

TISSUE VIABILITY SOCIETY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

FOR THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY TO 31 DECEMBER 2003

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 year, 2003, marked a period of sustained development for the Tissue Viability Society. The Council of the Society have used this report to highlight the key activities of 2003 that made the year so successful. Without doubt the major aspect of the Society's year was the Annual Conference held over the 9th and 10th of April in the Winter Gardens, Blackpool. This was the second year in succession that the Tissue Viability Society has hosted its conference within the Winter Gardens. Delegate numbers were encouraging with over 350 attending the two-day meeting. Many old friendships and collaborations were renewed with new relationships forged over two days of excellent presentations and social events. We would like to thank the Blackpool City Council for their hospitality culminating in a reception prior to our social event. The Council also draws attention to the work of the Conference Committee; this group takes responsibility for developing the conference's scientific programme and liaising with key speakers. Without the enthusiasm of this group the annual conference would be diminished. Each annual conference of the Tissue Viability Society attracts a large commercial exhibition. In 2002 the exhibition space was completely sold-out and potential exhibitors had to be turned away. This year the exhibition was moved to a larger hall and for the first time at the Tissue Viability Society conference a shell-scheme exhibition was employed. This means that each exhibiting company arrived with the walls of their stand space already erected marking out their space and giving a degree of privacy from neighbouring stands. Adopting a shell-scheme to the exhibition gave a strong air of professionalism to the set-up of the exhibition, and was an important new step in how the Society interacts with its commercial exhibitors. In 2003, 38 exhibitors attended the annual conference making the Tissue Viability Society exhibition one of the largest in UK wound care.

The past year also saw advance preparations for the next Annual Conference to be held in Torquay over the 20th and 21st of April 2004. The scientific programme is almost complete and a call has been issued for free paper and poster submissions. One new step taken during 2003 was to invite all the key commercial supporters of the Tissue Viability Society to visit the conference centre in Torquay, to see the lay-out of the exhibition and to discuss their interaction with the Tissue Viability Society. This site-visit held on the 12th of September 2003 enabled lively discussion between the Society and its commercial supporters and identified a number of steps that may improve the experience of delegates and exhibitors at the Annual Conference in Torquay next year. Further formal meetings between the Tissue Viability Society and its key supporters will take place regularly to ensure good working relationships are both maintained and enhanced.

There are many geographical areas of the country where a Tissue Viability Society Annual Conference may be challenging to hold due to our requirements for a large, cost-efficient exhibition space as well as lecture facilities for up to 400 delegates. One tactic used to bring the Society to a wider constituency was to establish a series of one-day Regional Conferences. These began with a highly successful event in Weston-super-Mare in late 2002 and a further four Regional Conferences were planned for 2003. These events were set for the latter part of 2003 and were to have been held in Canterbury, Reading, Stevenage and Walsall. However of the four planned events only the Regional Conference in Reading took place with the others cancelled or postponed due to low delegate numbers. There are many reasons why meetings fail to attract sufficient delegates – organisations such as the Tissue Viability Society depend upon NHS and other health care staff being allowed time from their workplaces to attend meetings – where illness or staff shortages intervene the best planned meeting can fall prey to circumstances outside the control of the Society. It is also important to consider the volume of wound care and tissue viability events available to health professionals today; when the Tissue Viability Society began organising educational events there were few other opportunities for staff to discover new information to guide their practice. Now there are many wound care events hosted by the educational or commercial sectors along with those arranged by colleagues within the Health Service. The rapidly increasing number of events draws upon the same pool of staff hence it is unsurprising that some events will fail to attract sufficient numbers of delegates. The failure of three Regional Conferences did not flow from the quality of the events – the evaluations of the Reading Regional Conference were uniformly positive with the event seen as meeting the needs of the delegates. The challenge for the Tissue Viability Society is how do we guarantee sufficient numbers of delegates to these well-received events? The answer to this probably lies in our marketing of the Society and its constituent activities; this is an aspect of the Tissue Viability Society that will come under increasing scrutiny by the Council of the Society during 2004.

Two further conference activities occurred during 2003. The Tissue Viability Society was proud to be a key part of the Wounds UK 2003 conference held in Harrogate (November 11th and 12th 2003). This meeting attracted over 800 delegates and the Tissue Viability Society was highly visible during the meeting; both with our exhibition stand but also through participation in a key-note debate on issues in tissue viability. Chaired by Professor Keith Harding, the debate was structured following the format of the 'Question Time' television programme with a panel of four Tissue Viability Society members (including the Tissue Viability Society Chair, Vice-Chair and Professional Adviser). The Tissue Viability Society also hosted a session of free paper presentations selected by a panel of Society members from the abstracts submitted to Wounds 2003. Participation in Wounds UK 2003 plays an important role in making the Tissue Viability Society visible within UK wound care but also helps to strengthen the links between the various UK wound care organisations.

The Tissue Viability Society continued to participate within the planning for the Second World Union of Wound Healing Societies Conference to be held in Paris 2004 with the Chair of the Society attending the scientific programme planning meeting held in May 2003 in Pisa, Italy. There is now a link to the Tissue Viability Society web-site from each of the major European wound care organisations along with a link from the World Union of Wound Healing Societies web-page. This means that colleagues entering the major portals of the World and European societies can easily locate and visit the Tissue Viability Society web-site. The placing of links from key associations' web-sites to the Tissue Viability web-site is a step forward in the marketing of the Society but for this to be of maximum effectiveness the content of the Tissue Viability Society web-site must reflect the growing strength of the Society. During 2003 the Society issued a call to members to get involved in designing the content of a re-launched Tissue Viability Society web-site. The list of desired content and features has been issued to web-site designers to allow them to pitch for the task of working on the Society's web-site and it is anticipated that in 2004 the new Tissue Viability Society web presence will become a strong introduction to the Society while the added features will increase the benefits of membership of the Society.

Partnerships between wound care organisations may offer new opportunities to share knowledge and information across national and international boundaries. The Tissue Viability Society is an enthusiastic partner within the European Wound Management Association (EWMA)'s co-operating organisations programme which draws together wound care groups across Europe. In support of this scheme, the Society was represented at a co-operating organisations meeting held during the EWMA annual conference in May 2003. Of particular significance during 2003 was the agreement of formal links between the Tissue Viability Society and the Wound

Management Association of Ireland (WMAOI). Under this partnership both organisations will have a presence at each other's meetings (the Tissue Viability Society exhibited at the WMAOI meeting held in Cork during September 2003), while the WMAOI members also receive the Journal of Tissue Viability. This relationship significantly increases the ability of the Tissue Viability Society to reach out to health professionals involved in wound care within Britain and Ireland.

The Journal of Tissue Viability continues to be a significant source of new information upon all aspects of tissue viability and wound care. The partnership with Mark Allen Publishing has worked extremely well over 2003 and is a key factor helping the Tissue Viability Society maintain its reputation as a publisher of an excellent wound care title. The Tissue Viability Society newsletter also continues to be published four times a year bringing members up-to-date with current news within the Society and the wider wound care community. The cost of the newsletter production and mailing continues to be borne by the Society with no sponsorship arranged for this publication. While it would be welcome to receive sponsorship for the Newsletter, the Council of the Tissue Viability Society believe it is important for the Society to communicate frequently with members and as such the Newsletter is an important element keeping members abreast of the latest Society developments.

In 2003 the Annual General Meeting of the Society was held during the Blackpool conference; marking the first time in three years when the AGM was held at a Tissue Viability Society event. This follows a constitutional change allowing the AGM to be held in the spring rather than the autumn of each year. Over the past three years the AGM was held during autumn wound care conferences and Council would like to thank both Emap and Wounds UK for their provision of space during events for the AGM to be held. Given that elections to Council took place in November 2002 at the AGM in that year, no elections were held in spring 2003. Consequently no Trustees joined Council during the year, although two, Elaine Gibson and Kim Wright resigned due to their work commitments.

During 2003 the Tissue Viability Society received strong support – both financial and in other assistance from our Tiered Commercial members – 3M Health Care, Activa Health Care, Advancis Medical, ConvaTec, Hill-Rom, Huntleigh Healthcare, Johnson & Johnson Medical, Karomed, Parema Medical, Pegasus, Smith & Nephew Healthcare, STM Healthcare, Talley Medical, Trulife UK and Unomedical. We thank each company for their support and look forward to developing the relationship between each tiered member and the Society in coming years. 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 2003 the Tissue Viability Society was represented by Louis Hecht upon the guideline development group preparing guidance on pressure-relieving mattresses. This guideline was released in October 2003 and Council would like to thanks Louis for his contribution to this project. The Tissue Viability Society also provided comment upon, as a registered stakeholder, nine guideline topics under consideration by NICE.

During the period covered by this report, the income of the Tissue Viability Society exceeded its expenditure by £16231 with the TVS now having available funds of £71214. This should be contrasted with recent years where the Society incurred losses. The healthier financial status of the Tissue Viability Society marks its successful conferences, careful budgeting and the printing and distribution of the Journal of Tissue Viability by Mark Allen Publishing. The Trustees of the Society recommend that the reserves policy adopted by the Tissue Viability Society remains unchanged with the Society holding sufficient funds to enable the Society to operate for a minimum of six months in the absence of any income.

Finally 2003 marked the retirement of Joyce Fee, the Administrator within the Business Office. Council would like to thank Joyce for her hard work over several years on behalf of the Tissue Viability Society and wish her a long and fruitful retirement. The post of Administrator was advertised and following interviews, Penny Brand was appointed to the position in January 2003. Unfortunately due to family reasons Penny left the post and the Tissue Viability Society in July 2003. Council now welcome Anne Sullivan to the post of Administrator having been appointed on a nine-month fixed contract in autumn 2003.

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