

TISSUE VIABILITY SOCIETY
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE PERIOD 1st JANUARY TO 31st DECEMBER 2004

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 3rd 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

Last year, 2004, witnessed significant changes within the management structure of the Tissue Viability Society while the Society remained financially successful. The most significant change during 2004 was the resignation of Dawn Roberts, Business Manager of the Tissue Viability Society since 1998 and a member of the Tissue Viability Society staff for fifteen years. Dawn announced her decision to resign before the Annual Conference (April 20 and 21 2004) and left the Society at the end of August 2004. The Council of the Tissue Viability Society wish her well in her new challenges and are certain that all members who came into contact with Dawn would also wish to send their thanks for her considerable contribution to the development of, and current strength of the Tissue Viability Society. The resignation of the Business Manager prompted a wider review of the activities of the Society last autumn with a decision taken that the Society would not seek to appoint a new Business Manager at this time. Following detailed review it was agreed by Council that the day-to-day activities of the Society would be undertaken by the Society's administrator, Anne Sullivan with support from the management team whilst some extra duties would be undertaken by the Chair, Vice-Chair and Professional Adviser.

The main activity of the Tissue Viability Society in 2004 was a highly successful conference and exhibition held at the Riviera Centre in Torquay over the 20th and 21st of April 2004. With over 400 delegates and 35 exhibitors the Tissue Viability Society annual conference continues to be a major part of the UK wound care/tissue viability year. Over two days, delegates and exhibitors had time to make new contacts and meet old friends within the context of an excellent conference

programme and exciting social events. Such a successful conference would not be possible without the enthusiasm of the Conference Committee who develop the scientific and clinical programme and the Tissue Viability Society Business Office who work over the months preceding the event to ensure delegates, exhibitors and speakers enjoy a very professionally run event. However there will be changes to the Tissue Viability Society Annual Conference in future years. During 2004 the Council, aware of the impending resignation of the Business Manager, decided to appoint a Professional Conference Organiser (PCO) to help further develop, and organise the Annual Conference in 2006. Following the development of a brief to potential PCO organisations to explain the needs and expectations of the Tissue Viability Society regarding its Annual Conference interviews were held in early summer 2004 and Healthcare Events were appointed to organise the Annual Conference in 2006. The Council of the Tissue Viability Society look forward to working with Healthcare Events over the coming year to ensure that in 2006 the Annual Conference enhances the reputation of the Society as organisers of high-quality conferences. Given that the bulk of the conference organisation from 2006 will not fall upon the Society's Business Office this was a factor influencing the decision not to replace the Business Manager. However the relationship with Healthcare Events will not bear visible fruit until spring 2006, so in 2005 the Tissue Viability Society will join with the European Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel to host a meeting in Aberdeen over the 4th to the 7th May 2005. This is a unique opportunity to show to both UK delegates and exhibitors and to a wider European audience that the Tissue Viability Society is always seeking to explore partnerships with organisations that share our goals. During the Aberdeen 2005 conference the Tissue Viability Society will host a meeting on the 4th May with the Annual General Meeting held on that date.

Two further conference activities occurred during 2004. The Tissue Viability Society was proud to be a key part of the Wounds UK 2004 conference held in Harrogate (November 15-17 2004). This meeting attracted over 1000 delegates and the Tissue Viability Society was highly visible during the meeting; both with our exhibition stand but also through participation in a key-note debate on issues in tissue viability. Chaired by Professor Keith Harding, the debate was structured following the format of the 'Question Time' television programme with a panel of three Tissue Viability Society members (including the Tissue Viability Society Chair, Vice-Chair and a Council Member) and three senior members of the commercial companies that support wound care. Participation in Wounds UK 2004 plays an important role in making the Tissue Viability Society visible within UK wound care but also helps to strengthen the links between the various UK wound care organisations. The Tissue Viability Society is a regular exhibitor at the UWMEF conference held in Cardiff each summer. This year the event was held over the 28th and 29th of June 2004.

A major activity over 2004 was the design and launch of a new Tissue Viability Society web-site located at www.tvs.org.uk. This site went live to members and the wider public in August 2004 and has been subject to regular updating each month since then. It is anticipated that the new web-site will become the major communication route between members of the Tissue Viability Society over the coming years. The site currently hosts back issues of the Journal of Tissue Viability and a members only discussion forum among other content.

Partnerships between wound care organisations may offer new opportunities to share knowledge and information across national and international boundaries. The Tissue Viability Society participated within the Second World Union of Wound Healing Societies conference held in Paris between the 8th and 13th of July 2004 and during this major event attended the meeting of the European Wound Management Association (EWMA)'s co-operating organisations programme which draws together wound care groups across Europe. During the Paris meeting the chairs of three out of the four main UK wound care organisations also met to discuss areas of mutual interest where concerted actions may benefit the wider tissue viability community, this is an important step towards generating significant weight behind strategies and tactics intended to improve the care of people with wounds at the political, public, professional and practice levels.

Last year Mark Allen Publishing decided to withdraw from publishing the Journal of Tissue Viability for internal strategic reasons. The Council of the Tissue Viability Society would like to thank Mark Allen Publishing for their support of the title over the past years. Over the autumn of 2004 the Professional Adviser of the Tissue Viability Society held discussions with several alternative publishers with the appointment of a new publisher set for early in 2005. The Council of the Tissue Viability Society would like to thank the Editorial Board of the Journal for their continued support of the Journal of Tissue Viability for without their input the value of the Journal to members of the Society would be diminished. Given the search for a new publisher for the Journal of Tissue Viability fewer than expected newsletters were released during the year with new information appearing on the web-site rather than in a printed newsletter. It is hoped that as the web-site becomes the key source of information upon the Tissue Viability Society then fewer printed newsletters would be produced saving the Tissue Viability Society almost £1000 per newsletter. The Council would like to thank Dr Clark, Professional Adviser and Editor of the Journal of Tissue Viability for taking on the challenge of finding a new publisher on behalf of the Society and completing the successful negotiations within such a short period of time.

During 2004 the following members of the Council of the Tissue Viability Society came to the end of their three year appointment to Council and accordingly ended their tenure as a Trustee;

Menna Lloyd-Jones, Maureen Schofield, Louis Hecht and Stephen Tetlow. At the Annual General Meeting held in Torquay the following members of the Society were appointed to join Council for three years; Rachel Apsey, Martin Dryden, Lynfa Edwards, Tracey McKenzie, Adrienne Taylor and Trudie Young. The Council of the Tissue Viability Society would like to thank all retiring and new Trustees for their commitment and contribution to the Tissue Viability Society and would encourage all members to consider becoming a Trustee of the Society and so help your Society to develop over the coming years.

During 2004 the Tissue Viability Society received strong support – both financial and otherwise from our Tiered Commercial members – 3M Health Care, Activa Health Care, Advancis Medical, Hill-Rom Ltd, Huntleigh Healthcare, Johnson and Johnson Medical Ltd, Karomed Ltd, Molnlycke Health Care Ltd, Parema Medical Ltd, Pegasus Ltd, Sidhil, Smith and Nephew Healthcare Ltd, STM Healthcare, Talley Medical, Unomedical Ltd, Arjo. We thank each company for their support without which many of the activities of the Tissue Viability Society would not be possible. The Tiered Commercial member scheme has been in operation for some years now and through this scheme tiered member companies were guaranteed exhibition space during the Annual Conference. With the appointment of a PCO and the partnership with the European Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel in 2005 the Tissue Viability Society Council recognize that it may not be possible in future to guarantee exhibition space and so the Tiered Commercial member scheme will evolve in 2005 to become a Key Commercial Supporter scheme focused upon offering a number of guaranteed places at Tissue Viability Society Regional Study Days.

One area where the Tissue Viability Society continues to reflect its members needs lies in our registration as a stakeholder when the National Institute of Clinical Excellence develop guidelines related to wound management issues.

During the period covered by this report, the income of the Tissue Viability Society exceeded its expenditure by £24598 with the TVS now having available funds of £95813. The healthy financial status of the Tissue Viability Society marks its successful conferences, careful budgeting and the printing and distribution of the Journal of Tissue Viability by Mark Allen Publishing. The Trustees of the Society recommend that the reserves policy adopted by the Tissue Viability Society remains unchanged with the Society holding sufficient funds to enable the Society to operate for a minimum of six months in the absence of any income.

Overall 2004 was a time of significant change within the Tissue Viability Society with the loss of our Business Manager, publisher and Tiered Commercial Member scheme. These changes were successfully managed following a strategic review of the activities of the Tissue Viability Society

by the Council and Management Team of the Society while our reserves continued to grow so allowing the Society to expand into the recruitment of a Professional Conference Organiser and the development and maintenance of a new web-site. Change is always challenging but with effective management the significant changes that affected the Tissue Viability Society in 2004 have been met and the Council of the Society look forward to the further development of the Tissue Viability Society in 2005.