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Subject: News From Wound Healing Society

Wound Healing Society Bulletin

News & Views

In This Issue: Letter From The President

Awards
Session Highlights
Other Meeting Highlights

Letter From The President:

Dear Members and Colleagues,

I am happy to report on the state of the Wound Healing Society (WHS) as I assume the responsibilities of president. Overall, the WHS is on solid footing and is steadily growing in stature and membership. This month our 2009 members surpassed 600! Over the years, as with any fledgling group ours has had its struggles, challenges and set backs as well as its high points; but through the diligence and skillful attention of many dedicated leaders, problems were solved, corrections were made and the WHS has continued to uphold its mission to advance the science and practice of wound healing. During this time, the annual meeting has become established as a forum for the exchange of the latest and greatest in wound healing research. Wound Repair and
Regeneration was launched to provide a peer-reviewed journal dedicated to publishing leading research in wound healing and tissue repair from around the world. The cross-communication among our members from the clinical, research and commercial arenas led to the Wound Care Guidelines project, developed to fill a need for current, comprehensive and balanced presentation of the best standards of practice for the care and prevention of complex wounds.

Now in its 21st year, the WHS has grown up to become an established and recognized entity with a strong sense of who we are and great hopes for what we can achieve. Our administrative operations are on an even keel under the watchful guidance of our management company Crow Segal Mgt. Our financial position is healthy. The income from the journal (secured through a long-term contract with our publisher Wiley-Blackwell) and from the annual meeting (secured through our association with the Symposium for Advanced Wound Care) affords us the opportunity to look to the future and ask ourselves, what new initiatives and projects should we take on.

Some projects that are in the works this year include, of course, planning the scientific program for our 2010 annual meeting. This is well underway so stay tuned for the call for abstracts and program announcement coming soon. In this time of growing reliance on electronic communication, our website will soon be undergoing a major renovation for improved access to information and better interactive capabilities for online educational programs. In addition there is a new project that will launch next year—Advances in Wound Care is an annual yearbook, a compilation of the latest developments and advances in the field that will serve as a comprehensive, authoritative reference for both new and seasoned wound care specialists. Over 300 authors and 150 reviewers have contributed to the project this year. The premiere issue will be available in time for the 2010 annual meeting with a discount for WHS members. Proceeds from sales will benefit the society.

This year we are exploring ways to better serve the membership and to champion the critical need for well-informed wound management as a fundamental part of providing the best health care—not only through advanced research and evidence-based practice, but also through communicating with government agencies and health care reimbursement groups. One important means to do this is through our working committees, who not only help to maintain and promote ongoing activities to foster education, research and advocacy, but also bring fresh ideas to the table.

At our Strategic Planning Meeting this fall, the Board of Directors, Committee Chairs and other participants will focus on many of these timely and important issues and will develop a plan for how best to direct our efforts and resources in the next few years. We welcome your input into this process.
through sharing of your thoughts and ideas. Send them to me by the end of October and they will be considered in our deliberations.

I appreciate the diversity, dedication, intellect and insightfulness of our society members and am truly honored to be representing the WHS. But I recognize that I need the help of many to promote our mission and to effectively reach out to the wide array of specialists concerned with wound healing. I'm fortunate to have an active Board of Directors and Society Officers with a broad range of expertise and experience, as well as energetic and hard working committees. As a whole I believe we really are greater than the sum of our parts.

I look forward to a busy presidential year culminating in a great 2010 annual meeting, where I hope to see many of you and report on our latest endeavors.

With warm regards,

Patricia A. Hebda, PhD
President

Incoming President Pat Hebda presents a plaque of appreciation to outgoing President Allen Holloway at the WHS Business Meeting in Dallas, April 2009.

AWARDS

The New Anita Roberts Award:
Ashley Gordon and Elliott Kozin shared the first ever Anita Roberts Award for their article entitled "Permissive environment in postnatal wounds induced by adenoviral-mediated overexpression of the anti-inflammatory cytokine interleukin-10 prevents scar formation" Wound Rep Regen 16:70-79, 2008. The work was performed in the lab of WHS member Dr. Tim Crombleholme.

The Distinguished Service Award:
The Distinguished Service Award, given when deemed necessary to recognize the outstanding contributions to the Society went to Board member Laura Parnell. Laura has been instrumental in shaping the Membership Committee, and is always the first to lend a hand in any capacity. Congratulations, Laura!

Laura Parnell (center) receives the Distinguished Service Award from Incoming President Pat Hebda (left) and Outgoing President Allen Holloway (right).

Young Investigator Awards: This year featured the largest 'class' of awardees to date, with eight YI awards given, and twelve Travel awards.
The Y1 winners were:
**John Paul Tutela** Abstract #6
**Syed-Rehan Hussain**, Abstract #5
**Phuong D. Nguyen**, Abstract #3
**Rongpei Lan**, Abstract #2

**John Paul Tutela**, the highest scoring Y1 award winner, will represent the WHS at the ETRS meeting in Limoges this August. Paul is a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow from the New York University Medical Center, and his abstract was titled: Improved Diabetic Wound Healing via Topical gene Therapy: A Vascular Mechanism.

The WHS thanks **Dr. Vincent Falanga** for his generous support of the Travel Awards.

**The 3M Award:**
**Allison BJ Tobey** won the $15,000 3M award, accepted on her behalf by WHS newly minted president and Tobey’s colleague **Pat Hebda**.

**The 2009 Blue Ribbon Poster Awards:**
Three outstanding posters from corporate research and development teams were selected as blue ribbon posters. The winners were:
1st Place: **John Centanni et al**, Abstract # 86
Stratatech Corporation, Madison WI
2nd Place: **Sameer Shums et al**, Abstract # 96
BioCure, Inc., Norcross, GA
3rd Place: **Allen Comer et al**, Abstract # 73
Stratatech Corporation, Madison WI

**SESSION HIGHLIGHTS**

**Joint WHS- Japanese Wound Healing Society Session:**
WHS member Laura Parnell worked with the Japanese Wound Healing Society to develop a session that featured Sadanori Akita and Kozo Akino from Nagasaki University; Yuko Ishida from Wakayama University, and Ichiro Ono from Sapporo University. The three topics were: Growth factor treatments on wounds today and the future; Role of SHC signaling protein in neural differentiation and mesenchymal stem cell wound healing, and CC chemokine receptor 5 contributes to skin wound healing by homing endothelial progenitor cells. The WHS presented our Japanese colleagues with special black leather WHS portfolios and certificates, which delighted them!

**Meet the Mentors:**
One of the “best kept secrets” of the entire Symposium, where attendees are given a chance to get ‘up close & personal’ with our WHS shining stars. The session was organized by Manuela Martins Green & Traci Wilgus included:
**Nuts & Bolts of Setting Up Your First Laboratory**
Mentors: Lisa Gould & Anie Philip
**Industry Jobs/Career Paths**
Mentors: Laura Parnell & Manuela Martins Green
**Navigating Through the Grant Review Process**
Mentors: Luisa DiPietro & Jeff Davidson
**Getting Research Published**
Mentors: James Tomasek & Traci Wilgus
**How to Establish Collaboration & Authorship**
Mentors: Harriet Hopf

If you didn’t make it to this session, you missed stimulating conversation and a stellar chance to
network. Next year, Meet the Mentors promises to be even bigger and better.

OTHER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The WHS Booth was better than ever, highlighting our Directors in pictures showing their prowess off the field, as well as in their field. Favorable comments were garnered for the chocolate covered sunflower seeds given out by our booth volunteers with thanks to volunteer booth staffers Praveen Arany, Adrian Barbul, Stephanie Bernatchez, Laura Bolton, Bob Diegelmann, Luisa DiPietro, Lisa Gould, Pat Hebdia, Allen Holloway, Harriet Hopf, Paul Liu, Tom Mustoe, Oluyinka Olutoye, Laura Parnell, Anie Philip, and Chandan Sen.

The WHS Networking Room:
Conveniently located and set up for wireless internet, this year’s Networking Room pleased just about everybody. Finance Chair Braham Shroot probably used it the most!

NOTE TO MEMBERS: If you have a great idea for a session for next year, we welcome your ideas! Please email our two chairs for the 2010 Meeting:
Anie Philip: anie.philip@mcgill.ca
Oluyinka Olutoye: ooolutoy@texaschildrens.org

WH'S BOD TELECONFERENCE

Thursday August 6, 2009 4:00 PM EDT

Executive Summary:

- Evaluations from the 2009 Annual Meeting were very positive. Overall, members believe having a joint meeting with the SAWC benefits the WHS by increasing visibility. A few express concern we could lose our identity. The WHS Program Committee is working hard with the SAWC organizing committee to increase the visibility of the WHS, particularly in the program book.
- WHS income from 2009 Annual Meeting in Dallas is about $50K. This is about the same as last year—a good thing in the current economic crisis.
- The Program Committee is working hard on next year’s program (April 17-20, 2010 in Orlando) and it
  - We now have 601 official Wound Healing Society members. The Membership Committee deserves kudos for their hard work in defining the value of membership, recruiting new members, and retaining old ones.
  - The Wound Healing Society Yearbook is on track for publication in early spring and will be available at next year’s annual meeting. See http://www.liebertpub.com/products/product.aspx?pkid=280 for details.
  Annette Wysocki, the new President of the Board of Directors of the Wound Healing Foundation, is working hard to revitalize the foundation.

WH'S YEARBOOK

Watch for the new Wound Healing Society Yearbook Publication

ADVANCES IN WOUND CARE
An Authoritative Desktop Reference For All Wound Care Professionals
Volume 1 to be released in 2010 at the WHS Meeting
SAVE THE DATE! 2010 WHS/SAWC Annual Meeting
April 17-20, 2010
Gaylord Palms Hotel and Convention Center, Orlando Florida
Details will be sent to all members soon!

OTHER MEETINGS OF INTEREST

Ernst Klenk Symposium in Molecular Medicine
Extracellular Matrix in Health and Disease
04. - 06. October 2009 in Cologne
Further information: www.zmmk.uni-koeln.de

49th Annual Meeting of the American Society for Cell Biology
December 5-9, 2009, San Diego
Abstract Submission (for Minisymposium or Poster) July 30
Abstract Submission (for Poster only) September 1
Late Abstract Submission October 15
www.ascb.org/meetings

10th Annual Wound Healing: Science and Industry conference
December 11-13th, 2009 - St Thomas, USVI
Conference Website and Registration

Australasian Wound and Tissue Repair Society - 2nd Conference
March 22-24, 2010, Perth, Western Australia
Click here for more information

Should you have any news or notes you would like us to include in future bulletins, please email them to Luisa DiPietro at ldipiet@uic.edu or Phil Pyster at phil@crowsegal.com

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