

It all started 25 years ago...

This issue of the *Journal of Tissue Viability* is the final part of volume 15 – and when volume 16 begins early in 2006 it will be the first issue published in the 25th year of the Tissue Viability Society. Next year will see our silver anniversary, marked by a major conference, new educational initiatives and, towards the end of the year, a special issue of this journal.

There will be additional events throughout the year and these will be publicised in the journal, the newsletter of the TVS and on the www.tvs.org.uk website.

Looking back over the years the TVS emerged at a time when wound care and tissue viability were minor issues – there were no regular national and international conferences on topics such as pressure ulcers and leg ulcers; there were no tissue viability nurses; and pressure-redistributing support surfaces and moist wound healing were new concepts that had seen limited adoption into everyday practice.

Much has changed over the life of the TVS and today colleagues with an active interest in wound care have a wide range of opportunities to discover the latest research studies and clinical initiatives.

There is now a vibrant community of associations dedicated to wound care and tissue viability across the UK with activity also occurring at a European level. All of these initiatives owe a great deal to the original pioneers within the TVS who had the vision, enthusiasm and commitment to establish a new society dedicated to an unfashionable topic, to begin a new scientific publication (*Care-Science and Practice* and since 1990 the *Journal of Tissue Viability*) and to organise regular conferences to help bring people together and provide a showcase for new ideas, research and a home for the emerging commercial marketplace with its new interventions. It is truly hard to look at today's wound care community and realise how little existed when the TVS began.

As we reach our 25th year it would be easy to sit back and take a well-deserved rest given the key role the TVS has played in creating the environment in which wound care now operates. However, we now look to the future – what is the role for the TVS in the coming years?

We remain committed to the original goals of our

founders – to provide an environment where anyone interested in wound care and tissue viability can come together as equals to share ideas and communicate research and innovative clinical practice. This vision will not change but the TVS is evolving.

In 2002 the European Tissue Repair Society (ETRS) held a focused meeting in Nice on the status of new technologies in tissue repair at the beginning of the 21st century. We are pleased to be able to bring readers of the *Journal of Tissue Viability* two contributions to this meeting in this issue and thank ETRS for their approval to reproduce this material from the *ETRS Bulletin*.

Although the TVS is now most certainly a mature organisation it is not afraid of change – this issue also reveals a major new development for the TVS where we have come to an end of our long association with Salisbury, the home of the TVS since its formation. Such a development is not undertaken lightly but reflects the rapid strides technology has made, which now enable associations to be administered from almost any computer connected to the internet.

The closure of the society's Salisbury home will enable an even greater proportion of our income – income paid by the members and our commercial colleagues – to be dedicated to enhancing the professional and educational activities of the society rather than being consumed by administrative overheads.

It is of course important to note that the departure from Salisbury does not mean that anyone lost their employment or found their conditions changed. Ann Sullivan, our recent administrator, left the TVS in August at the end of her contract and at this point the management was able to implement the closure of the Salisbury office given that we no longer had any direct employees working in the business office.

This is a development that will surprise some but marks the commitment of the TVS to remaining a significant voice in wound care and tissue viability over the next 25 years and beyond.

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