



# Five Alive

South Central Region

April/May, 2006

The Newsletter of the South Central WOCN Region

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## President's Message—April/May, 2006



### MONEY TO BE HAD!

**Dateline: South Central Region, April 2006**

Reports have surfaced that the SCR has money available to its members. Could this be true? This reporter, a noted skeptic, decided to delve into this and give the readers the straight “poop” on this scoop.

And I was amazed at what I found. Sometimes suspected rumors actually turn out to be fact! For members of the SCR, the following financial assistance is available:

The SCR has set aside \$20,000 to help their members who were affected by hurricanes help offset the cost of recertification. It is available for the taking. All you have to do is go to their website, , and mail the completed forms as directed on the application form.

The SCR has a poster presentation scholarship award! The total amount to be awarded per annum is \$500. This amount is for 2 persons or groups who have a non-subsidized poster that will be presented at the WOCN National conference yearly. If only one application that meets the eligibility requirements is received, one applicant will receive the entire \$500! Get your applications in today!

For those members who would like to attend the UTMDACC WOCNEP, two scholarships a year are available for the cost of the program (\$3500). This scholarship's application deadlines are subject to the National Scholarship Committee requirements. This information can be downloaded of the SCR or WOCN websites. These two awards can be applied for up to 3 months after graduation from the program.

websites. These two awards can be applied for up to 6 months after graduation from the program.

The WOC Nurse of the Year receives free registration to the SCR conference the following year. Be sure to nominate your peers-or yourself, for this award.

Members who would like to be a camp counselor at the Youth Rally camp can receive a \$500 scholarship to offset the cost of attending the camp. Likewise, the SCR will sponsor 2 attendees as well. So if you know a child ages 12-18 with an ostomy or with bowel or bladder continence needs, be sure to pick up an application form from and send it in. The SCR has already donated \$1,000 to the new Youth Rally Camp to help keep it going.

The SCR has committed to send one member to attend the Nurse In Washington Internship each year.

Airfare, registration and hotel costs are reimbursed.

Interested parties submit applications per the NIWI process guidelines. Myra Varnado of Independence,

LA was the SCR representative this year. Who says no one listens anymore?? Per the members' request,

dinner will be served at the SCR business

(membership) meeting at the WOCN National

Conference in Minneapolis this June. **However, they**

**need your help.** Anyone planning to attend the

meeting at national conference should let one of the

SCR council members know so that they can order the appropriate amount of food. **Deadline for placing**

**orders to the catering service is May 29th!** Please

contact a board member prior to that to get your name on the list!

So here is the scoop: The SCR actually wants to share the wealth with its members. The SCR Council anxiously awaits your applications!

**DON'T DELAY... TAKE ADVANTAGE TODAY!**

Reporter on the street: Kathleen M. Murphy Houston, TX

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## Clinical Corner

### Blue Sky Versatile One Negative Pressure System

Have you heard that there are two negative pressure wound therapy systems now available in our arsenal for wound care management? In addition to the long established KCI Negative Pressure System, there is now the Blue Sky Versatile One Negative Pressure system.

This is a clinical update on a patient in which the KCI product could not be used and so the Versatile One was implemented.

The patient presented with a high thoracic spinal fusion, with a subsequent development of a post operative abscess with dehiscence along the incision. On 9/15/5 the initial assessment was conducted with the wound measuring at 2.7 cm L, 1.0 cm W and 3.3 cm deep. There was undermining noted at 12:00 o'clock of 3.7 cm, 3:00 o'clock of 2.9 cm and at 6:00 o'clock a tunnel of 12.0 cm. The depth of the tunnel could not be assessed with a cotton tip applicator so an all-purpose urethral catheter, 14 F, was used to determine the depth of the tunnel. The catheter was packed with two cotton tip applicators with the cotton wadding tips broken off. This provided rigidity and flexibility in exploring deep tunnels.

An erythemic border, warm to the touch, was noted and extended 3.5 cm proximal, 12.0 cm distally and 3.0 cm wide along the proximal aspect and 7.5 cm wide along the distal aspect of the wound.

Serosanguinous exudate with a small amount of purulence could be expressed easily from the wound. A scant foul odor was also noted. The patient had been saturating 3 ABD dressings a day with the exudates.

On 9/15/5 the physician placed the patient on an oral antibiotic and the wound was cleaned with ¼ strength Dakins Solution. This was continued daily until the odor resolved, and then the wound was cleaned throughout the remainder of the course of care with a wound cleanser.

On 9/15/5, the Versatile One was implemented, using the channel drain (one of several drain tubes available). The drain was cut to the desired length, a little shorter than the length of the tunnel at 6:00 o'clock. The channel drain was then inserted into the wound and into the 6:00 o'clock tunnel as far as possible. AMD gauze (found in the Versatile One Kit) was cut to fit over the wound opening and the gauze and drain tube were then secured with a film dressing from the Kit. The Versatile One suction was set on continuous at 90 mmHg after connecting the pump to the drain tube in the wound.

The patient's caregiver was taught how to perform the dressing change and was able to successfully return demonstrate. A step by step dressing change procedure was written out for the caregiver and she was instructed to change the dressing every 3rd day.

On 9/23/5, the second WOCN visit, the wound measured 2.7 cm L, 0.8 cm W and 2.7 cm Deep. There was no undermining at 12:00 or 3:00 o'clock. The tunnel at 6:00 o'clock was 11.2 cm long with no erythemic border noted. The suction continued at 90 mmHg continuous.

clock was 11.2 cm long with no erythemic border noted. The suction continued at 90 mmHg continuous.

On 9/29/5 the wound measured 1.8 cm L, 0.6 cm W and 1.3 cm D with the 6:00 o'clock tunnel 4.2 cm long. No change was made in the treatment plan.

On 10/6/5 the wound measured 0.5 cm L, 0.5 cm W and 1.3 D with the tunnel 3.5 cm long. The exudates had decreased significantly so the suction was placed on intermittent at 90 mmHg.

On 10/13/5 the wound measured 0.6 cm L, 0.5 cm W and 2.0 cm D with the tunnel at 2.5 cm long. Collagen flakes were implemented and placed into the base of the tunnel and wound. By this visit, the drain tube, which had been shortened as healing occurred, was now so short that it would no longer stay in the wound. The Versatile One was discontinued and the wound was the dressed with collagen flakes and covered with the AMD gauze and film dressing on a daily basis by the caregiver.

The final visit was on 10/20/5 and the wound was 100% closed. Throughout the course of treatment, as the tunnel decreased in length, the length of the channel drain was shortened, either by the WOCN or the caregiver.

Two additional weekly follow up phone calls were made to the caregiver. There was no recurrent breakdown or erythemic tissue noted. The caregiver was instructed to notify me and the physician if evidence of either occurred.

This is but one patient, although I have had many others who have had great outcomes using the Blue Sky Versatile One Negative Wound Pressure Therapy. Is this the panacea for wound care issues?—By no means. It is simply another tool available to us as we work to improve patient care.

**Jim McLean RN, BSN, CWOCN, CFCN**

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## Membership

Are you Up to Date?

Have you checked out your member information lately? Go to [www.wocn.org](http://www.wocn.org) and log on under the member section and check or update your member contact information, demographics, communication and directory information.

The only way the South Central Region can contact you is if we have up to date records from the national office. The national office needs YOU to update the information.

For regional membership questions or information, contact:

Janet M. Davis

[jmdavis@pdq.net](mailto:jmdavis@pdq.net)

713-895-9541 after 7pm CST

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## SCR Conference Nightmares on ET Street

This year during the SCR Conference, we are having Nightmares on ET Street. So, if you have a nightmare that you would like to share, begin gathering your information...

**A** pplication FORM

Send to:

Attn. Lynda Allen- Conference Co-Chair

Fax 817-820-4994

E-mail [lyndaallen@texashealth.org](mailto:lyndaallen@texashealth.org) or

Attn. Jim McLean- Conference Co-Chair

Mail to : Advantage Home Care

6421 Camp Bowie

Ste. 100

Fort Worth, TX, 76116

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## SCRWOCN - How to Support YOUR website

Need to know how to submit news and information to the SCR website? You are in the right place! Our web administrator has created a guide for how to best navigate the website and submit news. Go to the home page and click on About Us. Here, you will find the section - Members: How to Support Your Website. With these helpful guidelines, you can submit, photos, articles, case studies, or participate in chat sessions. All members are able to contribute in making the website more and more innovative.

[How to Support your Web Site](#)



### WE NEED YOU!



Have you ever had an experience with wound, ostomy, or continence care that stumped you?

Write to us in the **Clinical Corner!**

Share your WOCN pearls with colleagues in the next edition of the Five Alive!

E-mail Bette Kussmann at [bkussmann@ochsner.org](mailto:bkussmann@ochsner.org) with your story and photos.



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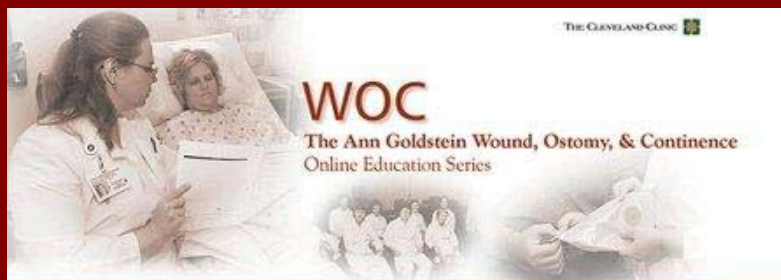
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## Wound, Ostomy, Continenence Education Programs

**Coming Soon:**



*The Ann Goldstein Wound, Ostomy, and Continenence (WOC) Online Education Series*

*Cleveland Clinic is pleased to offer this comprehensive online learning curriculum as part of ET/WOC Nursing Education, within the Department of Colorectal Surgery.*

*The project is supported in part by an unrestricted education grant from Ann Goldstein.*

*For more information, please contact Paula Erwin-Toth at [ERWINP@ccf.org](mailto:ERWINP@ccf.org)*

**The University of Texas M.D.  
Anderson Cancer Center Wound,  
Ostomy, Continenence Nurse Education Program (WOCNEP)**

UT M.D. Anderson Cancer Center

Attn.: Shirley Woolems (Unit 163)

1515 Holcombe Blvd., Houston, TX

77030-4009

Phone: (713) 745-0219/745-0216

Fax: (713) 745-0025

E-mail: [swoolems@mdanderson.org](mailto:swoolems@mdanderson.org) or [cbellis@mdanderson.org](mailto:cbellis@mdanderson.org)

Also see MD Anderson's website—

[www.mdanderson.org/departments/woundostomy](http://www.mdanderson.org/departments/woundostomy)



Program Director: Coni Ellis, MS, RN, OCN, CWOCN; Program  
Co-Director: Janet M. Davis, MSN, RN, APRN-BC, CWOCN

**8-Week Traditional Programs:** **2004:** 1/12/04; 3/22/04; 9/13/04.  
**2005:** 1/10/05; 3/21/05; 9/12/05.

**4-Week On-Site Houston Didactic/4-Week Off-Site Clinical  
Program:** Start dates same as 8-week programs.

**Emory University Wound, Ostomy,  
Continenence Nursing Education  
Center (WOCNEC)**

The Emory Clinic, Room AT 732

1365 Clifton Rd., NE

Atlanta, GA 30322

Phone: (404) 778-4067

Email: [cindy\\_strickland@emory.org](mailto:cindy_strickland@emory.org)

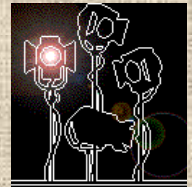
Center Faculty: Dorothy Doughty, MN, RN, FNP, CWOCN and Janet M. Ramundo, MSN, RN, CWOCN, CFNP

**9-Week Traditional Program on-site:** 3/1—4/30/05; **5-Week Split-option program—**1/12—2/13/04; Distance Learning Program—Ongoing.

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## Spotlight on Linda Kelly Davis

Submitted by Gail Parry



### Spotlight on Linda Kelly Davis

Many of our members along the Gulf Coast experienced the loss of either their job or their home following Hurricane Katrina. Linda Davis, a resident of the New Orleans area, lost both her job and her home as a result of this destructive storm.

As Hurricane Katrina approached New Orleans, Linda reported to work at Methodist Hospital and brought along her husband, Rick and teen-aged daughter, Lindsey. According to policy, Linda was not able to bring her dog. This had not been a problem in the past hurricane seasons since New Orleans always missed a hit and everyone returned home immediately following the storm. As everyone knows, this hurricane was different. The storm surge flooded Methodist Hospital, Linda's home, and Rick's business. Everything they owned was under water including their cars. Rick had a huge antique car collection at their home. Two days following Katrina's hit, while waiting to be rescued from the hospital, Rick persuaded a man with a boat to take him to their home to look for his dog. Upon arriving at this home, he didn't think his dog, a Westie, was alive since the water was up to the roof. The owner of the boat said he heard a sound from the house and they investigated and found the dog alive. Linda and her family lived at their farmhouse north of Lake Ponchatrain. The time following the storm was difficult for the entire family. I'm happy to report that Linda and her family have moved back into the New Orleans area. Linda recently started working at East Jefferson Hospital, the facility where Bernie Cullen, Meliss Carlson, and Susan Scotton work. And Lindsey's high school has reopened. There is starting to be a semblance of normalcy in their lives.

Linda received her ET education in 1981 at M.D. Anderson and immediately became an active member of the SCR. In the past Linda has served the SCR as Vice President and Membership Chair.

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## WOCNs in Action (where your local group meets)

**Austin, TX**—Meets 2nd Wed. at 6:00 PM.  
Contact Karen Hollis @ (512)-324-1053.

**Arkla-Tex**—Meets 2nd Fri. of each quarter at 6:30 PM in Bossier City, LA.  
Contact Margaret Davis @ (318)-675-6924.

**Biloxi, MS**—Contact Paula Green @ (601) 288-4244.

**Dallas, TX**—Meets 2nd Thurs. of each month at 11:30 AM at Presbyterian Hospital Dallas in the Tenth Floor board room, 8200 Walnut Hill. Contact Presbyterian WOCN Dept. 214-345-5053

**Northeast Texas WOCN**—Meets quarterly at various locations in the Longview-Tyler area. Contact Tammi Short@ (903) 297-2560.

Please send any updates about your local WOCN group to [Bette Kussmann](#).

**Fort Worth, TX**—Meets 1st Thurs. at 11:30 AM at the Klabzuba Tower.  
Contact Valerie Pemberton @ (817) 820-4970 (W).

**Houston, TX**—Meets 4th Wed. at the Rotary House at 11:30 AM. Contact Contact: Janet Davis @ 713-895-9541

**Houston Northwest**—Meets every 3rd Thursday of the month at 6PM. Contact: Pat Thompson, (W) 281-397-2799; (H) 832-484-8656;  
[pat.thompson@tenethealth.com](mailto:pat.thompson@tenethealth.com)

**Lafayette, LA**—Meets 3rd Thurs. of each quarter at 6:30 PM. Contact Rita Hernandez @ (337) 981-4935.

**Oklahoma City, OK**—Meets 3rd Wed. of every other month on “on-call” basis in the American Cancer Society office. Members will receive mailing notice of when meeting will be held. Contact Sharon Williams @ (405) 949-3770.

**San Antonio, TX**—Meets 3rd Wed. at the American Cancer Society at 4:30 PM. Contact Diane Rudolph @ (830) 336-3565.

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## NPUAP Surveys

If you didn't know, you can take two National Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel surveys regarding:

Staging of Pressure Ulcers

Support Surfaces Standards.

<http://www.npuap.org/>

The surveys do not take long & you can impact WOC practice. Don't miss this opportunity to voice your clinical judgment.

**PLEASE RESPOND TO SURVEY BY MAY 31, 2006.**

Support Surface Standards (NEW)

New Support Surface Standards Terms and Definitions Information and Survey (NEW)

Staging Definitions Survey (NEW)

NPUAP Staging Survey (NEW)

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ARCHIVE](#)**WOUND OSTOMY AND CONTINENCE SOCIETY PUBLIC POLICY:  
WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU!**

The WOCN has a long, spirited history of being politically savvy and involved in issues at both a Regulatory level (CMS, DMERCS), and at the Legislative level.

The WOCN has been a committed member of the Alliance (a group of nursing specialty organizations) and we are an organizational affiliate of the ANA. We have participated in the political agendas of both entities. As a Director of the WOCN, I serve as a liaison for the Public Policy committee, and I am thrilled to be part of the process of developing a strong politically active and influential arm of the WOCN.

Since the end of last summer, we have been working with our legislative consultant, Bill Applegate. He came to us via our management firm, Association Headquarters. Bill is based in Washington and his specialty is health care related activity in both the Legislative and Regulatory sector. As you may have already read in other WOCN news, we accomplished a very successful educational briefing in Washington related to diabetic foot care and improvement of diabetic care for beneficiaries. The Public Policy committee at this time is in the midst of planning a second educational briefing for the WOCN for later this summer or early fall. Bill has met with the national Board of Directors on other political activities that will raise the level of recognition of the WOCN as a specialty organization in Washington and as an influential force providing health care and promoting wellness in this country.

As an organization we participate in numerous discussions that have political, regulatory and credentialing implications. Members of the WOCN Board of Directors and the Public Policy Committee represent each of us in venues such as NPUAP consensus projects, Oasis refinement discussions, Wound Care Stakeholder meetings, and projects like the DMERC Competitive Bidding project. The Nurse in Washington Internship (NIWI) occurred in March and the WOCN was well represented. Our members learned about the political process in Washington and how to become involved in that process.

As a member of the WOCN, you benefit from all of this activity through improved access of care for your patients, and increased awareness of the role of the WOC nurse by regulators, legislators and others that help to formulate the health care environment in this country.

Our voice is a strong one. Keep your attention on the postings in the WOCN NOW and the WOCNews by the Public Policy Committee and the Board of Directors for further political/legislative information. Become involved in the political process. At conference this year, take time to attend the Legislative and Public Policy Update Monday 6/26 and DMERCS and the Implications for WOC Nursing Tuesday 6/27.

Any questions, issues, or ideas that you may have regarding Public Policy at a local, regional or national level please share with the Public Policy Committee chaired by Lee Ann Krapfl ([krapfla@mercyhealth.com](mailto:krapfla@mercyhealth.com)).

Submitted by Kate Lawrence RN MSN CWOCN Director at Large