

To the Editor:

Wound Care Foundation of Sri Lanka established

Sri Lanka Journal of Dermatology, 2003, 7, 44

Chronic wounds and their management was, is and will continue to be a major burden in the clinical work load of many a surgical and medical unit in this country as well as abroad.

To be plagued by a chronic ulcer of one kind or the other is a great stress on the patient which has tremendous psychological as well as social implications. The primitive stigma associated with a chronic wound has not completely disappeared from the society. There are only a small number of dedicated specialized centers in the world caring for the patients with chronic wounds. Most of these centers are in Western countries. Wound care has not received the due attention in this country so far.

Taking this current need into account, a group of Sri Lankan clinicians comprising of vascular surgeons, dermatologists, general surgeons, plastic surgeons, post graduate medical trainees and nurses got together with the common interest of devising a strategy of tackling this problem. Hence the Wound Care Foundation of Sri Lanka was established recently at the SLMA Auditorium with the objective of providing better clinical care of the best possible quality to a group of patients who are seemingly shunned by all medical specialties. The speakers on this occasion, reiterated the current need for specialized care for patients with wounds of this nature.

The objectives of the Wound Care Foundation of

Sri Lanka (WCFSL) are to provide optimal care for patients with chronic wounds, train clinicians in the science and the art of managing chronic wounds, encouraging research in the field of wounds and wound healing etc. A major consideration of the foundation is to provide training and expertise to the care givers at the grass root level; viz: the nurses who do the bulk of wound care in the current ward set up in our country. Also it plans to raise public awareness on various aspects of wound care and especially on healthy first aid measures and minimizing occurrence chronic ulcers.

As an initial step, the foundation will be conducting an international symposium in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Medical Association, on Wound Care on the 24th of March 2004 in Colombo. This will be followed by five training workshops, conducted by trained wound care nurses from Singapore, in the state as well as private hospitals, organized by the Wound Care Foundation of Sri Lanka. More workshops are being planned for provincial hospitals. It also facilitates training on wound care for Sri Lankan clinicians and nurses at conferences, symposia and workshops abroad. The WCFSL also plans to formulate guidelines on wound care for clinicians and nurses and establish at least one state of the art wound care centre in one of the major teaching hospitals of the country.

A multidisciplinary collaborative approach is recommended in wound care.

Thisara C Weerasuriya, *Director-Administration, Wound Care Foundation of Sri Lanka.*