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# WUWHS 2022 Congress report

The World Union of Wound Healing Societies (WUWHS) Congress that had been postponed for two years finally took place between 1–5 March 2022 in Abu Dhabi, UAE, and more than 70% of the confirmed 2020 speakers were able to attend the event onsite in 2022. When planning an event such as this, it cannot be undertaken without experts in the field. The added value is when those experts are available in person and suddenly become real people (and no longer only article authors), and this led to many surprise selfie requests and wide-grinned smiles shared as a result over the five days. Our speakers certainly had their share of travel difficulties, making their contributions so much more valued as time and expertise in wound care was critical to the success of this event.

To our incredible trade partners, we thank you for your sponsorship, support and participation. Because of you we were able to put on an exceptional event that enabled the world to share knowledge with over 206 national and international speakers. They have worked in eight plenary sessions, 16 free communication sessions, 36 symposia, 20 focus sessions and 20 workshops. As a bonus, there was also time to look at five regional views, share in eight global celebrations and we all had the privilege of attending and sharing in 15 industry symposia, 15 society meetings and having a voice in multiple panel discussions. Because of your help, we could hold a hybrid event that was able to welcome nearly 10,000 health professionals from over 87 countries, both onsite and online; all of whom were willing to give time and resources to attend and to contribute to WUWHS as a society and the congress as major event. As an added bonus all talks were recorded, with the link being sent to all registered participants to enjoy for four months and catch up on any missed talk at the event. Our gallery is spectacular and also available on our website [www.wuwhs2022.org](http://www.wuwhs2022.org) for you to explore and share.

Hundreds of hours went into creating this event and COVID-19 was not always an easy taskmaster. As a consequence, the wound care industry has been through a lot of changes that had to be communicated and shared. That was where our delegates could be brought together with industry to appreciate these changes and prepare for the future. Thank you all for investing the time and resources to help recognise and appreciate our delegates and provide cutting-edge education that can be translated to the bedside with more ease now. We sincerely appreciate the time and effort of speakers, industry partners and logistic personnel for your time and efforts during the event: setting up and taking down spectacular exhibits, networking with delegates and attending industry summits with such enthusiasm and energy.

We also had to time to honour those who have made exceptional contributions to the field of wound care up to today. Leading by example is often a difficult way to change practice and often followed by ridicule and criticism. The manner in which these recipients fearlessly maintained their quiet pace has established them as leaders many choose to follow today. Not



**Gulnaz Tariq Mir**  
President WUWHS  
CEO IJWCG

only did they generously develop clinicians towards excellence, but persisted in believing that persons with wounds deserve time, professional interventions and, most of all, hope. Those who we honoured and bestowed with WUWHS lifetime achievement awards were: Elizabeth A Ayello; R Gary Sibbald; Keryln Carville; Hiromi Sanada; Zena Moore; Giovanni Mosti; Vijay K Shukla; Abbas Zulficarali; Samir MS Al Assar; and Ellie Lindsay.

For the first time in the history of WUWHS, supporting societies were given the opportunity to share some of their work done on regional level in the international arena by means of a WUWHS Supporting Society project competition. This was well embraced and seven projects made it to the final that took place on 16 February 2022 in front of an expert adjudication panel. The winners were:

#### First position:

'Wound Infection in Clinical Practice Consensus Document 2022 Update' from the International Wound Infection Institute. Presenter: Terry Swanson

#### Joint second position:

'The supply chain crisis with regards to pressure injury prevention materials that occurred in the COVID-19 pandemic' from the National Pressure Injury Advisory Panel (NPIAP).

Presenters: Barbara Delmore and Michelle Deppisch

#### Joint second position:

'The verification of efficacy of pressure injury prevention measures in decreasing the proportion of pressure ulcers as outcome indicators in Japan' from the Japanese Society of Pressure Ulcers (JSPU).

Presenter: Chizuko Konya

#### Third position:

'A collaborative Supporting Society Project to disseminate evidence-based recommendations for pressure injury prevention, classification, and treatment to clinicians at the point-of-care on their Smart Phones' from the combination of the National Pressure Injury Advisory Panel (NPIAP), European Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel (EPUAP) and Pan Pacific Pressure Injury Alliance (PPPIA, comprised of Wounds Australia, New Zealand Wound Care Society, Wound Healing Society of Singapore & Hong Kong Enterostomal Therapists Association).

Presenter: Janet Cuddigan

A total of five societies competed to host the next WUWHS congress in 2026. The winner was Malaysia under the guidance of Dr Harikrishna Nair, who will receive the next presidency of WUWHS from the current president Ms Gulnaz Tariq in September 2024. The WUWHS team is grateful for being able to present you with this successful report and invite you to take part in our continuous activities until we meet face-to-face again, in Kuala Lumpur in 2026, for another major event that we are already looking forward to!

And we must just note that this WUWHS supplement includes the WUWHS position statement: *World Union of Wound Healing Societies position statement on the ethical considerations for wound care research in humans and animals*. It is intended that this document will be reviewed and updated every four years to incorporate any changes to the field of research ethics for humans and animals. I want to thank the whole of the Scientific and Ethics Committee for producing this important statement. **JWC**

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