



Ontario
Woundcare
Interest Group

Winter/Spring Newsletter 2015

From the Immediate Past-President

To my dear OntWIG members,

For the past two years, it has been my privilege to serve as your provincial president. I am filled with hope for our future—not only as clinicians but as an organization. We are on solid financial footing, and we have a capable leadership team, helmed by incoming President Valerie Winberg. She and the executive will advance OntWIG as she carries the torch on the next leg of our policy relay.

During my tenure the association has continued its mission to further OntWIG's framework: Fewer Wounds. Faster Healing—to ensure full and equal access to evidence-based wound care for all Ontarians.

Why is OntWIG relevant? This year, we saw how speaking up on behalf of patients with wounds is more important than ever. [OntWIG's 2014 symposium](#) identified existing gaps in current care delivery and the need for integrated care across all health care sectors. The Ontario Woundcare Interest Group's framework addresses these gaps and strengthens our province's commitment to quality and value.

I'd like to offer thanks to those who made my presidency possible: My employer, Calea Home Care, my leadership team who have been unflagging in their commitment to OntWIG's work, our industry partners who have been pivotal in keeping OntWIG moving forward, our members, and the Executive, who have shared their time and expertise. Together, everyone has been an outstanding champion of OntWIG's mission.

I would like to thank outgoing members of the Board: Nancy Purdy, Debbie Hanna-Bull, and Lyndsay Orr whose contributions have been pivotal to keeping OntWIG moving forward. I salute members of the Executive Laura Teague, Ruth Thompson, and Valerie Winberg for their efforts over the last two years. And I welcome new board members Alexandria Crowe, Manry Xu and Janice Hon. Together they will help bring OntWIG to the next level.

It has been my honor to serve as your president. Thank you, officers, members, and friends of OntWIG. Thank you for the opportunity to serve an association that deserves to grow and prosper, and will grow and prosper with your continued participation. I am signing off but not signing out. OntWIG has given so much to me that I will continue giving back. I invite you to join me in renewing for 2014-15.

Karen Laforet

Immediate Past President (2012-14)



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Introducing the 2014-16 executive



President – Valerie Winberg, RN(EC), MN, NP-PHC, ENC(C), IIWCC

Valerie Winberg is a Primary Health Care Nurse Practitioner and Clinical Wound Specialist. Since graduating from the NP program at the University of Windsor in 2002, she has worked in Primary Care, Long-term Care and Emergency medicine. Currently, Valerie is the Clinical Lead NP at Twin Bridges Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinic in Sarnia ON, seeing clients for Primary Health Care as well as wound care referrals.

Wound care became a passion for Valerie as she started her NP career and began working with LTC nurses and residents. She has become an international speaker and educator in the wound care arena since. As an advocate for improved access to wound care for all, Valerie, was a founding member of the Ontario Wound Interest Group.

Past President - Karen Laforet MCISc, RN, BA, IIWCC

Karen Laforet is a Registered Nurse who has functioned as an advanced practice nurse in vascular access, critical care and wound care, as well as product specialist and marketing manager working in US, Germany and Canada. Settling in the Mississauga area 7 years ago with her partner and 2 cats, she is currently the Director Clinical Services for Calea Homecare—a service provider for nursing clinics in the Toronto area (GTA). In addition she is an adjunct professor for the Master's Clinical Science—Wound Healing faculty at University of Western Ontario and current past-president for the Ontario Woundcare Interest Group—an affiliate group of the RNAO.



Finance Officer - Alexandria Crowe RN(EC), BScN, MN-NP Acute Adult

Alexandria has been a member of the Ontario Wound Care Interest Group since 2011. Since attending the first Symposium, the vision and mission of this group resonated very clearly with the same barriers she recognizes in her clinical practice. As a Nurse Practitioner in the role of the Wound Care Specialist at St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton she can see how essentially important it is for patients to have fair and equal access to wound care across the healthcare sectors. In her role she works as a leader, an educator, clinician and researcher. She is looking forward to being part of the executive board, to apply these roles and work with a team and network of likeminded professionals who are motivated and passionate about taking the clinical practice to the next level and influence health policy for all clients in Ontario.



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Membership Officer - Manry Xu, RN

Manry is a Registered Nurse at the Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre in Barrie on the Inpatient Surgical units. Her passion for wound care began when she witnessed the impact of proper wound healing when appropriate products and methods were applied during a student placement. She has an interest in policy development which was peaked at one of the conferences with the Canadian Nursing Students' Association. There Manry was the Official Delegate representing her university in voting on policies and resolutions developed to help govern students in their schools. She applied to be a member of the executive of OntWIG in order to represent the recent graduates working at the bedside who are passionate about wound care policy. She is also keen on learning and sharing how interdisciplinary teams can work well together for the betterment of wound care management in patients. Manry is looking forward to working with an amazing group of women on the executive and meeting many of our members.

Health Policy - Laura Teague

Laura Teague is a Nurse Practitioner at the St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto. She is cross appointed in the Faculty of Nursing at University of Toronto, and teaches in the Master of Clinical Science, Wound Healing at Western University. Laura's passion for wound care began in 1994 when she witnessed the impact of wound healing when best practice was applied. Laura has had the honour of building OntWIG from the ground up with a talented group of colleagues. She was the inaugural president in 2008 and continues to play a major role with this group. She also works with RNAO as one of the lead facilitators for the Minding the GAP wound institute, for which she has played a key role developing. Health policy around best practice wound care will provide a foundation for better access and better care for Ontarians. This is Laura's passion and she will continue to work with others to make best practice wound care



Interdisciplinary Membership – Ruth Thompson MCISc-WH, IIWCC, DCh

Ruth is a Chiroprapist and clinical educator at The Ottawa Hospital. She has 15 years of wound care experience in a community care and hospital setting. She has been the clinical coordinator and a clinical educator for the Ottawa site of the Michener Institutes chiropody program for the past 13 years. The chiropody department at The Ottawa Hospital primarily focuses on the treatment of diabetic foot ulcerations and the high risk foot. Ruth obtained a BSc from Mount Allison University, and a DCh from the Michener Institute for Applied Health Sciences. She completed the IIWCC course in 2005 and received a Masters in Clinical Science - Wound Healing from The University of Western Ontario in 2009. She was a board member of the College of Chiroprapists from 2009-2014 and was a member of the RNAO BPG advisory committee



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Communications Officer – Janice Hon

Janice Hon is an Occupational Therapist working at Bridgepoint Active Healthcare in Toronto. She has extensive experience working with complex neuro clients who require wheelchair, seating and other assistive devices to maintain function. She developed an interest in wound care from working with her clients and experiencing the impacts of interprofessional team approach in helping her clients heal their wounds. She subsequently completed her Masters in Clinical Science in Wound Healing at University of Western Ontario in 2008. Her passion is in interprofessional wound care and education and engaging allied health professionals to be part of the assessment and management of wound related issues. Janice has developed and facilitated interprofessional wound care education and quality improvement initiatives to prevent pressure ulcers.



OntWIG Presidents Message

It is an honor to be assuming the leadership of OntWIG for the next 2 years as President. To say these are “challenging times” in the healthcare arena would be an extreme minimization of what those of us currently engaged in all sectors of the care team are experiencing. It will only be through advocacy and political engagement activities that we will continue to affect change.

As an executive team we have set goals for the coming term with a focus on:

- Better engagement and communication with our membership
- Continuing the conversation with our stakeholders and key opinion leaders to advance the “Framework Document” that is the result of many hours of input by our membership
- Looking for innovative ways to continue to bring the epidemic of wound management to the forefront for the interprofessional team and political decision makers as effective advocates
- Supporting efforts that will lead to national and international standards of care

The Ontario Woundcare Interest Group has always maintained its focus of policy and political action in terms of equitable wound health for all Ontarians. As we move into the next phase of our journey together, it is my hope that we will continue with and energize the momentum that started just 6 years ago.

Please join with us in the on-going conversation!

Sincerely,

Valerie Winberg RN(EC), MN, NP-PHC, ENC(C)



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Thank You!

The executive would like to express our sincere thanks to both Debbie Hannah-Bill and Lyndsay Orr for all of their hard work and dedication to the Ontario Wound Care Interest Group. We wish them ongoing success. Their presence, knowledge and enthusiasm have been and will continue to be missed on the board.

OntWIG's New Initiatives

We have some exciting new initiatives that we are working on. OntWIG has developed working 3 new working groups in order to try to continue to move our objectives forward. The working groups are:

- Developing clinical pathways across sectors for various wounds
- Defining the qualifications and the roles of the wound specialist in Canada
- Standardizing wound data collection across all health care sectors

We will be communicating with the membership frequently as we get the working groups established.

Membership Information

Nurses can join the Ontario Woundcare Interest Group when you sign up or renew with RNAO. Visit www.rnao.org/join or call 1-800-268-7199 or 416-599-1925. If you are already an RNAO member and wish to add OntWIG to your membership, please contact RNAO at info@rnao.org or call 1-800-268-7199 or 416-599-1925.

If you are NOT an RNAO member and wish to join OntWIG, please send your payment to:

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