Over the past few years, the World Alliance for Wound and Lymphoedema Care (WAWLC) has modelled itself as a global leader in wound and lymphoedema management. The working design of the WAWLC is proving to be a realistic and successful formula for supporting countries as they develop the capacity to provide effective care for wound and lymphedema patients.

The annual executive board meeting of the WAWLC took place in Geneva in November 2012. One key issue on the agenda focused on the organisation and coordination of future WAWLC initiatives and activities.

ANNUAL WAWLC SYMPOSIUM
One significant outcome from the executive board meeting was the decision to establish an annual WAWLC symposium. The objective of this symposium is to provide other wound care associations with practical examples of wound and lymphoedema care in resource-poor settings. This symposium will be a permanent annual event that will be held in conjunction with one of the major international wound or lymphoedema care conferences as a hosting partner.

WAWLC Symposium at EWMA 2013
The WAWLC will play a prominent role at the European Wound Management Association (EWMA) 2013 conference in Copenhagen. On Thursday, May 16, the WAWLC Symposium will run as a full-day parallel session entitled Wound Care in Resource-Poor Settings: Experiences from the Field.

We are proud to announce that this symposium will be held in association with Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF). The symposium will include an MSF guest session in which MSF representatives will present their hands-on experiences in adapting modern wound management techniques in the humanitarian setting. A WAWLC/MSF workshop will close the day with an open dialogue meeting that centres on a discussion of the use of the Standard Wound Kit in resource-poor settings.

The symposium will also include a guest session about Step by Step, the International Diabetes Foundation’s diabetic foot care programme in the developing world.

The full programme for the WAWLC/MSF symposium 2013 can be found at www.ewma2013.org

In 2014, the annual WAWLC Symposium will be held in Canada and hosted by the Canadian Association of Wound Care.

ABOUT WAWLC
World Health Organization White Paper on Wound and Lymphoedema Management
A cornerstone of the WAWLC activities is the “Wound and Lymphoedema Management” white paper, which was published by the World Health Organization (WHO) in association with the WAWLC in 2010. This document outlines wound management strategies with a specific focus on wound care in resource-poor settings where low cost wound management is a necessity.

The WHO white paper has been well received by health care professionals worldwide, and further derivative publications will be made available to the public. The WAWLC is currently exploring the potential to provide various translations of the full-text document as well as an abridged version and a DVD that outlines basic wound care.

Update on WAWLC Projects
The WAWLC works in partnership with resource-poor communities worldwide. Please visit WAWLC.org/projects to view an overview of current projects as well as captivating personal field reports from volunteer health care professionals.

General Information
The WAWLC is a global consortium of health organizations, non-governmental organizations, health professional associations, academic and research institutions, industry, and individuals who share an interest in advancing wound care and lymphoedema management worldwide. The WAWLC’s mission is to work in partnership with resource-poor communities worldwide to advance sustainable prevention and care of wounds and lymphoedema.

The WAWLC started as a working group in 2007 and was officially launched as a global partnership in 2009.