

Annual report 2006.

Last year, 2006, marked the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Tissue Viability Society (TVS) and this milestone deserves comment. The TVS began as a small gathering of health care professionals, researchers and manufacturers who shared common interests in wounds and their healing. At that time (late 1970's) wound healing was unrecognisable from its present day format – there were no focused societies, no conferences, no publications, no guidelines, few interventions and no specialist staff such as Tissue Viability Nurses. So the TVS was created in the absence of the wound care marketplace that surrounds us now and over the years the TVS has weathered many challenges as its chosen field grew at an amazing pace in the 1980's and 1990's. Even today where many view wound care and tissue viability as potentially shrinking fields of endeavour the TVS remains a strong society as will be discussed below. The Tissue Viability Society may not be the oldest specialist society dedicated to wound care but as yet the Council have failed to identify any other wound care organisation that has such a long and proud history as the TVS. It is with this spirit of pride in the success and longevity of the TVS that the society entered 2006.

The Anniversary year witnessed great triumphs and our share of disappointments. Without doubt the main success was the Spring conference held at the National Motorcycle Museum in Birmingham over the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of April 2006. With around 400 delegates and close on 40 exhibitors the event opened with a presentation by Dr James Robertson, one of the early pioneers of the TVS and a past Chair of the Society and Editor of the Journal of Tissue Viability. This session reminded delegates of the past of their Society while the remainder of the programme looked at how the TVS and others could move pressure ulceration higher up the professional, public and political agenda. Many of the conference presentations are available to members upon the TVS web-site at [www.tvs.org.uk](http://www.tvs.org.uk).

One clear marker of the growing importance of the Tissue Viability Society was the attendance at the conference by the current Chairs of the European Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel, the US National Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel and the European Wound Management Association (EWMA). For many long serving members of the Tissue Viability Society it was excellent to see partnerships between these groups and the TVS emerge. Another marker of the development of the TVS was the submission and presentation of free papers from delegates located in mainland

Europe and the United States. The Council of the TVS would like to thank our conference organisers Healthcare Events for their efforts that made our conference such as success.

If the spring 2006 conference was the highlight of the year then the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration symposium and dinner planned for October 2006 certainly marked the low point of the TVS year given that this event was cancelled due to low delegate numbers. The cancellation was a hard decision for the Council of the TVS to make for this was to have been the formal celebration of our 25 years and a very strong symposium programme had been created to attract delegates. However numbers were very low and the event would not have been viable despite strong commercial interest (all exhibition space was sold). Why did this event fail to attract the support of members and the tissue viability community in such contrast to our successful spring conference? There may be many reasons – timing and location (close to the Wounds UK conference and in central London) and perhaps a lack of publicity drawing members' attention to the event?

The anniversary year also saw the final closure of the Salisbury office and a move to virtual administration of the TVS from McMillan-Scott the publishers of the Journal of Tissue Viability. The move from Salisbury to London was achieved relatively painlessly and the new arrangements bedded down in the spring of 2006. This experiment of organising the membership database and general office administration through a third-party rather than TVS staff will be reviewed early in 2007 to ensure it best meets the needs of the Society.

McMillan-Scott Plc continued to publish the Journal of Tissue Viability during 2006 however Council of the Society continue to be concerned at the lack of advertising revenue generated by our publishers. The Journal is set out, printed and mailed to members at a cost to the TVS of approximately £5000 per issue and this expenditure is meant to be covered by advertising income leaving the TVS either with a journal published at no cost to the Society or where a small surplus is made on each issue. This was not the case in 2006 where the Journal cost the TVS over £13000 a situation under urgent review as such losses cannot be supported indefinitely by the Society.

The Regional Study Day programme slowed markedly during 2006 perhaps reflecting the current pressures upon the National Health Service. These study days have

been operated successfully for many years and the Council would like to thank our most recent facilitator of the scheme Maureen Benbow for her efforts to promote the study day programme.

During the year two Trustees came to the end of their three-year term upon the Council of the TVS - Miles Maylor and Deirdre Browning. The Council and Management of the TVS would like to thank Miles and Deirdre for their work upon Council on behalf of the members of the Tissue Viability Society. One new Trustee was elected during the Annual General Meeting in April 2006 – Jane Nixon will serve as a Trustee until Spring 2009.

The Council of the Tissue Viability Society agreed in 2006 not to host a separate spring 2007 conference but rather to join with the European Wound Management Association (EWMA) and become a partner in the EWMA Conference to be held in Glasgow in May 2007. This partnership again reinforces the philosophy of the TVS where we seek to work together with like-minded organisations to create maximum benefit for our members.

Over 2006 the TVS web-site at [www.tv.s.org.uk](http://www.tv.s.org.uk) continued to develop as a key route for members and the wound healing community to interact with the Society. The Society also developed a new range of leaflets and exhibition material prepared by Merlin, a company based in South Wales. The development of these items strengthens the visibility of the TVS within what is undoubtedly a crowded wound healing society and organisation marketplace so helping potential members to identify the benefits of TVS membership.

During the year the income of the Tissue Viability Society was £45360 and expenditure was £80460. Trustees had agreed that expenditure should exceed income by approximately £30000 to allow full support for the Tissue Viability Society's educational activities. However the deficit was primarily related to the limited advertising revenue generated by the Journal of Tissue Viability, the costs of the cancelled symposium, the loss of commercial key member income due to the lack of Regional Study Days and the management costs associated with administration of the Society by McMillan-Scott plc.

Overall 2006 had great highs (the spring conference) and miserable lows (the cancellation of the autumn symposium) highlighting that the Tissue Viability Society has the strength to manage both success and adversity leaving the Society stronger as it looks towards its next 25 years.