National approaches to wound treatment and prevention

In the past few years, geographies around the world are struggling with the costs of healthcare with our ever-aging population. Are we simply living too long or not paying enough in taxation to cover the healthcare required? Or are the costs of healthcare mismanaged by systems that have not kept up with the changing demands of healthcare?

These are all valid questions and governments are struggling with understanding and funding the solutions. As our focus is wound treatment and prevention, it is our responsibility as 'leaders' to help provide the solution and aid in the understanding.

National wound initiatives are emerging in different parts of the world and are aiding in the provision of such a lead. Australia led the way with a National Collaborative Research Cooperative type approach driving both research and clinical standardisation. This will provide a coordinated approach to the continued development of wound care as a clinical specialty while providing valuable national data to further convince the government.

Currently the Wales government in the UK is working with a number of groups in the principality to develop a national approach for Wales. This will require cross-departmental functioning within government ensuring all stakeholders required are involved and have a common understanding of the issues and more importantly solutions.

Within England a group based in the North has come together to establish a similar Centre of Excellence concept and develop an appropriate means to address the changing approach appropriate for the changing healthcare environment in England. This group has commissioned research to provide governmental agencies with the necessary data to drive funding.

Similarly within Canada, a number of wound care focused associations and Industry have come together to establish the Wound Care Alliance Canada which has begun the task of involving and convincing government to fund a similar approach applicable to the Canadian geography.

Our call to all involved is to share such experiences. We began this process with a recent guest editorial that focused on the Australian CRC. If you are aware of or are involved in any similar initiatives please consider providing us with details of your plans that we will then consider for publication.

The IWJ can provide a voice to such initiatives providing a reference source to those wishing to develop systems and structures that are appropriate for their geography focussed in this area.

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