

# TISSUE VIABILITY SOCIETY

## TRUSTEES

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

## Term of office expired during the year

Mr K Cutting  
Dr J Rowe  
Ms L Sher  
Mrs T Young

## Resigned during the year

Mrs J Hawley

## OFFICE

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## REGISTERED AUDITORS

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# **TISSUE VIABILITY SOCIETY**

## **REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES**

### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 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**

The Tissue Viability Society continues to present an heightened profile to health professionals, lay carers and the general public. Presently six information booklets are available that detail how lay carers and their patients can access high quality wound care. These booklets supplement the ongoing telephone helpline, through which over six hundred people have received assistance over the past year.

The Tissue Viability Society has continued to work with groups of nursing homes nationwide, providing both facilitation and direct support for the creation of local pressure sore prevention and management strategies. Some of the typical comments received at the end of the programme are "It was very interesting to meet peers and realise that our problems are very similar", and "I really appreciate the enormous amount of information which has been provided. It is an excellent resource and I will continue to use it in the future."

One major area of recognition of the Society's efforts lay in the acceptance of the Journal of Tissue Viability as a scientific publication worthy of inclusion in electronic databases such as Medline. Such recognition enables the Society to encourage new and experienced researchers to publish their work within the Journal of Tissue Viability.

During the year the Tissue Viability Society has continued to provide support for a postgraduate research Studentship in conjunction with the Society's commercial members. The successful programme of Regional Study Days, which bring recognised experts to local groups of healthcare providers, has continued throughout the year.

The Tissue Viability Society planned to host two national conferences during the year. The first held in the spring of 1999 in Manchester was most successful with over 350 delegates. However, the conference planned for the autumn of 1999 unfortunately was not viable due to low delegate bookings and consequently was

cancelled. This unexpected turn of events arose partly due to the difficulty of delegates gaining sufficient time away from work to travel to the conference location in Southampton. While this may explain part of the low conference advanced bookings, another explanation remains likely. Wound care has now attracted several competing conferences. In consequence, potential delegates must choose which event they will support. The Tissue Viability Society recognises its changing market place and the Trustees of the Society have responded positively. In future the Tissue Viability Society will host a single annual conference, so allowing additional planning time to ensure that the event meets the needs and expectations of potential delegates. Additionally, the Tissue Viability Society has begun to actively seek partnerships with other wound care organisations, both professional and commercial to explore joint activities that will ensure a rational sustainable programme of high quality educational events.

At the end of 1999 the Tissue Viability Society restructured its commercial membership strategy. Following this review, three new categories of commercial membership were offered from the beginning of 2000; Gold, Silver and Bronze. These levels enabled commercial supporters of the Tissue Viability Society to make a single payment covering 12 months worth of exhibition, advertising and other promotional activities. This enhancement of the Tissue Viability Society's interaction with its commercial members has been warmly welcomed by all parties.

During this financial year, the Society made a loss of £27,345. While this appears most unsettling, this loss reflects the views of the Tissue Viability Society Auditor, that a number of our activities such as the new commercial membership scheme, bring benefits that must be apportioned across two financial years under our current account system. It has been recommended that the Society remove this anomaly by adopting the calendar year as our basis for financial reporting. This recommendation will be debated at the Annual General Meeting of the Society in 2000. While the loss reported for 99/2000 is undoubtedly high, the Trustees of the Tissue Viability Society are confident that the initiatives they have put in place over the preceding months will enable the Society to rapidly return to a profitable trading status.