LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

To our valued members,

As 2017 rapidly approaches, I find myself reflecting on how our members and volunteers have impacted the WOC specialty over this past year. On behalf of the WOCN® Society Board of Directors, I am delighted to share some of our successes with you in the Society’s 2016 Year in Review.

Our 2016 initiatives were varied and many. From a series of important public policy issues to the release of significant clinical documents and publications, our volunteers worked tirelessly to enhance our specialty and improve patient care.

We have continued to make great strides in using technology effectively. Thousands of clinicians have accessed our new compression therapy for venous leg ulcers algorithm since its launch in the spring. Moreover, we are very proud of our revamped website which now features mobile responsive capabilities and a streamlined navigation system to help you find the information you need quickly.

Additionally, I would like to acknowledge the Society-accredited Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nursing Education Programs (WOCNEPs) for continuing to train and develop the next generation of WOC nurses over the past year.

Most importantly, I extend my heartfelt thanks to you, our members, for your commitment to the WOC specialty and the WOCN Society. Season’s Greetings to you and your loved ones with best wishes for 2017!

Sincerely,
Carolyn Watts, MSN, RN, CWON
WOCN Society President
Publications

Creating accurate and informative resources to guide clinical practice and professional development remains a strategic goal for the Society. In 2016, we released a significant number of clinical/educational documents. Here are a few of the major releases:

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<th>Publication</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pediatric Ostomy Complications: Best Practice for Clinicians</td>
<td>Document Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>WOCN Clinical Practice Guideline Series: Management of Wounds in Patients</td>
<td>Bookstore</td>
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<td>with Pressure Ulcers (Injuries)</td>
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<td>Reversible Causes of Acute/Transient Urinary Incontinence: Clinical</td>
<td>Document Library</td>
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<td>Resource Guide</td>
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<td>Care and Management of Patients with Urinary Catheters: A Clinical</td>
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<td>Resource Guide</td>
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<td>WOCN Guidance on OASIS-C2 Integumentary Items: Best Practice for</td>
<td>Document Library</td>
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COMING SOON

WOC Nursing Scope and Standards of Practice

In 2016, Society volunteers worked diligently to update the WOC Nursing Scope and Standards of Practice. Members had the option to comment on the document and how it relates to their role as WOC nurses. The updated Scope and Standards is currently under review, and we expect it to be available for purchase in 2017. Be on the lookout for an announcement from the Society in the coming months.
The WOCN Society continued the successful *I Deserve a WOC Nurse* campaign in 2016. The purpose of this campaign is to generate awareness of the WOC nurse among individuals with wound, ostomy and continence issues, employers and other healthcare providers. Since its inception, the campaign has been featured in more than 1,000 media outlets and has drawn substantial attention across social media.

**WOCN Society and CAET Joint Conference**

We crossed borders and broke boundaries this year through our collaborative conference with the CAET. Thank you to everyone who took the journey with us to Montreal and experienced a truly unique educational experience. We can’t wait to see you next year in Salt Lake City for the WOCN Society’s 49th Annual Conference.
2016’s **WOC Nurse Week** celebrated the many roles of the WOC nurse, including educator, researcher, clinical expert and decision maker. This year’s Nurse Week awareness campaign reached more than 60,000 individuals and showcased the value of the WOC nurse. WOC nurses really do hold all the cards!

Smith & Nephew supported WOC Nurse Week through a restricted educational grant.
Brand New in 2016

2016 Salary and Productivity Survey

The WOCN Society’s 2016 WOC Nursing Salary and Productivity Survey is one of the most important member benefits the Society offers. This complex guide to WOC nurse salary levels allows members to benchmark their own salaries against those of their peers based on geography, education and years of experience to ensure that they are being fairly compensated for the value they provide. Access this valuable tool at wocn.org/2016SalarySurvey.

Venous Leg Ulcer (VLU) Algorithm

The Society was pleased to release its second algorithm in early 2016. The VLU algorithm focuses on compression for the primary prevention, treatment and prevention of recurrence of venous leg ulcers. Thousands of clinicians have already accessed the algorithm and its many useful features, including a formulary of compression therapy products. Access the VLU algorithm at vlwocn.org.

JOBST/BSN medical supported the development of the algorithm via an unrestricted educational grant.
BRAND NEW

WOCN.org

Have you visited the new and improved wocn.org? Our website received a much-needed refresh over the summer and came back in the fall with a new look and a simplified navigation system. The website also became mobile-responsive, allowing members to easily access information on the website on any mobile device. Check out the new wocn.org!

JWOCN

JWOCN went through a substantial redesign and debuted its new look in Montreal. The sleek, modern cover and interior reflect a journal that is publishing the most up-to-date and influential research in WOC care. Visit jwocnonline.com to read the latest issue.

Did you know that members receive free CE through JWOCN? Log in to wocn.org and click on the JWOCN cover on the homepage for more information.

Instagram

Have you connected with us on Instagram? Follow us @wocnsociety.
Public Policy & Advocacy

The WOCN Society’s Public Policy & Advocacy program continues to shape legislation and strengthen the WOC specialty. We are YOUR voice on Capitol Hill and in legislatures throughout the country. In 2016, the Society rebranded the PP&A program and launched the first In Action newsletter to share important updates with WOCN members. Keep reading to learn more about 2016 initiatives and visit wocn.org/publicpolicy for more information.
Disposable Negative Pressure Wound Therapy Payment

Legislation was passed in 2015 to allow for payment of disposable negative pressure wound therapy devices in the home health setting. The payment would be equal to the payment that currently exists for such devices in the outpatient setting, including the professional services provided. The Society is very concerned with this proposal and has provided CMS with detailed comments about the refusal to pay for provider services. You may read the comments at wocn.org.

WOCN Society Submitted Scientific Information in Response to AHRQ Request

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) published a request for scientific information submissions from the public to inform their review of Treatment Strategies for Patients with Lower Extremity Chronic Venous Disease (LECVD). In response to this request, the WOCN Society submitted our evidence- and consensus-based algorithm focusing on compression for primary prevention, treatment and prevention of recurrence of venous leg ulcers.

Congressional Resolution Introduced to Recognize Bladder Health Month

In November 2015, WOCN staff attended a roundtable event hosted by the Urology Care Foundation to garner support for a Congressional Resolution to officially recognize November as National Bladder Health Month. About 30 patient and provider groups were in attendance at the roundtable, and the Society has committed to be a part of the group’s efforts to move the resolution forward. That resolution was introduced in Congress by Rep. Eliot Engle (D-NY) in April and can be read in its entirety on wocn.org.
Coming in 2017

Peristomal Skin Assessment Guide
The WOCN Society has partnered with Hollister to develop an electronic guide for peristomal skin assessment. The guide will function across mobile devices, similar to the Society’s algorithms, and allow the user to identify peristomal issues through a quick, four-question assessment. The Society expects to release the guide in early 2017.

Support Surface Algorithm CE Course
A new continuing education course focusing on the support surface algorithm is currently in development. This course will provide free CE credits and will be hosted on the HealthStream platform. More information will be available in early 2017. In the meantime, be sure to check out the newly updated support surface algorithm, now featuring a product formulary, at algorithm.wocn.org.

Ostomy Treatment Associate (OTA) Program
The WOCN Society is excited to formally announce the creation of the OTA Program. Given the immense success of the Wound Treatment Associate (WTA) Program, WOCN leaders in ostomy care have come together to bring the basics of ostomy care to the bedside nurse. Similar to the WTA Program, the OTA Program will allow certified WOC nurses to train nurses to assess and treat basic ostomy issues under the supervision of a WOC nurse or physician. Graduates of the OTA Program will act as an extender of the WOC nurse, allowing the WOC nurse to concentrate on more complicated patients in his or her practice. Look for more information from the Society in 2017.

Hollister, Inc. supported the development of the OTA Program and the Educational Essentials platform via an unrestricted educational grant.

Updated Educational Tools
The Society will release brand new platforms for the Educational Essentials program and the Mobile Guidelines tool in early 2017. More information will be available soon.
Thank You to Our 2016 Corporate Members!

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Happy Holidays
FROM THE WOCN SOCIETY!