

The importance of quality care

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Within this first edition of the WCET™ Journal for 2026 and the accompanying Journal Supplement, improving the lives of peoples with ostomies and wounds through greater understanding of factors that may impinge of a person's quality of life (QoL) is a common theme.

In addition, the Journal itself contributes to the provision of quality evidence-based care through published content inclusive of original articles, scoping reviews, case histories and research as evidenced in the included Index of Articles.

The scope of articles published and contribution to clinical care has recently been recognised by the Scopus Content Selection & Advisory Board (CSAB) which has approved the Journal being included within the Scopus indexing data base due to its international relevance and focus on wound, ostomy and continence care that effectively serves a specific niche audience; wound ostomy and continence nurses. Scopus recognition along with concurrent listings with CINHALL to Embase, InfoRMIT Health and EBSCO ensures the Journal reaches a substantially larger worldwide audience. It also increases our international profile that hopefully will attract clinicians and academics to share their knowledge and expertise with us.

As Editor, I would like to acknowledge Publisher Greg Paull, past Editors, Editorial Board Members, reviewers and all authors who over the years have contributed to the Journal reaching this fantastic milestone.

As stated in the opening paragraph, the Journal and Supplement are complimentary in addressing aspects of QoL of people with wounds and stomas. In relation to stomas, those who are affected by peristomal skin complications (PSCs).

Coloplast are thanked for their authors contributions whereby Martins et al describe the development of a new prevention guide for PSCs that comprises of an iPDF Prevention Guide, e-learning materials and concise bite-sized video vignettes that are aligned to a Risk Factor Model for leakage and PSCs.

Understanding the clinical nuances and clinical utility of convexity in the prevention and management of PSCs is elaborated on by Rolls et al who discuss the key characteristics of convexity; depth, slope, tension location, compressibility and flexibility in enhancing product selection to minimise PSCs. Rolfsen et al share their experiences in evaluating the impact of

a convex soft one-piece pouching system on leakages and QoL in comparison to flat pouching systems.

The Supplement showcases how partnerships in care can be developed with industry to the mutual benefit of wound ostomy and continence nurses to improve the QoL of people with wound stoma or continence issues.

Supplement content is augmented by Norman et al's comprehensive literature review on multifactorial factors that contribute to PSCs (the third in a series of articles on PSCs that began in September 2025) and Samridhi et al's discourse on factors that reportedly impacted on the ostomates QoL during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Villa et al's protocol for developing and achieving stomal therapy nurse consensus on patient education strategies for those living with a stoma in remote areas in Italy with a view to enhancing QoL continues this theme.

The lived experiences of patients suffering from intravenous drug-related soft skin tissue infections who seek treatment for their wounds from emergency services is reported by Kuhnke et al in their qualitative descriptive study. Patients interviewed offer suggestions for reducing stigmatisation, underassessed pain and assistance with withdrawal.

The WCET™ - NSWOCC® Joint Congress 2026 "In it Together: Moving mountains to create a world of better wound, ostomy and continence care" is all about promoting collaborative practice and improving clinical outcomes. During the Congress an interactive Journal Workshop will be held on how to write a case study so clinicians may share their experiences on how they improved the QoL of a person with a wound, ostomy and continence issue. Participants will use a wound assessment framework and the WCET™ case study template to guide them how to construct an article for publication.

In closing, I would like to pay tribute to our outgoing President Laurent Chabal for his leadership over the last four years. Laurent, I believe, has always aspired to inspire us all to improve the QoL of people with wounds, ostomies and continence problems. This along with his sense of humour reminds me of a quote from Patch Adams being, "You treat a disease, you win, you lose. You treat a person, I guarantee, you'll win, no matter what the outcome". Thank you Laurent.

All the best to the new partnership of incoming President Denise Hibbert and President Elect Kimberley Le Blanc in guiding WCET™ to greater heights.

With kind regards

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