, I believe in the power of academic improvement and have implemented a number of educational programmes for clinical staff in wound care.

Furthermore, to enhance understanding, for over 12 years we have been running

an annual wound care conference in Abu Dhabi, which attracts over 1,500 delegates from the Middle East and features speakers from around the world to keep us abreast of research, clinical and practical developments in other regions.

This is what led me to the dream of seeing the World Union come to this region. While awareness, knowledge and understanding of wound care is vastly improving here, there are many variances in the care delivered and the level of focus on good wound care can still be improved. We have much to learn from others in the world, but we in turn have much to offer global practitioners in terms of our long-term experience of treating wounds in a warm climate, with all the problems that entails. In fact, it is my strong belief that we all have something to share and learn from each other, and the WUWHS 2020 Congress provides a truly global platform through which we will pool our knowledge and experiences.

So, I welcome all of you who have been able to make the trip to the beautiful and friendly city of Abu Dhabi. I truly hope you enjoy a unique and vibrant learning and cultural experience while you are here in the UAE. The educational outputs don't just stop with the Congress. In collaboration with Wounds International, we have produced a range of WUWHS 2020 Consensus and Best Practice documents that you can collect at the Congress and they can also be shared electronically with your colleagues to magnify and extend the reach of the WUWHS. We look forward to continuing many of these activities over the next 4 years of my presidency. 



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