From the President

New mission and vision

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It has been a busy and productive period since the memorable joint WCET™ and Nurses Specialised in Wound, Ostomy and Continence Canada (NSWOCC®) Congress in Vancouver (April 24–28, 2026). That outstanding meeting, with more than 1,200 attendees from 42 countries, 66 keynote, plenary and concurrent sessions, 300+ posters and 76 industry partners, set a strong tone for our work this year. I remain grateful to every delegate, presenter, sponsor and volunteer whose energy and expertise advanced our shared mission to improve care for people with wound, ostomy and continence needs worldwide.

Since Congress, the Executive Board has been actively engaging members and shaping WCET™'s next chapter. We have held two well-attended town halls with WCET™ international delegates and committee members and distributed member surveys to gather broad input. The thoughtful, candid feedback from those sessions and the survey responses will directly inform our refreshed strategic planning for 2027 and beyond. Members told us clearly where WCET™ is succeeding and where we must strengthen our reach, governance, education and opportunities for connection, and we have used those voices to guide priorities.

We have refreshed our Mission and Vision.

NEW MISSION

The World Council of Enterostomal Therapists (WCET™) leads, unites and empowers a global skin, wound, ostomy/fistula and continence expert nursing community and partners across cultures and systems to deliver compassionate, evidence-based, person-centred care.

We advance global health and quality of life for people living with or at risk of skin, wound, ostomy/fistula and continence problems, by championing clinical and educational excellence and innovation to ensure safe, effective nursing care.

NEW VISION

Worldwide, equitable access to skin, wound, ostomy/fistula and continence expert nursing care.

Kimberly LeBlanc
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WCET™ President

Key actions and next steps

- Using town hall and survey insights, the Board is completing a revisited strategic framework that will emphasise equitable access to education and conferences, strengthened governance and transparent succession planning, expanded research and evidence translation, with a focus on mentorship and capacity building in underserved regions. This plan will guide operational decisions and resource allocation in 2027 and beyond.
- To ensure WCET™'s governance matches the organisation's global scope and member expectations, we will propose several targeted constitutional amendments to members. These proposals aim to clarify roles, improve succession processes and increase transparency in nominations and elections. Full details and explanatory materials will be circulated to the membership before voting.
- In line with these governance steps, WCET™ will hold elections for the President-Elect and Secretary positions in early fall. We will issue a formal call for nominations, provide clear timelines and ensure an open, fair election process. I encourage eligible members to consider standing and invite everyone to participate in the electoral process.
- The Executive Board is actively exploring venues for the next WCET™ Congress and will announce the 2028 location in the months to come, a milestone event as our 50th Congress. Recognising travel costs and geographic barriers, we are also investigating smaller regional meetings and hybrid or satellite formats to ensure more WCET™ members can attend educational events and network locally. Our goal is to widen access while preserving the high scientific and collegial standards of our flagship congresses.
- Building on the strengths demonstrated in Vancouver (including innovations like simultaneous translation), we will expand initiatives to strengthen education and mentorship, encourage multicentre and cross-national research collaborations and deepen partnerships with patient groups and policy stakeholders. These actions will help translate global evidence into culturally appropriate, bedside practice across diverse health systems.

I remain mindful of the transitions that brought me to this role and of the concerns that arose from the early resignation of our previous President-Elect. The Board and I take those concerns seriously. Our renewed strategic planning, proposed constitutional clarifications and transparent election process are intended to restore confidence and strengthen our governance for the long term. I am deeply grateful for the mentorship and counsel of past leaders, including Laurent Chabal and Elizabeth Ayello, our international delegates and committee members, whose support has been invaluable during this period.

WCET™'s work is rooted in the legacy of pioneers such as Norma N Gill, whose leadership reminds us that advancing our specialty requires rigorous clinical practice, relentless advocacy and a commitment to education. Our specialty, the tri-specialty of wound, ostomy/fistula, and continence nursing, remains essential to dignity, function and quality of life for patients everywhere. The strategic choices we make now must ensure that every enterostomal therapy nurse, wherever they practice, has access to the knowledge, mentorship and professional community needed to provide the best care.

Now more than ever, WCET™ needs the engagement of its members. Please ensure you participate in the upcoming consultations, consider standing for office and join regional or virtual events as they are announced. Bring your expertise, your questions and your ideas so we can shape practical, compassionate solutions together. Together, we will continue to amplify the voice of ET nurses worldwide and improve care for people living with wounds, stomas/fistulas and continence concerns. Thank you for your continued trust and partnership.

Editorial (continued from page 7)

the use of topical antimicrobial solutions and dressings with antimicrobial properties as well as appropriate collection of wound swabs and the use of systemic antibiotics.

Before the abstracts, in an evidence summary for low- and middle-income countries, Haesler analyses the evidence for water sitz baths promoting anorectal wound healing.

With kind regards

Jenny