

## **News from the Wound Management Association of Slovenia (WMAS)**

The year 2008 was a hard working year in accordance with the statutes of our association, which state that our main aim is professional operation and education in the field of wound management.

The entire year was characterised by activities conducted in relation to the LUP research project (The EWMA Central & East European Leg Ulcer Project), which is being carried out in the Dolenjska region with its 167,000 inhabitants.

Employees of health centres, district nurses, hospital doctors and nurses, and doctors and nurses from other health institutions, along with representatives of the Health Insurance Institute of Slovenia, were invited to the presentation of the project. The presentation was followed by the handing out of questionnaires to collect information on the prevalence of patients with leg ulceration of more than six weeks in duration. The results of the first phase of the LUP project were presented at the May EWMA conference in Lisbon. In the early autumn, we began implementing phase two of the project – the education of all health care professionals in the Dolenjska region participating in leg ulcer management, which was concluded in November. We have already reached agreements with various companies for the donation of material needed for the implementation of ulcer treatment in phase three of the project, which is scheduled to begin in January 2009.

Two symposia with international participation were organised in March and September presenting the translations of EWMA's position documents; i.e. Pain in Wound Dressing Changes; Wound Bed Preparation in Practice; Understanding Compression Therapy; Identifying Criteria for Wound Infection; Lymphoedema Bandaging in Practice, and Topical Negative Pressure in Wound Management.

In June, we participated in the 17<sup>th</sup> Biennial WCET Congress in Ljubljana, Slovenia where we presented the operation and the aims of our association.

We organised a meeting with the Director General of the Health Insurance Institute of Slovenia, who expressed the

wish for us to prepare clinical pathways to serve as a basis and help in the organisation and implementation of modern materials to be issued by means of order forms.

We presented the LUP project carried out in the Dolenjska region to the Ministry of Health, requesting financial assistance. We shall be sending them the documentation and the project costs, which they will submit for the 2009 budget rebalance.

In 2008, we continued our active cooperation with the newly founded wound management associations in the territory of the former Yugoslavia, which was reflected in our expert meetings.

We have launched the WMAS website ([www.dors.si](http://www.dors.si)) which will include professional content, EWMA notifications and also content for the lay public. We have also recorded a demonstrational film about our association, as we are well aware of the importance of increasing the recognition of our operation in the public, which may facilitate the implementation of our goals.