Dear Phil Pyster,

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**News & Views**

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**Dear Members and Colleagues,**

It doesn't seem that long ago when I wrote to you that I was looking "forward to a busy presidential year culminating in a great 2010 annual meeting". Now here we are with the 2010 WHS 20th Annual Meeting less than a week away and me preparing for my final activities as
WHS President. It has indeed been a very busy year, one that has flown by all too quickly, but which has afforded me a number of wonderful opportunities.

In August I traveled to Limoges, France to participate in our 4th joint meeting with our sister society, the European Tissue Repair Society (ETRS). The scientific program of invited speakers and submitted abstracts was outstanding, and the WHS was well-represented. I hope that many of you will take advantage of this joint meeting venue in the future to expand your exposure the depth and breadth of research in our field.

In November, the Board of Directors, Committee Chairs and a few Members-at-Large gathered with our management company at the Hyatt Hotel in the Orlando Airport for a weekend of self-assessment and strategizing for the future. Several key goals were targeted for the year ahead, some of which will be discussed at the Annual Business Meeting next week in Orlando.

On a routine basis, I joined the monthly conference calls of our busy committees to gain perspective on their activities and to help them stay in touch with the Board of Directors. It is tremendously gratifying to witness the dedication and innovation of so many of our members on behalf of the WHS mission. One great example of this is the Website Committee who worked throughout 2009 to completely rebuild, update and trouble-shoot our society website. If you haven’t yet seen it, I think you will be amazed at the improvement.

Meanwhile, ever since the 2009 Annual Meeting, the 2010 Program Committee has been working tirelessly together with Lyn Henderson and Mindy Hoo, and other staff at our management company and the SAWC groups, to plan for the conference that is about to commence. It is a laborious task, for sure, but one that I know is a proud accomplishment for each and every person involved. I certainly hope that you will come to Orlando April 17-20 to be part of this auspicious event, developed on your behalf.

Twelve months ago I had high hopes for making a
difference during my presidency. And in some ways, I am content with progress that has been made. But in other ways, the time has been frustratingly short, for putting into play meaningful and lasting new initiatives, such as expansion of the base of member involvement in WHS leadership, and creation of new means of support, not only for our students and trainees, but also for junior faculty who have made a commitment to the field of wound healing and tissue regeneration but for whom significant, long-term funding is not yet secure. This year, through a generous contribution from an industrial donor, we were able to offer travel grants for 10 junior faculty to attend the annual meeting. This is a good start, but there is so much more that could be done.

And there is promise for great things in the years ahead! Given the upcoming leadership, I am confident that they will continue to promote the initiatives of this year as well as bringing their own new ideas and vision. Luisa DiPietro will assume the WHS presidency next week, and she clearly stands among the top researchers in our field as well as being a consummate leader and educator. I think we all can look forward to a banner year for WHS.

It has been an honor to represent you and the WHS. And it has been a privilege to work with the other Officers and Board Members, Committees and our dedicated management team. Thanks to everyone for all of your support!

With warm regards,

Patricia A. Hebdal, PhD
President

The Newsletter Subcommittee and I are pleased to introduce in the WHS Newsletter vignettes from the past of the Society. We thought it would be interesting and informative to our junior members (and perhaps even to those not so junior) that we feature in the Newsletter specific aspects of the history of our Society. Bob Diegelmann will take the lead in providing this information. This section will be called "A Blast from the Past". In this issue we will focus on history related to the naming of the Society, membership categories and the announcement of
Tom Hunt
The Founding President of the Wound Healing Society
by Harriet Hopf and Paul Ehrlich

Tom "TK" Hunt, the founding president of the Wound Healing Society, was born August 6, 1930, in Evanston Illinois, and grew up with his sister, Eleanor Vail. His father was an organ builder, a merchant marine in World War I who reenlisted in the Coast Guard in World War II and eventually became a ship captain in the Great Lakes and North Atlantic. His mother was a schoolteacher.

Tom graduated from Harvard University in 1952 with a BS in Biochemistry and received his MD from Harvard Medical School in 1956. In the same year, Tom married Evelyn, now a labor attorney in San Francisco. He interned at Boston City Hospital and spent two years in the Army. Tom Jr. was born. Five years later, after a residency at the Oregon Health Sciences University and the births of Karyn and Christopher, the family moved to Glasgow for a research fellowship, the start of his search for the secrets of wound healing.

In 1965, TK joined the Department of Surgery at the University of California, San Francisco, where he has worked ever since. In the 1960s and 70s, he helped develop the Trauma Center at San Francisco General Hospital which became famous as the modern trauma epidemic grew. In the 70s, the State Department appointed him civilian chief of surgery in a major Saigon hospital. He got out just before the fall of the city.

As a surgeon he was particularly interested in finding ways to improve acute wound healing and in the treatment of patients with endocrine tumors, although his published work covers nearly every area of general surgery and wound repair. Expanding on work started in Glasgow, TK focused his research program on developing ways to measure and control wound oxygen tension.

Throughout his career, TK has been a revered scientist and a practicing surgeon. He thinks that academic surgeons should keep one foot in the operating room and the other in the lab. His research has followed several paths leading to wound healing: the role of oxygen and its availability in blood vessels and tissues certainly dominated, but he also was a pioneer in investigations into the role of Vitamin A in reversing the effects of steroids on wound repair; the role of growth factors in healing, including the healing power of Preparation H; the use of tape closure for incisions; and the impact of glove powder on forming adhesions. His pioneering research required him to develop a number of techniques as well, including devices for measuring oxygen in wounds and the expanded polytetrafluoroethylene tubes used by many researchers to measure collagen deposition. TK would at this point object that many of these achievements were collaborative efforts, and indeed they were. Part of his genius is the ability make the most of others' talents. TK’s ideas are remarkable for their simplicity and practicality, which allow them to be applied with benefit in a variety of disciplines. NIH has invested millions of dollars in TK (and others) to determine that a handful of inexpensive, easy to
implement interventions (warmth, fluids, pain control, vasodilation, and oxygen, in addition to prophylactic antibiotics) can substantially reduce wound infections and improve wound healing. These ideas have become the cornerstones of surgical infection prevention programs.

TK's title since 2001 has been Professor Emeritus. In recent years, he's served simultaneously on the faculty at the University of Tubingen in Germany and at Ohio State University. He was President of the American Trauma Society and founding President of the Wound Healing Society and is a member of numerous surgical and scientific societies. He has honorary degrees from the University of Lund, Sweden, and the University of Turku, Finland. He was a grantee of the National Institute of General Medicine Sciences for almost forty years, including 25 years as PI of a Center Grant. He has authored over 400 papers and books, mostly about wound healing.

His greatest legacy is the breadth and depth of his influence as mentor, teacher and colleague. One of the great lessons he taught through example was devotion to family. His laboratory students and fellows are diverse: surgery residents; graduate students in biology, bioengineering, and nursing; medical students; undergrads, and even anesthesia residents. He has found ways to communicate and collaborate with patients, surgeons, internists, anesthesiologists, endocrinologists, physical therapists, oncologists, nurses, basic scientists of many disciplines, dentists, veterinarians, the National Institutes of Health, and administrative support staff.

WHS Annual Meeting Preview

Program Preview

By Anie Philip and Olayinka Olutoye
Co-chairs of the Program Committee for the WHS 2010 Annual Meeting

The 20th Annual Wound Healing Society meeting is rapidly approaching with only days to go before the kick-off time!! This year's scientific program will begin with an informative Pre-Conference Session on 'Funding Sources and Grant Review Process' with speakers from government and other funding agencies. Other highlights of the program include the WHS General Session Keynote Lecture featuring Dr. Michael Longaker who will present the most recent developments in the field of tissue repair and regeneration. Six plenary sessions featuring 14 speakers will cover emerging concepts in basic, translational and clinical aspects of wound healing. In addition, the Young Investigator Session and Awards will showcase the best new talents in the field. Not to be missed are the six Oral Abstract (Podium) Sessions comprising the top 48 competitively judged abstracts. Making its debut this year is a 'Poster Discussion Session" for the next 48 ranked abstracts. Also, Meet the Mentors session is back by popular demand and is sure to cultivate and build relationships between the young enthusiastic scholars and the experienced 'more seasoned' scientists. The 2010 WHS Program Committee looks forward to seeing you in Orlando!!

WHS booth

By Lyn Henderson
Assistant Executive Director

The WHS Booth at SAWC-WHS is the social and educational hub for WHS members and
prospective members alike. This year, we share our booth (#425) in the Exhibit Hall with the new WHS Yearbook. Attendees can stop by to chat with Board Member, pick up Membership & Yearbook information, partake in delicious WHS logo’d Belgium chocolates, and vie for an iPod Nano, courtesy of Dr. Paul Liu. Folks that sign up for WHS Membership at the booth will get a special WHS polo shirt and khaki hat! Booth sponsors this year were: Baxter, Diversified Clinical Services & 3M! Thank you to our sponsors for your commitment and support of WHS and the annual Meeting.

WHS New Website Awards

By Luisa DiPietro
Chair of the Website Committee

The WHS Website Committee is pleased to announce that WHS has a new and improved website! The new site has better navigation and more information for WHS members, and is designed to be easily updated. We hope that you will visit us at www.woundheal.org <http://www.woundheal.org/> to see our new look. Please note - if you go to this link and still see the old site, please go into the View menu of your browser and select Reload or Refresh page and the new site will come up. Special thanks goes to everyone who worked so hard on the new site, including Phil Pyster, Mindy Hoo, and Robin Wilson of Crow Segal. Members of the Website Committee include Bob Diegelmann, Corrie L. Gallant-Behm, Harvey Himel, Kris Kieswetter, Howie Levinson, Manuela Martins-Green, Anie Philip, David Voigt, Nicola Waters, and Traci Wilgus.

Awards

By Manuela Martins-Green
Chair, Awards Committee

This year the awards committee has again worked to select a number of awardees for annual awards such as Young Investigator, Blue Ribbon Posters, Trainee Travel Awards funded by the Wound Biotechnology Foundation, and the Anita Roberts Award funded by various donations and the proceedings from the WHS Year Book. In addition, the committee also selected the nominee for The Lifetime Achievement Award that was then sent to the BOARD for the final decision. This year a new award was introduced to facilitate traveling of Junior Faculty. The latter was funded by Novera Pharmaceuticals.

NIH Grants:
Tips for Successful Proposal Preparation

by Luisa DiPietro, Center for Wound Healing and Tissue Regeneration
UIC College of Dentistry
and Jeff Davidson,
Vanderbilt University School of Medicine-Pathology

Writing a grant application is a major undertaking, and the first step is to allow yourself plenty of time to read the literature, develop a research plan, consult with others, write and revise, gather more input, and then revise again. When you apply for funding, you may request several
hundred thousand to millions of dollars in support. Obviously a request of this magnitude requires a concerted effort towards preparing an excellent proposal. **By making a commitment that your application will receive your very best effort, you can avoid the submission of a rushed or poorly prepared application.** This is even more important now because only one resubmission of an unfunded application is permitted. It is not unusual for investigators to begin the planning process more than 6 months in advance of the deadline, particularly for new applications. Applications that are complex, such as those with multiple PIs and/or involving several institutions, might require a year or more of planning.

For NIH applications, your first step is often to determine what funding mechanism (e.g., R01, R21, K award, etc) is appropriate to your research, and to learn which of the more than 30 NIH Institutes might be interested in supporting your research ideas. Some investigators begin by applying for an investigator initiated R01 application, which is accepted by nearly all Institutes. **Junior investigators with sound ideas but less preliminary data may be more successful with the more "risky" R21 mechanism, although there are many experienced applicants with novel ideas in the same applicant pool.** However, there are many other types of awards, as well as specific announcements (Request for Proposals) of funding opportunities for applications that address particular problems. The NIH issues weekly announcements of funding opportunities ([http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/listserv.htm](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/listserv.htm)). A searchable database of such announcements and opportunities can be found at: [http://grants.nih.gov/GRANTS/guide/search_results.htm?year=active&scope=pa](http://grants.nih.gov/GRANTS/guide/search_results.htm?year=active&scope=pa)

To obtain more information about which NIH Institute might be interested in your research topic, and to learn about announcements that are pertinent to your research, the best approach is often to directly contact an NIH Program Officer to discuss your ideas. NIH Program Officers manage a scientific research portfolio of grants, and identify opportunities and needs of science specific to an Institute's mission. When you call a Program Officer, be prepared to give a brief overview of the problem that you are interested in studying and your proposed approach/model system. You do not need to have all of the details finalized before you contact the Program Officer. The Program Officer can then assess whether your topic fits into the target areas as defined by the Institute that he/she represents. When your research does not fall into their area of interest, Program Officers can frequently guide you to another Program Officer who is appropriate to your topic. NIH Program Officers can assist you in determining what type of application to submit (R01, R21, etc) and in identifying specific Program Announcements that fit your research. **When you submit your application, you should request assignment to the institute that supports your research topic.**

When you begin to write your grant application, **be sure to read the applicable NIH Program Announcement and Application Instructions thoroughly.** You will also want to find and use resources to help you write an effective application. Resources available to you will probably include 1) more experienced colleagues and mentors, 2) the NIH Website, 3) books and manuals on grant application preparation, and 4) training sessions. A list of useful NIH Websites and a list of books that may be helpful to you are provided below. Training sessions are held at many universities, and you can ask your institutional Office of Research for help in locating a session nearby.

**A successful application needs to address an important question, contain a testable hypothesis, and include enough preliminary data to show that the hypothesis is reasonable and the proposed research plan is likely to succeed.** Remember that there is no magic formula, except that you need to write a narrative that will hold the reviewers' interest and make them confident of your problem and strategy. Successful applicants approach the
presentation of the background, preliminary data, and research plan in many different ways. **One consistent feature of successful applications is clarity of thinking and writing, including adequate rationale for all proposed experiments.** Starting in 2010, the length of proposals has been dramatically reduced, forcing all applicant to prepare a very tightly assembled application with little or no room for technical detail or extensive preliminary data. The writing will have to be succinct and polished. Grants are scored on a scale of 1-9. Anything above 3 is unlikely to get funded, and anything 5 or above is unlikely to be discussed during the meeting of the Initial Review Group (study section).

In closing, the preparation of a grant application is not an easy task, but excellent grantsmanship is a skill that you can develop. With careful planning and a dedicated approach, you will find that you learn a lot through the grant application process.

**RESOURCES**

Office of Extramural Research
- [http://grants.nih.gov/grants/oer.htm](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/oer.htm)

"All About Grants" Tutorials

Process Overview

Planning your application
- [http://grants.nih.gov/grants/planning_application.htm](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/planning_application.htm)

Grant application basics
- [http://grants.nih.gov/grants/grant Basics.htm](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/grant Basics.htm)

Writing your application
- [http://grants.nih.gov/grants/writing_application.htm](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/writing_application.htm)

Definitions of Criteria and Considerations for Research Project Grant (RPG/R01/R03/R15/R21) Critiques

F32 program announcement PA-07-107 at

F31 Program Announcement PA-07-002 at

General guidelines

**BOOKS**

*Guide to Effective Grant Writing: How to Write a Successful NIH Grant Application* by Otto O. Yang

*Writing the NIH Grant Proposal: A Step-by-Step Guide* by William Gerin

*Getting Funded: The Complete Guide to Writing Grant Proposals* by Mary S. Hall and Susan Howlett


As in previous years, this year the Wound Healing Foundation will award the 3M Health Care award, the highest award given to a junior investigator. The award carries with it a monetary prize...
of $15,000 that is given to stimulate the research and scientific development of a young investigator who is pursuing an academic career in wound healing research. The fellow is expected to present the work performed with the award funds at the following WHS Annual Meeting. The guidelines for application for this award are posted on the website of the Society under WHS FOUNDATION.

And You Might Want to Know

Women in Leadership

By Harriet Hopf (Vice-President)
University of Utah

Of the 13 Wound Healing Society Presidents from our founding in 1989 through 2008, only two were women. The times they are a-changing. Currently, the President, President-Elect, and Vice President are all women. Luisa DiPietro (President Elect) and Harriet Hopf (Vice President) have recently had the opportunity for leadership training through Drexel University's Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine Program for Women (ELAM; http://www.drexelmed.edu/Home/OtherPrograms/ExecutiveLeadershipinAcademicMedicine.aspx), Harriet in 2008-9 and Luisa this year. Established in 1995, ELAM offers an intensive one-year program of leadership training with coaching, networking and mentoring opportunities aimed at expanding the national pool of qualified women candidates for leadership in academic medicine, dentistry and public health. Over 550 women have completed the program. In the US and Canada, ELAM alumnae make up 25 percent of the executive positions in academic medicine and dentistry that are held by women, including 21 current or former deans, 90 department chairs, 30 center or institute directors, and 70 senior dean’s staff. Harriet and Luisa are looking forward to using their new knowledge and tools for the benefit of the WHS.

A Blast from the Past

By Ruth O'Mahony

During our first few organizational meetings we started with the name American Wound Healing Foundation, then later changed to the Foundation for Wound Healing and then eventually to the Wound Healing Society. Dues for Active members were $45 and Associate members were $35. To be an Active Member one needed to have an advanced degree and have a demonstrated "interest & accomplishment" in the field of wound healing. Associate Members were individuals with a "demonstrated interest in the field of wound healing" but who did not qualify for Active membership. Only Active Members could vote and hold elected positions... This "feature" was designed by several of the Founders to keep the Society focused on wound healing research.

Flyer announcing the first meeting
1st ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING

February 1 - February 4, 1991

The University of Texas Medical Branch
Galveston Island, Texas

Headquarters
The San Luis Hotel
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

For more information, visit
http://www.liebertpub.com/Products/Product.aspx?pid=280

The Next Issue of Wound Repair and Regeneration
Articles on Systems Biology approaches to Wound Healing.

2010 WHS/SAWC Annual Meeting
April 17-20, 2010
Gaylord Palms Hotel and Convention Center, Orlando Florida
Details are at www.woundheal.org

4th Congress of the World Union of Wound Healing Societies
September 2-7, 2012 - Yokohama, Japan
The WHS is a Sponsoring Society and will help to plan the scientific program
Click here for more information