

## TISSUE VIABILITY SOCIETY

### TRUSTEES 1<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY – 19<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2002

Mr G Billingham (Chairman)  
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 T Tetlow  
Mrs D Thompson  
Dr R White  
Mrs A Wilson

### TRUSTEES 19<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER – 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2002

Mrs H Orchard (Chairman)  
Prof R Ashford  
Mrs D Browning  
Mrs A Cobb  
Mrs E Gibson  
Mr L Hecht  
Mrs M Lloyd-Jones  
Dr M Maylor  
Mrs M Schofield  
Mr T Swinscoe  
Mr S Tetlow  
Mrs D Thompson  
Mrs A Wilson  
Mrs K Wright

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## **TISSUE VIABILITY SOCIETY**

### **REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES**

#### **FOR THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY TO 31 DECEMBER 2002**

#### **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 past twelve months have marked another successful year for the Tissue Viability Society. In this report, the Council of the Society would like to highlight several of the activities that made 2002 so rewarding. In April the Tissue Viability Society held its annual conference in the Winter Gardens in Blackpool (April 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> 2002). The combination of an exciting scientific programme, and excellent commercial exhibition and a unique venue led to over 400 delegates enjoying two days of new information and building new friendships. The commercial exhibition was, as ever, lively with 26 exhibitors attending. One sign of the on-going commercial interest in the activities of the Tissue Viability Society was the long waiting list to gain an exhibition space! Unfortunately we had to disappoint 12 companies this year. In 2003 the Society will again return to Blackpool with an expanded exhibition space to help ensure that all those who want to exhibit can do so!

In a new and exciting venture the Tissue Viability Society organised its first single day Regional Conference. Held in Weston-super-Mare on October 14<sup>th</sup> 2002 and attracting over 100 delegates and 13 exhibitors this day illustrated the on-going demand for educational meetings within health care professionals. It is anticipated that further Regional Conferences will be held next year; allowing the Society to visit venues that may not be able to host our Annual Conference (due to the lack of sufficient exhibition space) and so increase our exposure to colleagues in the Health Service. The requirements to be able to host an Annual Conference; in terms of lecture room capacity, available exhibition space and hire costs tend to limit the number of venues available to the Society. During 2002 the Society's Business Manager sought to identify and book venues to ensure we have appropriate facilities for the next few years. So in 2003 the conference will be in Blackpool, Torquay in 2004 and Manchester in 2005. During the next twelve months we will be exploring venues for 2006 and subsequent years!

Three further conference activities occurred during 2002. The Tissue Viability Society was proud to be part of the Wounds 2002 conference held in Harrogate (November 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> 2002). This meeting attracted over 400 delegates and featured a session of identifying good practice organised by the Tissue Viability Society. We also exhibited at the UWMEF conference held in Cardiff (July 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 2002). This meeting saw the first use of the new Tissue Viability Society exhibition stand. This year the Council approved plans to invest in a new exhibition stand and posters for use at major events. As a Charity we have to remain aware of the need to minimise our expenditure on promotional items but we also need to present a modern, professional image with members and potential members. The new stand meets this balance – providing a refreshing new presentation of the Society within a budget set by the Council.

The final conference related activity was the invitation to the Tissue Viability Society to be a participating organisation during the World Union of Wound Healing Societies Conference to be held in Paris in July 2004. This invitation reflects the growing international recognition of the Society and it should also be borne in mind that of all the world's wound healing organisations the Tissue Viability Society is probably the oldest!

One major initiative undertaken this year was the agreement with Mark Allen Publishing for the publication of the Journal of Tissue Viability. From April 2002 Mark Allen Publishing have set, printed and distributed the Journal of Tissue Viability. These tasks having previously being controlled by the Business Office of the Society. The new agreement with a commercial publisher clearly marks the growing reputation of the Journal of Tissue Viability and offers the Society several key benefits. The first of these benefits being the input of a professional editorial assistant, Rebecca Linssen, to deal with the production of the Journal. Now that the Journal is no longer packed and posted from the Business Office this frees staff time to undertake other activities to the benefit of the Society. Mark Allen Publishing also seeks advertisements for the Journal through Edward Rusling, and the Tissue Viability Society receives a proportion of the advertising revenue. This is an important step for the Tissue Viability Society and is warmly welcomed by both the Council and the Editorial Board who remain fully in control over the scientific content of the publication.

The Tissue Viability Society newsletter has been issued four times to members in 2002. This publication provides an opportunity to cover issues that perhaps may not fall within the pages of a scientific publication – extended news of Society activities and forthcoming events for example. At present the Newsletter is set, printed and posted to members by the Society – the Business Office would be delighted to discuss with opportunities for sponsorship of the Newsletter with our commercial members of the Society!

It is with some sadness that we have to report the demise of the Tissue Viability Society supplement within the Nursing Standard. Unfortunately editorial and management direction within the Nursing Standard resulted in the supplement's association with the Tissue Viability Society no longer being in step with the publication's goals – we have enjoyed the link with Nursing Standard and wish their editor, staff and readers well for the future.

The Tissue Viability Society was pleased to work again in 2002 with the Vernacare group of companies who supported the Tissue Viability Society project award. This year the award of £1000 was extended to Malcolm Childs for his proposed project 'Development of novel textile composites and finishes for specific healthcare products'. We wish Mr Childs well with his project and look forward to its presentation at a future Society conference and publication in the Journal of Tissue Viability.

During the year the Chairman of the Society, Geoff Billingham reached the end of his period of office and was succeeded at the Annual General Meeting by Helen Orchard. The Council and Business Office of the Society would like to extend our thanks to Geoff for his wise stewardship of the Society over the last two years, and look forward to seeing him at future Society events. Other Trustees who completed their period of service upon Council were Fiona Collins, Dr Shyam Rithalia and Dr Richard White and we thank all for their positive contribution during Council debates. We welcomed four new members of Council at the Annual General Meeting – these are Deirdre Browning, Elaine Gibson, Dr Miles Maylor and Kim Wright. The Council would like to encourage all members of the Society to consider standing for Council membership. If members are uncertain over the duties and responsibilities of Council membership then please contact any member of Council, the Chair or Business manager of the Society to discuss the role of Council Member.

One important step was taken during the Annual General Meeting in 2002. The timing of the General Meeting was set in our constitution to take place during the autumn and in many previous years this Annual General Meeting was held during the Tissue Viability Society's autumn conference. However since moving to one annual conference rather than a spring and autumn conference the Society has depended upon the goodwill of other conference organisers to enable our Annual General Meeting to be held during wound management events. From 2003 the Annual General Meeting of the Tissue Viability Society will be held during the Annual Conference in April.

During 2002 the Tissue Viability Society received strong support – both financial and in other assistance from our Tiered Commercial members – 3M, Activa, Age Rehab Supplies, ConvaTec, Hill-Rom, Huntleigh Healthcare, Johnson and Johnson, Karomed, Maersk Medical, Parema Medical, Pegasus, Sareo, Smith & Nephew, STM Healthcare and Talley. We thank each company for their support and look forward to

developing the relationship between each tiered member and the Society in coming years. To begin to strengthen mutual relationships between the Society and the Tiered Commercial members, two events occurred this year – a reception for tiered members during the Blackpool conference, and a series of meetings with companies over the early autumn. It is the strong desire of Council that the Society best responds to the needs of all our members – individual, commercial or tiered members – we need to hear your views on the activities and direction of the Society if we are to fully satisfy your expectations of the Tissue Viability Society.

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. In 2002 the Society was invited to send a representative, Louis Hecht, to become a member of the guideline development group preparing a new national guideline on the appropriate use of pressure redistributing support surfaces in pressure ulcer prevention. Through such invitations the Society continues to exert a positive influence upon the development of wound care in the United Kingdom.

Turning to the financial status of the Tissue Viability Society, during the year the Society's income exceeded its expenditure by £12,634. This figure reflects the continued financial planning and control imposed by the Trustees and Management of the Society. In line with many other charities we need to make explicit why we hold funds in reserve. In the case of the Tissue Viability Society the Trustees recommend that the Society hold 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.

Finally in the second half of 2002 the health of the Business office staff caused Council considerable concern. Dawn Roberts and Joyce Fee experienced problems requiring lengthy treatment – thankfully both have now placed these challenges behind them. Council would like to offer the thanks of the Society to both Dawn and Joyce for their commitment to the Tissue Viability Society during what undoubtedly were trying personal circumstances.