

## TISSUE VIABILITY SOCIETY

### TRUSTEES 1<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY – 3<sup>RD</sup> SEPTEMBER 2001

Mr G Billingham  
Mrs F Collins  
Mr L Hecht  
Mr N Lewis  
Mrs M Lloyd-Jones  
Dr M Maylor  
Mrs H Orchard  
Dr S Rithalia  
Mrs M Schofield  
Mr S Tetlow  
Mrs D Thompson  
Dr R White

### TRUSTEES 3<sup>RD</sup> SEPTEMBER – 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2001

Mr G Billingham  
Prof R Ashford  
Mrs A Cobb  
Mrs F Collins  
Mr L Hecht  
Mrs M Lloyd-Jones  
Mrs H Orchard  
Dr S Rithalia  
Mrs M Schofield  
Mr T Swinscoe  
Mr S Tetlow  
Mrs D Thompson  
Dr R White  
Mrs A Wilson

### Resigned during the year

Mrs J O'Hare  
Mrs C Palmer

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### INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

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# **TISSUE VIABILITY SOCIETY**

## **REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES**

### **FOR THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY TO 31 DECEMBER 2001**

#### **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**

This is the first report to be produced by Trustees that covers the entire calendar year, given that previous Annual Reports covered a twelve month period from April to March the following year. The change to our accounting year has produced several benefits for the effective management of the Tissue Viability Society with the primary benefit resting in the consolidation of the annual accounting period with the management accounts prepared quarterly for Trustees by the Business Office. These management accounts provide detailed information upon the financial standing of the Society, highlighting both income and expenditure against the annual budget expectations and explaining all variations where income or expenditure was at least £250 away from the budget expectation. Such detailed management accounts allows the Trustees to maintain a strong grasp upon the financial viability of the Society and to have an early warning of any divergences from the agreed annual budget.

During the year the Tissue Viability Society played important roles within two major conferences. In April 2001, the Annual Meeting of the Tissue Viability Society was held in Keele, with over 400 delegates and a large commercial exhibition. It is pleasing to report that the Annual Meeting continues to grow in strength receiving generally excellent evaluations both from delegates and exhibitors. There are challenges for the Society in maintaining, and enhancing the excellence of our conference. It is unlikely that the Society's meeting will attract several hundreds of delegates given the profusion of wound care events within the United Kingdom and the practical impossibility of potential delegates attending each of these. Our expectation is that the Annual Conference will attract approximately 400-500 delegates at maximum, with the majority of these being experienced nurses often from within the growing speciality of tissue viability nursing. The commercial exhibition is growing in size and in number of exhibitors, this is a recognition of the value of the Society's meeting. However the combination of a large exhibition area and conference facilities for up to 500 delegates are hard to find! Without a major change in either the number of delegates or exhibitors it is probable that the Annual Meeting venue may well become restricted to a small number of geographical centres

that can provide the unique blend of facilities required to host a successful Tissue Viability Society conference.

The second conference event that involved the Tissue Viability Society in 2001 was the 'Innovations in Wound Care' conference organised by EMAP Healthcare in Cardiff early in September 2001. This event formed part of the 'Cardiff Wounds Week' that also saw the annual meeting of the European Tissue Repair Society held in the same venue immediately following the 'Innovations' conference. The role of the Tissue Viability Society was to help EMAP Healthcare prepare the programme for the 'Innovations' meeting. This provided the Society with considerable exposure during a major wound care initiative given that in addition to the identification of the Society as co-programme organisers we also exhibited during the week within the commercial exhibition. The Society was pleased to maintain its links with EMAP Healthcare that began in 2000, again the desire of other organisations to work with the Tissue Viability Society marks the acknowledgement of our professionalism and position within the wound care environment. Unfortunately the 'Innovations' conference was not as successful commercially as had been expected by EMAP Healthcare. However it is reassuring to note that the presentations suggested by the Tissue Viability Society were well received by delegates. Following discussion by Trustees after the Cardiff Wounds Week it was decided that we should in future, explore alternative partners to prevent association of the Society with any one conference organising group.

During 2001 the National Institute of Clinical Excellence (NICE) adopted the RCN produced national guidelines on pressure ulcer prevention. The Tissue Viability Society was represented upon the expert consensus group that structured much of the content of the guideline, an important opportunity that allowed all members the opportunity to contribute to the creation of this important document. In fact four former presidents of the Society were among the expert group, so recognising the strong voice of the Tissue Viability Society among national wound initiatives.

The Journal of Tissue Viability continues to grow its reputation as an excellent learned publication. During the year Dr Michael Clark, the Professional Adviser to the Society also took up the challenge of editing the Journal. We look forward to Dr Clark's stewardship of the flagship publication of the Society. The costs of producing and disseminating the Journal of Tissue Viability remain high at approximately £6000 per issue! Discussions with a commercial publisher were initiated in 2001 to explore avenues through which the Journal could be published at minimal cost to the Tissue Viability Society. We confidently expect these discussions to bear fruit early in 2002 so ensuring high quality production of the Journal at a substantially reduced cost to the Society.

The first four issues of the new Tissue Viability Society Newsletter were issued in 2001. Two of these were financially supported by Hill-Rom Europe and we thank this commercial member of the Society for their support. Currently there is no sponsor of the newsletter and we would welcome discussion with any commercial party who may be interested in taking up the opportunity to work more closely with the Society through support for the Newsletter.

Sales of the CD-ROM containing the entire back issues of Care-Science and Practice continued throughout 2001. These appear to have been well received by members and in consequence, a further CD was produced in 2001 that contains the first three volumes of the Journal of Tissue Viability.

During 2001 the Tissue Viability Society, in partnership with the Vernacare group, launched the TVS Research Award. This new grant worth up to £1000 was awarded to Lesley Stockton for her project proposal entitled 'Evaluation of wheelchair seat cushions using temperature and relative humidity measurements and their relationship to perceived comfort'. We look forward to receiving Lesley's report of her project next year. While such initiatives as the TVS Research Award may offer relatively small awards in relationship to the costs of clinical research, they do provide avenues for the pump-priming of new research ideas and allow workers to generate sufficient data to justify larger grant applications. In this way small grant schemes help develop the evidence base for tissue viability and we would like to thank the Vernacare group for their support of this new initiative.

There are now fourteen tiered key commercial members of the Tissue Viability Society – these are 3M Healthcare, Activa Healthcare, Age Rehab Supplies, ConvaTec, Hill-Rom, Huntleigh Healthcare, Karomed, Maersk Medical, Parema, Pegasus, Sareo Pressure Therapy, Smith & Nephew, STM Healthcare and Talley Medical. Each member pays a single payment annually to cover all their exhibition, advertising, membership and regional study day participation during the year. This scheme helps the Society to better predict the timing of its income and so helps the financial planning of the Society's activities during the year. We would like to thank each of the tiered members for their support over 2001. At this time it is expected that the number of tiered commercial members will be limited to fifteen given the limitations imposed by the number of exhibitor places available during the annual calendar of Regional Study Days.

Turning to the financial status of the Tissue Viability Society, during the year the Society's income exceeded its expenditure by £21,486. This was the first time for several years that the Tissue Viability Society has not incurred higher expenditure than income and reflects the financial planning and control imposed by the Trustees and Management of the Society. Given that our reserves now total over £42,000 it is relevant to consider the Tissue Viability Society's position upon holding reserves. In line with many other charities we need to make explicit why we hold funds in reserve, and in the case of the Tissue Viability Society the Trustees recommend that the Society holds sufficient reserve funds to enable the management of the Society to run for a minimum of six months in the absence of any other sources of income.

In conclusion, 2001 has been a significant year for the Tissue Viability Society, we have returned to a profitable trading year following several years of losses. This marks the financial planning and control introduced by Trustees and enacted by the Business Office. We look forward to extending the Society's financial position over the coming years so allowing the Tissue Viability Society to extend its activities and appearance within the often crowded wound care environment. In addition to the financial success of 2001 we have also reinforced our status through a successful conference, a thriving Journal, exposure during the major 'Cardiff Wounds Week' event and our contribution to the new national guidelines on pressure ulcer prevention. The Trustees now look forward to the challenges of 2002.