

## Hoping to continue the good work



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I am very proud to call this issue of *Wounds Middle East/The Diabetic Foot Journal Middle East* my first as editor, after taking over the role from Edda Hendry. I'm sure you'll all agree that Edda has done a wonderful job since the journal's inception and I hope to follow in her footsteps by continuing to provide an interesting and relevant selection of articles that offer our readers practical tips that relate to real life, as well as offering research and studies that will further clinicians' knowledge on the front line.

Since the launch of *The Diabetic Foot Journal Middle East* back in 2015, diabetes remains one of the most challenging health problems in the Middle East region in general and in the Gulf countries (GCC) — Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Qatar, Kuwait, Oman and Bahrain — in particular. Underlining the scale of the problem, the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) in its *IDF Diabetes Atlas 8th Edition* found that there are around 38.7 million adults aged between 20 and 79 years that were living with diabetes in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region in 2017 (IDF, 2018).

It is, therefore, imperative that the chronic complications of diabetes that are foot-related, such as neuropathy, diabetic foot ulceration, infection and deformity, are fully understood and effective pathways put in place to avoid lower-limb amputation and significant mortality rates. Which is where *The Diabetic Foot Journal Middle East* comes in. Dissemination of valuable studies and articles in this area will keep it front and centre in the minds of podiatrists and clinicians across the Middle East.

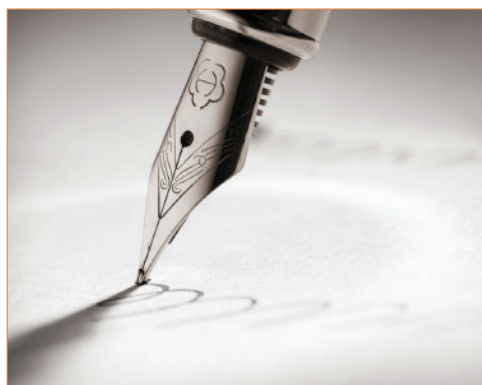
In this issue, we are pleased to duplicate a trio of articles from the June issue of sister publication *The Diabetic Foot Journal*. First up is the offloading article by Amit Jain, who introduces his new system that provides an alternative to felted foam that can be used for healing diabetic foot ulcers in a similar format. His article describes a case of a forefoot non-healing ulcer that was effectively healed with this new offloading modality.

Imran et al's article presents the results from a randomised controlled trial was conducted with the aim of evaluating the psychological aspects associated with diabetic foot ulcers (DFUs). The authors were surprised to learn that the findings indicated that patients with a DFU that received treatment on the understanding of wellbeing appeared to exhibit similar changes in psychological factors and acceleration of wound healing, compared to those who did not receive this intervention, except in the distress parameter at the second follow up.

Meanwhile, numerous members of D-Foot International and the International Federation of Podiatrists present a collaboration between these two organisations, the POINT project, which sought to create a standardised staged competency framework for the inclusion of podiatric skills worldwide in the management of diabetic foot disease. Acknowledging that many countries, especially those in lower- and middle-income regions do not have podiatrists available as part of their team, The POINT document, which is a multidisciplinary consensus, identifies the skills needed to provide podiatric skills across four levels, irrespective of the presence of podiatrists. WME

### References

International Diabetes Federation (2018) *IDF Middle East and North Africa*. IDF, Brussels, Belgium. Available at: <https://bit.ly/2vtDRQp> (accessed 02.08.2018)



### Writing for the *Diabetic Foot Journal Middle East*

*The Diabetic Foot Journal Middle East* welcomes a range of articles relating to the clinical, professional, and educational aspects of the diabetic foot. If you have written an article for publication or if you are interested in writing for us and would like to discuss an idea for an article, please email the editor Adam Bushby: [abushby@omniamed.com](mailto:abushby@omniamed.com)