

TISSUE VIABILITY SOCIETY

TRUSTEES 1 APRIL – 15 NOVEMBER 2000

Mrs M Benbow (Chairman)
Mr G Billingham
Mrs F Collins
Mrs M Jones
Mr M Kiernan
Mr N Lewis
Mr P Lowthian
Dr M Maylor
Mrs J O'Hare
Mrs C Palmer
Dr S Rithalia
Dr K Springett
Dr R White

TRUSTEES 15 NOVEMBER – 31 DECEMBER 2000

Mr G Billingham (Chairman)
Mrs F Collins
Mr L Hecht
Mr N Lewis
Mrs M Lloyd-Jones
Dr M Maylor
Mrs J O'Hare
Mrs H Orchard
Mrs C Palmer
Dr S Rithalia
Mrs M Schofield
Mr S Tetlow
Mrs D Thompson
Dr R White

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TISSUE VIABILITY SOCIETY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

FOR THE PERIOD 1 APRIL TO 31 DECEMBER 2000

Background

The Tissue Viability Society, an unincorporated charity, began operating in 1981. The Tissue Viability Society is governed by a Constitution approved by the Charity Commissioners on 3 November 1994.

Trust Information

Details of the Tissue Viability Society's registration number, office location, Registered Auditors and the names of the Trustees are shown on the previous page.

Review of the year's Developments, Activities and Achievements

During the period covered by this report, the Tissue Viability Society bounced back from the disappointment of the cancelled conference in 1999 to organise a highly successful conference held in Nottingham in April 2000. With over 300 delegates and 30 exhibitors, the success of the Nottingham meeting lends support to the views of the TVS Council that a single conference, held in the Spring, offers the Society the best platform for its formal conference.

The Tissue Viability Society also helped to develop the programme of the annual conference organised by Emap Healthcare and traditionally held in Harrogate each November. This was a welcome opportunity to work in partnership with a commercial publishing house and the Wound Care Society. The Tissue Viability Society is strongly committed to the principle of developing collaborations with other appropriate organisations, and we hope the new links with the Wound Care Society will be further developed in coming years.

The development of new external contacts for the Society has led during the year to the establishment of an affiliation with the newly-formed Paediatric Tissue Viability Association. Additionally administrative support has been extended to the Tissue Viability Nurses Group while the TVS Management Team has visited Regional Tissue Viability Nurse Groups in the South-West, North-West, Midlands and Trent to inform the groups of the activities of the TVS and explore potential new ideas that would benefit members.

One exciting new venture for the Society has been the development of a new newsletter for members. During the year, funding for this project was made available from HillRom Europe and we look forward to the first issue of the newsletter being issued to members early in 2001.

One of the two projects undertaken with part-funding from the Department of Health came to a close during the year. The Chronic Wound Support Service was developed to make information upon wounds and other tissue viability matters available to patients and their carers. Booklets and a telephone helpline were developed to support this project. Given that the project reached the end of its funding period, and new support was not available to continue the helpline, this was sadly discontinued with callers now referred to NHS Direct. The booklets continue to be issued with the complete text of each now available upon the TVS web-site (www.tvvs.org).

The flagship of the Tissue Viability Society, the Journal of Tissue Viability continues to be a strong, well-respected publication. This success is due to the efforts of the editor, Dr Krzys Gebhardt and the entire Editorial Board. During the year, Dr Gebhardt announced his decision to stand down as Editor after six years in the post. He will however remain responsible for the final production of the Journal after he stands down in 2001. The Council of the TVS would like to thank Krzys for his effort and enthusiasm for the Journal of Tissue Viability over the past six years, and we welcome his continued involvement in the production of the Journal in the coming years. One new development within the Journal was the issue of the third commercially funded supplement – the first two being published prior to 1990. Supplements to the Journal will remain rare with all articles peer-reviewed. The Tissue Viability Society would welcome discussions with commercial members who may be interested in using a Supplement to issue research related to their activities.

The TVS Council also agreed to issue all back copies of Care-Science and Practice, the fore-runner to the Journal of Tissue Viability published between 1981 and 1990. These re-issues will be offered on CD-ROM from early in 2001 and will be one activity undertaken to mark the forthcoming 20th Anniversary of the founding of the Tissue Viability Society.

The new commercial membership scheme, offering complete packages of exhibition and promotional support to key commercial supporters of the Society continues to prove successful with 10 Tiered Member companies at the close of 2000. We would like to thank the following tiered members for their support of the Tissue Viability Society – 3M, B Braun, Huntleigh, Karomed, Maersk Medical, Parema, Pegasus, Smith & Nephew, STM Healthcare and Vernacare. This initiative is important, for it helps the Society to plan its finances with a greater degree of confidence given that the Tiered Members pay an annual fee rather than what may be more than sixty individual invoices each year.

Internally the most significant change has been the modification to the accounting year recommended to help the Society make best use of the payments from Tiered commercial members and its conference income. From November 2000, the new accounting year will match the calendar year rather than the previous April to March financial year used by the Society. This is why the present Annual Report only covers the period from April to December 2000 as we install the new arrangements. This change in accounting year is also reflected in the Annual Accounts, which show an apparent deficit of £26505. This simply marks the change of accounting period, with the main income of the Society received between January and March. This temporary anomaly of reporting a nine month period rather than a full year will be rectified by

next year's accounts which will be the first to cover the new accounting year from January to December.

With the close of the first Section 64 funded project (the Chronic Wound Support Service), the TVS Office complement was reduced by one, when the administrator employed to support the Chronic Wound Support Service resigned to take up alternative employment upon completion of the project. It is not expected that this position will be replaced.

Effective marketing of the Tissue Viability Society is a key requirement for our continued growth and development. A Marketing Group consisting of Council members, including those members drawn from the commercial sector, and the management team met to agree a series of objectives to strengthen the awareness of the Tissue Viability Society among potential new healthcare and commercial members.

The final item within this Annual Report is to thank our outgoing Chair, Maureen Benbow, for her leadership of the Society over the past two years. Maureen was a strong Chair and also contributed widely to the development of our successful conference in Nottingham. It is with pleasure that we report Maureen will continue her involvement with the Society as Co-ordinator of the Regional Study Days.

In conclusion, the past nine months have seen the Tissue Viability Society work hard to develop a successful conference, while working in collaboration with other groups to offer further innovative conference events. We believe that our participation within the Emap Healthcare event marks the recognition that the Tissue Viability Society is known to offer strong conference programmes. This is a key strength of the Society and will be further developed in coming years. Financially the Society has recovered from the cancellation of the 1999 Autumn conference and the introduction of the tiered commercial memberships has improved our ability to predict our income, making our internal budgeting process more effective. There remains a strong need to both increase income and control expenditure – this will be a recurrent theme in future years, and will no doubt be helped by the increased focus upon the efficient marketing of the Society.