

It's now been several months since WWIC last posted news of its activities. The response to the pandemic has affected the world in so many ways and wound healing was not immune to these challenges. Research was halted, opportunities for educational programmes and courses came to a stop and sadly patients with wounds had restricted access to WWIC's clinical services. Like the majority working in the health and commercial sector, this has been a most challenging time but with vaccination success and the new roadmaps towards a return to pre-Covid activities we can now look forward to resuming many of our usual activities later this year.

Last year did see notable achievements within WWIC despite the limitations of the pandemic:

- We welcomed a new Chair to the WWIC Board, Mrs Carolyn Donoghue and Carolyn's brief biography can be read in the 'About Us' section of the WWIC website: www.wwic.wales
- During Summer 2020 many WWIC staff provided direct care for community patients in Cardiff & Vale University Health Board with our researchers supporting Cardiff & Vale UHB recording the experience of patients in hospital during the early months of the pandemic.
- We rapidly adopted the new technologies around video conferencing and by late 2020 had offered e-learning courses to clinicians from a wide range of countries across Europe, the Middle East, Africa and North America.
- We continued to undertake a small number of clinical studies in line with NHS R&D criteria from October onwards and we have supported the Welsh Blood Transfusion service from our premises in Llantrisant.
- In partnership with a leading Welsh manufacturer we have successfully achieved Accelerate grant funding for the evaluation of a novel device in people with lower leg wounds. This is a multi-national study to include sites in Wales, England and Germany and WWIC will be fulfilling the Contract Research Organisation (CRO) role, which is an exciting new adventure for us and maximises our skills and expertise to best effect.

All of these achievements helped to keep WWIC a thriving enterprise during the long months of lockdown. This week strong shoots of recovery for wound studies emerged as local restrictions on recruiting participants to research studies in Wales were lifted as the incidence of COVID in the general population continues to fall. We are now able to say that we can, in line with Government guidance, slowly emerge and re-open our wound research programmes! We recognise that there is still a long way to go in terms of supporting patients to return to wound clinics but at last we can see a way ahead for research and evaluations to flourish as 2021 moves towards through the Spring and Summer. For our clinical and commercial colleagues now is the time to start discussions around new projects to give a new impetus to wound healing in a post-pandemic world. We look forward to hearing from you.

For further details contact us at info@wwic.wales.