

Annual report 2007

The Tissue Viability Society (TVS) experienced a challenging year in 2007. Our main publication, the Journal of Tissue Viability did not appear until November 2007. This situation arose through the unilateral action of our publisher Ten Alps Publishing at the start of 2007 to cease publication given their inability to encourage advertising to the Journal to offset the costs of printing and disseminating the Journal. Following prolonged discussion with Ten Alps Publishing this situation could not be resolved and the TVS terminated the publishing contract in May 2007. At this time we also made plans to terminate the contract with Ten Alps Publishing that covered the provision of administrative support for the Society. Accordingly all formal arrangements between the TVS and Ten Alps Publishing ended in August 2007. From May 2007 Dr Clark, the TVS Professional Adviser, sought a new publisher for the Journal of Tissue Viability and we were delighted at the offer from Elsevier Ltd to be our publisher. This new arrangement saw the first issue of a re-launched Journal of Tissue Viability be sent to members in November 2007 and the Trustees and Management of the TVS have confidence that the quality of the Journal will be greatly enhanced through working with a major academic publisher. Administrative support for the TVS is now being provided by our Professional Adviser with the registered address of the TVS being located in Cardiff.

In 2007 the Tissue Viability Society worked with the European Wound Management Association (EWMA) when EWMA held its 17th annual conference in Glasgow. This partnership saw the TVS help develop the scientific programme of this major event and replaced our annual conference in 2007 reflecting our commitment to working with the leading European wound associations when they host events in the United Kingdom.

During 2007 there was considerable debate among and within the UK wound organisations regarding the value of closer partnerships and even formal merger. These discussions were initiated by the Tissue Viability Society through our Professional Adviser and this reflects our belief that close relationships between sister organisations may best achieve improvements in wound prevention and treatment. To this extent the TVS has worked in partnership with the Leg Ulcer Forum and Tissue Viability Nurses Association (TVNA) over the EWMA conference as well as working with the Wound Care Society (WCS) and the TVNA on two projects – the Your Turn campaign and a potential pressure ulcer audit led by the Royal College of Nursing. At the time the discussions began regarding working together the TVS Trustees considered that the Society needed to sort its own actions regarding publication of the Journal of Tissue Viability and its administrative arrangements prior to closer discussion with other organisations. While the Trustees of the TVS do endorse partnerships wherever possible, a full merger between the TVS and other organisations would be complicated given that we own the Journal of Tissue Viability. Publishing contracts explicitly state the identity of the owner of the title and because of this we must remain as the Tissue Viability Society or we potentially risk losing ownership of the publication title! Given this limitation the TVS would welcome partnerships that do not entail formal merger of associations.

During 2007 our chair Deborah Thompson ended her term of office and the Trustees and Management of the TVS would like to thank Deborah for her enthusiasm and support of the Society. She was succeeded as Chair by Trudie Young who will serve as Chair for two years. In 2007 five other Trustees also ended their current term of office – Adrienne Taylor, Lynfa Edwards, Martin Dryden, Tracey McKenzie and Rachel Apsley. The Tissue Viability Society thanks each retiring Trustee for their commitment to the TVS. Nine new Trustees were appointed at the Annual General Meeting – Claire Morris, Ann Fowler, Georgina Preston, Stephen Price, Maria Poole, Louise O'Connor, Rhian Davies, David Hibbitt and

Paul Murphy. All of these will serve for three years as a Trustee of the Tissue Viability Society.

During the autumn of 2007 the Trustees conducted a review of the TVS constitution which has been submitted to the Charity Commission for comment before hopefully endorsement at the Annual General Meeting in 2008. Trustees also explored the aims and objectives of the Tissue Viability Society with the proposed objectives being;

The Tissue Viability Society exists to;

Disseminate to healthcare professionals, academic colleagues, members of the public, policy makers and the bioscience industries and other stakeholders via the Journal of Tissue Viability, the Tissue Viability Society web site and the Tissue Viability Society's conferences and other events:

- *Information relating to the development of tissue viability as a multi-professional specialism*
- *Awareness of classic and contemporary research pertinent to tissue viability*
- *Examples of all aspects of peer accepted best clinical practice in tissue viability*

Communicate effectively to members and non-members regarding advances in tissue viability

Represent the views of members to healthcare policy makers

Therefore the Tissue Viability Society through communication, dissemination and sharing of knowledge aims to contribute to and develop the field of tissue viability.

These revised objectives will be used to drive the strategic direction of the Tissue Viability Society over the next two years.

Support from the commercial sector is an important part of maintaining and extending the TVS. In 2007 we received significant support from four organisations – Huntleigh Healthcare, Molnlycke, Karomed and Activa Healthcare. We would like to thank each of these key commercial supporters for their continued support of the Tissue Viability Society.

Over the year the income of the Tissue Viability Society was £83365 and expenditure was £75896 leaving a surplus of £7469 with total reserves carried forward of £53204.

In conclusion 2007 was a challenging year for the Tissue Viability Society – the termination of both our publishing and administration contracts with the consequent work to identify a new publisher for the Journal of Tissue Viability were major activities during the year. However painful these changes were, the position at the close of 2007 is greatly improved – we have a new publisher and a five year plan to drive the Journal of Tissue Viability to new heights with greatly enhanced benefits to members. We have revisited our aims and objectives and through this exercise developed a strategic plan that has been communicated to all members. These actions will ensure that the TVS moves forward into 2008 with a stronger publication, clear objectives and an enthusiastic and committed body of Trustees, these being the cornerstones of our future success.