



NIFS Norwegian Wound Healing Association

www.nifs-saar.no

The Norwegian Wound Healing Society

The Norwegian Wound Healing Society (NIFS) is a voluntary, interdisciplinary organization that strives to promote knowledge of diagnostic and therapeutic procedures of chronic wounds in primary and secondary health care. It is the only organization of its kind in Norway. The membership is approximately 700, from all parts of the country.

NIFS was established in 1998 by enthusiastic dermatologists, nurses and foot therapists. It is a non-profit organization, and all work is done by the board on a non-paid, voluntary basis. The board consists of ten members from all over the country who are elected for two years. The board meets 4-5 times a year, in addition to having considerable e-mail and telephone contacts. We have organized committees for education, public relations, scholarships, pressure ulcers and telemedicine which meet separately.

We try to serve and inform our members through three different channels:

1. NIFS' web site (www.nifs.saar.no)
2. The Scandinavian magazine SÅR
3. Annual comprehensive seminars

The web-site: This is available free of charge for everybody, and is currently under major revision, which will be completed January 2010. It is updated with current diagnostic and therapeutic procedures, with links to relevant literature and organizations.

SÅR: This publication is distributed to our members and sponsors, and NIFS has a news-column in the magazine.

The annual seminars: These are the mainstay of the organization, and are the main work load for the ten person board. We change each year between different main topics, and have managed to attract national and international capacities from the different fields. The two-day seminars draw 250-400 participants from all parts of Norway – doctors, nurses, podiatrists and orthopedists. Educational credits are obtained for nurses, but due to the rigid regulations in the Norwegian medical association concerning collaboration with the industry, credits are not obtained for physicians. The seminars exhibit all relevant products available for wound care and prevention. The location is different each year, in the four Norwegian health regions.

At the seminars, joint fellowships from NIFS and its sponsors are awarded. From 2010 a special fellowship from NIFS which covers two days practice and teaching in Bispebjerg Hospital, Copenhagen, has been instituted. We are lucky to have a good cooperation with the Danish wound care unit, and offer this fellowship for two NIFS members annually.

Our next seminar will be held in Tonsberg February 4. and 5. 2010 and the heading is: Difficult wounds or difficult wound treatment? It will cover normal wound healing, pathophysiology, rare diagnoses, malignancy in wounds, local circulation, cutaneous manifestations of infectious diseases, advanced methods in wound treatment, self mutilation and psychic aspects of chronic wounds. **The 2011 seminar will be held in Trondheim** with the main topic: "Wounds which need compression therapy".

The wound treatment system in Norway is based upon the Scandinavian social security system of primary health care, with partial coverage of bandage materials for long-lasting wounds. There is a need for better economical coverage of the expenses, and NIFS is lobbying this cause. NIFS has assisted in translating the new guidelines for treatment of the diabetic foot, and we have a close cooperation with the Norwegian Diabetes Federation.

Research:

NIFS has no particular research programme, but encourages members to initiate projects through scholarships.

Education:

Members of the board organize courses for physicians in wound diagnostics and treatment in different parts of the country, and NIFS has encouraged postgraduate nurse education in chronic wounds at two different postgraduate nurses colleges in Norway giving one years' study credit. Much of the teaching staff comes from NIFS.

NIFS is also pursuing means for implementing the use of telemedicine in our country, and a sub committee visited Denmark which also in this respect is a horse length ahead of us. We also to influence the education of doctors and nurses to improve the training in chronic wounds.

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