

Bespoke approaches to wound management

For referencing Prentice J. Bespoke approaches to wound management. WCET® Journal 2022;42(2):7

DOI <https://doi.org/10.33235/wcet.42.2.7>

Different situations often require a bespoke approach or service to address an underlying issue.

The contents of this issue, in conjunction with the Journal Supplement, highlight a variety of clinical, educational and experimental research issues with authors offering bespoke solutions.

Within the Congress Supplement, Plate identifies in his Editorial the importance of “tailoring ostomy care” to meet the needs of and improve quality of life for people with stomas. Colwell goes on to further discuss the importance of peristomal skin protection and the critical factors of correctly assessing the size and shape of the stoma when considering an appropriate pouching system to ensure an effective seal to prevent leakages. Hansen and colleagues define the term ‘peristomal body profile’ and describe how a modified Delphi approach was used to engage stomal therapy nurses’ opinions to form consensus statements on peristomal body profiling and the use of convexity post-operatively. We are most appreciative of Coloplast’s support of the WCET® in providing this supplementary information.

Hiske Smarte, incoming president of the International Interprofessional Wound Care Group (IIWCG) discusses how the IIWCG adopted a hybrid approach to host the World Union of Wound Healing Society’s Conference in Abu Dhabi in March 2022, thereby overcoming the challenges and stressors presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. These strategies ensured attending and virtual delegates reaped the benefits of all speakers’ advice.

Similarly in the President and President Elects message, emulation of such strategies to facilitate hosting of the joint WCET® / WOCN Congress in Fort Worth, Texas is alluded to.

Orlov et al, within their article ‘Fluid handling dynamics and durability of silver-containing gelling fibre dressings tested in a robotic wound system’ discuss a novel bespoke approach to simultaneously testing fluid absorbency and retention (sorption) and durability properties of two gelling fibre dressings and their interactions with secondary dressings in a simulated wound environment. The importance of clinicians having a greater understanding of these dressing properties

within both the primary and secondary dressings as evaluated and to assist with clinical decision-making are explained.

Questionnaires are an often-used method to obtain clinical information. Well-designed questionnaires assist investigators to elicit and analyse the information they require to examine, analyse, and propose solutions to ameliorate an issue. Dr John Stephenson, in his second article related to statistics, specifically addresses the use of questionnaires within the arena of wound management. He guides us to reflect on and consider inherent factors prior to and during questionnaire design. These include study sample selection; factors to be studied; formulating and scoring questions asked; how to maximise response rates; and how to refine a questionnaire through pilot processes. Following this advice, the principles of which are applicable to any wound ostomy or continence scenario, means investigators will have a bespoke tool that provides the best opportunity for them to understand the issue under investigation and devise an appropriate response.

Complex chronic wounds in Brazil, it is suggested, are a public health issue with associated financial implications. Consequently a Stomal Therapy Nurse (STN)-led wound management outpatient clinic was established in the Cariri Ceará region of Brazil. Sampaio et al describe the results of a retrospective clinical audit on wound types and wound healing outcomes of patients who presented to the STN-led wound management outpatient clinic for wound care and postulate whether this bespoke service will assist in the prevention and management of community-acquired wounds.

In low-income countries treatment of wounds in a bespoke manner is often by default due to the necessity to use locally available non-expensive materials. Haesler provides a summary of the properties, advantages and disadvantages associated with the use of Aloe vera for treating burn wounds concluding that Aloe vera presents a cost-effective management option.

In concluding this Editorial I would like to acknowledge the recipients of the inaugural WCET® Norma N Gill President’s Award recipients Paula Erwin-Toth, Sally J Gill-Thompson and Dr Diane L Krasner for their life-long and outstanding contributions to the profession.

a number of times since. He has also recorded a video with the editor on how to get published in the WCET® Journal which is available on the association's website.

WCET® Boards have often sought advice/input on commercial, industry and sponsorship matters. One of his most distinguishing contributions of his publishing creativity and caring for the well-being of WCET® is when in 2010 he helped to initiate the Sustaining Journal Partnership with then Editor and now Executive Editor Emeritus as well as developing a strategic plan in 2004 to redesign the journal to improve its impact factor and international standing.

The award was presented at the WCET® 2022 Congress in Fort Worth, Texas.

Also presented at the Fort Worth Congress were three inaugural WCET® Norma N Gill President's Awards.



Paula Erwin-Toth
RN ET MSN FAAN

The first recipient (in alphabetical order) was Paula Erwin-Toth who has over 40 years experience in wound ostomy and continence care. She completed her specialty education in 1982 at the Cleveland Clinic's RB Turnbull School of Enterostomal Therapy and was board certified by the WOCNCB as a CWOCN for 35 years. From 1990 to 2012 she served as the Program Director for the RB Turnbull of School of WOC Nursing Education. She was motivated in her career choice after undergoing ostomy surgery at the age of 10. By a fortuitous turn of fate, her ET was none other than Norma Gill. Norma was not only a wonderful caregiver, she also acted as a mentor and friend. Ms Erwin-Toth was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award as a 'Legend in WOC Nursing Education' by the WOCN and was named as a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing. She has served on the boards of numerous professional and patient support organisations and is a well recognised clinician, author, speaker and researcher. She describes co-editing the Festschrift honouring Norma with her friend and colleague Diane Krasner as a highlight of her personal and professional experiences.



Sally J Gill-Thompson
ET

The award was also presented to Sally J Gill-Thompson who has been an Enterostomal Therapist since 1971 after training at Cleveland Clinic with her mother, Norma Gill-Thompson, and Rupert Turnbull MD. She was fortunate to have witnessed the inception of UOA, NAAET (now WOCN®) and WCET®.

Sally's ET career has spanned over 50 years practising as an ET consultant to several local hospitals in Ohio, and in management, first for the family ostomy supply business and later for other medical equipment companies. For over 35 years she served as a clinical trial investigator for ostomy

manufacturers resulting in the launch of new and innovative products for persons with an ostomy. Even after retirement she continues to be an advocate for persons with an ostomy, often seeing them in their homes. Sally is a contributing author to several publications including the Festschrift honouring her mother, Norma N Gill-Thompson ET.



Diane L Krasner
PhD RN FAAN FAWC
MAPWCA

Also awarded was Diane L Krasner PhD RN FAAN FAWC MAPWCA who has been an ET/WOC Nurse since 1985. She has practiced across the continuum of care and been involved in nursing and wound care education and research. For the past 16 year Diane has also performed expert witness work.

Dr Krasner has numerous publications and through the years has served on numerous organisational boards and committees. Diane's special interests include wound pain, Skin Changes At Life's End (SCALE) and palliative wound care.

A highlight of Diane's ET/WOC Nurse career has been co-editing three editions of the *Norma N Gill Festschrift* with Paula Erwin-Toth and presenting a special leather-bound copy of the first edition to Norma in September 1996.

Editorial continued

In addition, and with reference to the five Cs of extraordinary teams (competitors, common goals, communicate, chemistry and consistency) as mentioned with the President and President Elect's message, I would like to add another 'C' - that of 'Consummate' professionals with regard to Elizabeth Ayello and Greg Paull. Elizabeth, I understand, has given 19 years of continual service to the WCET® Board. This is an amazing achievement and speaks of dedication to furthering the goals of the WCET® and wound, skin, ostomy and continence care globally using her own powerful collaborative bespoke approach. Greg has provided 26 years of service to the WCET® from a variety of perspectives as identified by Elizabeth and Laurent Chabal. In today's world of publishing this is extraordinary commitment and demonstration of teamwork.

As Editor, I am indebted to both Elizabeth and Greg for their guidance. I look forward to working with Laurent and his team in the same collegial manner.

With Kind Regards

Jenny
Editor