

## **News from the Icelandic Wound Management Association (SumS)**

The Icelandic Wound Management Association (SUMS) is currently celebrating its 4th anniversary. The chief goals of the association are to increase the knowledge of wounds and wound management among health care professionals. To achieve this, SUMS has organized conferences on wounds and wound management with the aim of bringing together a panel of local and international experts along with interested nurses, doctors and other health care professionals.

This year has been eventful for SUMS. Firstly, the general meeting took place in March and it was a mixture of housekeeping issues and education with support from members of industry. The highlights of the meeting were the awarding of a stipend to a nurse who, in collaboration with thoracic surgeons and other physicians at Landspítali University Hospital, is undertaking a study on infections at the harvest site of vascular grafts for coronary artery bypass (CABG) and a lecture given by Dr. T. Guðbjartsson, currently professor of surgery in The Faculty of Medicine at the University of Iceland. He discussed the use of vacuum assisted closure (VAC) on complex surgical wounds. Secondly, SUMS supported one of its members to give a talk at the EWMA meeting in Lisbon on new clinical guidelines being implemented in Iceland on pressure ulcers and prevention. Thirdly, SUMS's annual fall meeting took place on October 24th. We were honoured by two distinguished lecturers, Dr. Jan Apelqvist from Malmö Sweden and Britta Melby Østergaard RN, CNS from Bispebjerg Hospital in Denmark, along with prominent Icelandic speakers talking on the subject of the diabetic foot.

Members of SUMS believe that these conferences contribute to increased knowledge and co-operation between health care professionals to the benefit of patients suffering from chronic wounds.

Other goals of SUMS relate to the generation of information related to wounds particularly in Iceland with the future goal of

increasing the knowledge base of wounds and wound care in Iceland. To achieve this goal SUMS has advertised stipends for interested health care professionals and this year awarded a stipend to one of its members. The project is on a study of the descriptive epidemiology of chronic wounds in Iceland.