

# The wait is over — The World Union of Wound Healing Societies comes to the Middle East!

**Y**es, we are finally here! The pandemic has definitely delayed us and for nearly 8 years in total now, my team and I have been working to bring 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, the preparing and winning our bid and now holding the WUWHS 2022 Congress in Abu Dhabi is one of my proudest achievements.

Not only is this the first time that a WUWHS congress is held in the Middle East, but also the first time in its history that it has elected a female president to steer this society. The end result of this 2022 congress coming to fruition has been achieved through the hard work, tenacity, dedication and belief of many people that had supported me through this process. At this juncture, it is with thankfulness to all those that I can proudly bring this exciting Congress to the world. In response to the continuing pandemic, we appreciate that some of you may not be able to join us in person, so we have created a hybrid conference format, with content available for streaming during the conference and also available for up to 4 months post-conference for your convenience. Whether you are joining us in person, or via the virtual platform, we look forward to delivering a truly global educational experience.

Much of my working life was dedicated to wound care, at first only with influence in Abu Dhabi. Through consistent wound care education efforts, that influence later spread to the rest of the UAE and then to the 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 clinical and practical 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 2022 Congress will provide that opportunity.

With this being said, it gives me great pleasure to 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 will enjoy the vibrant learning and cultural experience while you are here in the UAE. For those joining us through the digital platform, I am sure you will enjoy the experience and feel part of our global network.

Finally, the educational outputs don't just stop with the Congress. In collaboration with *Wounds International*, we have produced a range of WUWHS 2022 Consensus and Best Practice documents that were originally prepared for 2020. You can view these 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 continue many of these activities over the remaining 2 and a half years of my presidency.



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You can download all of the WUWHS documents from the Wounds International for free here: [https://www.woundsinternational.com/resources/all/0/date/desc/cont\\_type/85](https://www.woundsinternational.com/resources/all/0/date/desc/cont_type/85)

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