

# CAWC Scholarships

## Advance Wound Care

Each year, the CAWC awards scholarships for research and education to its members. Although the endeavours of the recipients are diverse, in all cases, the scholarships help them to further their wound-care careers and move the practice of wound care in Canada forward. Excerpted below, in their own words, are summaries from some of 2004's CAWC scholarship recipients.

**Barbara Moyst:** The NewLab Clinical Research Educational Grant that I received in November 2004 allowed me to enroll in the International Interdisciplinary Wound Care Course offered through the University of Toronto. This course was challenging, rewarding and enlightening.

It has enabled me to not only advance my wound-care knowledge and skills training but also to network with many wound-care enthusiasts from around the world. As part of the course assignment, after determining patient education needs, I developed a patient-education pamphlet on foot care that can be used in our clinics to help prevent ulcers.

The best part of doing the course will be [the opportunity] to put my expertise to use through knowledge sharing with colleagues and teaching patients about wound care and preventative tips on how to take care of oneself.

**Donna Flahr:** I was awarded the CAWC Tendra Wound Care Education Scholarship in the fall of 2003. I was enrolled in the University of Wales (now Cardiff University) College of Medicine Master's in Wound Science course

as of October of that year. Since then I have completed eight modules on various wound-care topics.

The first module was based on an area of physiology of wound healing, and I chose to research wound contraction. The next module was on the psychology of healing, which was based on a case study and examined the stress, social support and coping mechanisms of a patient situation. The third module was to choose an intrinsic risk factor and outline its effects on the healing process. For this module I researched diabetes and wound healing. The fourth module looked at the clinimetrics of one method of assessment/measurement, and I examined ruler-based wound measurement [see page 18 for an article on clinimetrics by Flahr et al.]. Module five was an overview of acute wound healing and the management issues associated with acute wounds; I researched and wrote a paper on hydrocolloids in the management of acute wounds. Module six was a discussion on an area of controversy in chronic wounds. I chose to examine the role of micro- versus macro-vascular disease in diabetic foot ulceration. Module seven was an examination

of cost-effectiveness vs. quality when examining our country's health-care system, and I examined the literature support for and against the use of guidelines in the practice and provision of wound care. The eighth module was a research proposal, and I intend to attempt to examine the role of non-weight-bearing, isometric exercise in the healing outcomes related to diabetic foot ulcers. In Saskatchewan, diabetic foot ulceration is a significant problem. I have found little to no research assessing the role of exercise in this population, although there is a large amount of evidence relating exercise to improvements in circulation with arterial disease and improvements in venous return with venous leg ulcers.

**Karen Campbell:** The Canadian Association of Wound Care Educational Scholarship has provided me with some support so that I was able to complete the first year of my PhD in Rehabilitation Science at the University of Western Ontario. During the school year 2004–2005, I was a full-time student and took courses in

- Statistics
- Research methodology
- Philosophy of rehabilitation science
- Seminar series in rehabilitation science

I was successful in all of my course work and maintained an A average. While taking the courses I have worked with my advisory committee to determine my research focus. Much of my review of the literature is complete, and preliminary work has sketched out the design of the study. I have determined that my focus will be on wound-care knowledge translation as well as prevention of pressure ulcers in acute-care hospitals.

**Cheryl Boyd:** The 3M Novice in Wound Care Scholarship from the Canadian Association of Wound

Care allowed me to attend the Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society Conference in Las Vegas in June of this year. This was my first experience attending a conference of this type. It was exciting to meet so many colleagues in this specialty area from all over North America.

The conference started out well with the morning breakfast for first-time attendees. This allowed me to meet others in my field, which immediately reduced my anxiety and gave me an opportunity to share and understand the opportunities in the next few days. What I found of particular interest was the ability to choose a specific track of sessions. I chose the ostomy track, which covered Pre, Post and Beyond Ostomy Surgery, Sexuality Issues, Stomal Complications, and a pouching

seminar on convexity, to name only a few of the topics. Also helpful to acquiring additional information were the exhibit hall sessions and networking with the companies regarding their new products.

My membership in CAWC and this learning opportunity will assist me in my daily practice as a Wound Ostomy Resource Nurse within the community setting. I would encourage others to take advantage of these educational opportunities to further their clinical practice.

**Jenny Juchymenko and Christine Willey:** It was a great pleasure and honour to be the first recipients of the Heather Louise Orsted Scholarship for team development. As a nursing and occupational therapy interdisciplinary team, we share Heather's passion

for wound care and delivery of best practice. The scholarship provided us with the opportunity to attend the CAWC Conference in Calgary, Alberta, in November 2004, as well as attend the International Interdisciplinary Wound Care Course (IIWCC) in Toronto. At the IIWCC, we met and networked with other colleagues from various disciplines and countries who also share our passion for wound care.

This scholarship has helped us achieve our latest goals of IIWCC to enhance wound-care delivery for continuing care residents. ☺

*For information on Canadian Association of Wound Care scholarships, please visit the CAWC Web site at [www.cawc.net/open/scholarship/scholarships.html](http://www.cawc.net/open/scholarship/scholarships.html).*