

Tissue Viability Society (now known as Society of Tissue Viability)

Annual General Meeting

21st September 2022

Time: 5.30pm

Venue: Zoom video conferencing

Present:

Jeannie Donnelly (Chair)

Sarah Gardner (Vice Chair)

David Hibbitt (Treasurer)

Kate Williams (Deputy Treasurer)

Srinivasa Budithi (Trustee)

Ina Farrelly (Trustee)

Clare Greenwood (Trustee)

Paul Hardy (Co-opt)

Natasha Levy (Trustee)

Ayesha Marshall (Co-opt)

Vicky Murray (Trustee)

Sharon Neill (Trustee)

Connie Traynor (Trustee)

Samantha Rooney (Trustee)

Sharon Scattergood (Trustee)

Samantha Wharton (Trustee)

Peter Worsley (Trustee)

Ayodele Ayeni (member)

Samantha Bradley (member)

Gillian Carnduff (member)

Tina Chambers (member)

Jemell Geraghty (member)

Ines Pereira (member)

Linda Primmer (member)

Lorry Prokopitch

Tuğba Yeni (member)

Charlotte Hurdman (Administrator)

Sue Simmonds (Pink)

1) Minutes of the previous meeting

Chair Dr Jeannie Donnelly (JD) introduced herself and welcomed all to the 2022 AGM of the Society of Tissue Viability. All documents for the meeting were made available on the Society's website prior to the meeting.

JD reviewed the minutes of the 2021 AGM. No outstanding queries were raised; the minutes were proposed by Clare Greenwood (CG), seconded by Kate Williams (KT) and were accepted as written by unanimous agreement of all members present.

2) Reports and Accounts

Annual Report 2021

The review of the year was presented by JD who shared highlights of the Trustees Annual Report with an illustrated presentation. JD emphasised the importance of the exercise as it provided a way for the council of Trustees to be accountable to the Society's members and allowed understanding of how Trustees met the Society's objectives, which are:

to promote learning and advance public education in the study of tissue viability;
and do all such things that are conducive to improve standards in tissue viability as a multi-professional activity.

Start of 2021 began with another lockdown and NHS trusts going back into emergency measures. With many Trustees being redeployed or involved in rolling out the mass vaccination programme, the Society's Crisis Group was reformed to steer the organisation through another difficult time period. Taking stock of the national situation, the Crisis Group recommended that Trustees postpone the annual conference in Glasgow until 2022, and recommended that the 2021 conference be transformed into an online event. The Group was confident that such an exercise was viable as the Society's virtual study days were proving extremely popular, but they did not underestimate the work involved. Trustees, speakers, industry partners and delegates had to brave an unfamiliar environment but the outcome was very successful with a week-long event providing a broad programme, international speakers and sponsored symposia. Another positive outcome was a library of on-demand assets for members future use. Over 2300 people registered for the conference, 1194 signed up for the full functionality of the Conference website and of these 716 watched on the live stream or on-demand. JD paid tribute to the Education sub-group, Pink marketing (the Society's conference partners) and all the Trustees who helped to turn the acorn of an idea into a tangible success.

One of the Society's prime strategic aims is to encourage all professionals working in skin health and wound healing to become members of the Society and to ensure that members engage in a diverse range of the Society's activities. As discussed, the pandemic forced our educational events to move online, a move which proved popular with our membership as event became more accessible to time poor professionals. We were pleased to note a rise in membership from around 560 at the end of 2020 to 624 at the end of 2021.

Each year Trustees with a wealth of experience step down at the end of their term in office. The vast majority of past Trustees keep the Society very close to their hearts and continue to offer advice and support as needed. In 2021 Trustees decided to create a forum through which we could formally harness and recognise the knowledge and

expertise of this exceptional group. We therefore created a new group, our Alumni, which is open to all Trustees after they stand down. In 2022 this idea expanded into the Associate Forum, where our Alumni can meet with and offer advice and support to Trustees as well as active members of the Society. This group is still in its infancy and we will report on its outcomes in 2023.

A key priority in 2021 was a radical overhaul of how the Society presented itself to the multi-professional team. Feedback from members and stakeholders was that the TVS name was synonymous with Tissue Viability nurses. We therefore changed our working name to the Society of Tissue Viability, with the emphasis on the word Society. This was to reinforce the idea that evidence-based wound care relies on combined activity of a wide group of professionals. The rebranding process begun in 2020 continued throughout 2021 with our new brand and working name formally launched in February 2022.

As noted earlier, the Society changed its face-to-face study days into virtual events. We modernised our Foundation programme, renaming them Fundamentals sessions and including separate sessions on lower limb ulceration. During 2021 nine virtual Fundamental study sessions were held with a total of 643 delegates attending and six companies per event. Feedback for the new format from both delegates and industry representatives has been excellent. We also commenced the new online Advanced study sessions, with full day sessions on the Lower Limb and Foot Care, Wound Care for Children and Infection and Surgical Wounds. 473 delegates attended with up to six companies in a virtual exhibition.

To help the Society achieve its education programme, we advertised for an experienced clinical educator to help facilitate, deliver and monitor our training and education programmes across the UK. In November 2021, our current Trustee Sarah Gardner took up the post of Scientific and Education Programme Facilitator.

The Society also produced a series of eight highly evaluated webinars, four of which were as part of Stop the Pressure week. All webinars were viewable over Zoom, Facebook live, the Society's website and YouTube. Over 1500 people viewed these events and they continue to get views on the Society's YouTube channel.

The pandemic shone a spotlight on the essential role carers play in the health care system. It showed just how important it is that social care workers have the training and support they need to deliver good care. Trustees were very keen to give something back to this dedicated workforce and decided to create a Skin Care Champions programme which would provide people working in social care, particularly care homes and care agencies with trusted, cost effective and easily accessible education to support skin health and wound healing. After winning the prestigious Urgo Foundation Award in 2020, the Society launched its Skin Care Champions programme and network in 2021. To run the programme, the Society employed Heidi Sandoz as Skin Care Champions educator. Heidi delivers the training online making it convenient for participants and very cost effective for care homes and agencies. All the educational material is evidenced based,

free of product bias or promotion and of the highest quality. Of the original pilot scheme, only one champion went onto complete the course and was invited to talk about their experience at the 2022 conference. While this was disappointing, we learnt a lot about what worked and what did not and I am very pleased to say that the second cohort of up to 50 organisations was launched in April 2022. The Education sub-group will continue to monitor the impact of this programme to ensure that applicants are achieving positive outcomes.

A core part of the Society's mission is to make sure that the best new thinking and practices in skin health and wound healing reach the people it needs to. We are very proud to work with our industry partners and other not for profit organisations to bring high-quality, independent education to people with an interest in skin health and wound healing. The education that the Society approves must be evidence based, be free from product bias or promotion and be accessible to the general wound care community. During 2021 we endorsed over 20 modules for five organisations with more in the pipeline for 2022.

The Annual Report details how in 2021 the Legs Matter coalition has gone from strength to strength, with a campaign securing press releases and articles in national newspapers and magazines as well as discussions on local and national radio. As part of my report I would like to highlight three activities which I believe were exceptional: first the Legs Matter awareness week which took place in October 2021 and which focused on giving patients the power to demand the best care for their lower limb and foot conditions and to make lifestyle decisions to prevent the conditions recurring or becoming more complex; the second is the Legs Matter website which has 1.2 million users with 1.7 million pages viewed, the most popular pages visited are those aimed at patients and families; and thirdly the Legs Matter coalition produced the document Make Legs Matter: a Case for System Change and Transformation in Lower Limb Management, published at the end of 2021 in partnership with the Journal of Wound Care. This hard-hitting document challenges providers and commissioners of Lower Limb services to do better and raises the need for an all-systems approach for change if improvements for patients are to be made.

Stop the Pressure week took place on 15 to 19 November 2021. The Society, its industry partners and others hosted a week of webinars which focused on skin assessment for dark skin tones, friction and shearing forces, increased moisture, and nutrition and hydration. In addition the Society provided resources for health care professionals to use and encouraged everyone to join the social conversation.

The Wounds Research Network (WReN) committee continued to grow their National Institute of Health and Care Research portfolio on the website, highlighting programmes that are set up, programmes that are actively recruiting, in follow up or completed. The Society was pleased to confirm its financial support for WReN and its Scientific Meeting for another two years. The sixth annual Scientific Meeting of WReN was held as part of the 2021 virtual conference and delegates can still access the virtual research

community to listen to the lectures, interviews and discussion as well as all the conference assets that are available to watch on demand.

The Society's journal, the *Journal of Tissue Viability* (JTV) again experienced an upward trend in submissions during 2021. The impact factor for 2020 (reported in 2021) was 2.932 and its CiteScore was 3.1. In 2021 the JTV's ranking stood at 15/122 in the Nursing Category and 34/69 in the Dermatology Category. It is important to note that online active accounts downloaded or viewed over 167,866 journal articles via ScienceDirect, plus another 9,162 full-text downloads on Clinical Key. In July 2021 Professor Dan Bader informed the Trustees of his intention to step down as Editor in Chief of the JTV. The search for a new Editor began, with a call for interest being sent out towards the end of the year.

Throughout 2021 we continued to support like-minded organisations. For example, in 2020 the Society commenced collaborative working with Nurses Specialized in Wound, Ostomy and Continence Canada (NSWOCC) and a working group was set up with a view to producing a joint document on best practice in relation to sharp debridement. In 2021 the Society signed a memorandum of Understanding with the International Skin Tear Advisory Panel (ISTAP) to form a partnership to raise awareness about the prevention and management of skin tears and skin breakdown.

The Society contracts Pink Marketing to support its wider administrative needs including conference organisation, involvement in strategy and projects and managing our digital presence. In 2021 Pink Marketing helped the number of corporate sponsors the Society can count on for financial support to grow to 21 Industry Partners. Pink manage the Society's social media accounts and by year end followers of the Society's Twitter account had increased to 5,988 (up by 14.5%), Facebook to 4,355 followers (up by 40.5%) and LinkedIn to 1,553 (up by 48.5%). The Society also had 187 followers on Instagram by year end. In addition, at the end of 2021 there were over 3,300 people subscribed to receive the Society's informative e-newsletter.

During 2020 the pandemic provided an additional challenge to the already arduous task of wound care, so as a matter of urgency the Society created a specific Covid-19 wound care web page to provide help and resources for clinicians and patients during the pandemic. This webpage was a true collaboration with the resources being constructed with permission from other associations and from partners in industry. For this and for the Society's part in bringing together a group of industry and healthcare professionals in support of Stop the Pressure, the Society was recognised for its contribution to nursing and wound care in a pandemic and in February 2021 we were presented with a special award by the Journal of Wound Care / World Union for Exceptional Services to Wound Care during a Pandemic.

Credit and thanks must also go to the Society's Trustees and all who are associated with our Council including Pink Marketing and Charlotte Hurdman, all of whom have worked so consistently hard and passionately for the charity and not forgetting our wonderful Alumni, our enthusiastic members, our partners in industry and of course the Journal of

Tissue Viability without all of whom the Society would not be what it is today. The council of Trustees and the Society of Tissue Viability and is truly comprised of people united in their passion for wound care and skin health and the drive to help solve the challenges of wound care as part of an interdisciplinary community.

I hope that you have found this report informative and useful. It is important to reflect back on what we have achieved, especially through the pandemic.

JD handed over to David Hibbitt (DH), the Society's Treasurer, for the finance report.

Financial Review 2021:

The Tissue Viability Society (now known as Society of Tissue Viability) continued to adapt and face the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic. A flexible approach, with a strong plan and review process around its funding and activities, has meant that, from a financial position, the Society has not only managed to deliver most of its objectives, but has managed to do so whilst continuing to maintain a healthy balance sheet over this difficult period.

The year 2021 has been a time when the charity has undertaken reviews of its membership and sponsorship, with a view to ensuring it is positioned well for the future and is based on a wider multi-disciplinary focus, to enable the Society to increase its engagement with a wider and more diverse audience.

This has led to a rebrand for the Society, changing its name and feel to one that is more widely accepted. The Society of Tissue Viability was thus born following a 2021 investment around its value proposition, role and function, redefining its objectives, as well as a new website that provides a new look and feel aligned to the charity's new broader approach.

Challenges:

- The Covid pandemic continued to be one of the greatest challenges for the Society in 2021 and the impact this was having on the clinical environment, trustees and the wider NHS impacted time, resources and availability of staff.
- The Society's trustees continued to meet virtually over this period, to assess and mitigate any risks, including that of the annual conference, whilst embracing the use of virtual versus face-to-face meetings. Who would have thought we would have been so far on using these systems at that time.
- The Society continued to undertake risk assessments in each of its areas of focus and ensured a flexible approach to achieve its objectives.

Successes and achievements:

- Through effective management over the Covid period, the Society exits 2021 with a healthy balance sheet for investment in its core objectives for the future.
- A significant review of the Society and what it means to its members and partners has taken place leading to a new refreshed value proposition focused on a multi-disciplinary approach, touching all clinicians working in wound care.
- A significant amount of work has been undertaken to understand and build relationships with our partners, which has increased over 2021, providing increased stability to the Society and providing valuable funds to support its key initiatives.
- The Society has continued to focus on income generation from its various educational study days, endorsement of high quality education and the continued use of virtual platforms, when access has been a challenge.
- The Society progressed its Skin Care Champions programme, which continues to be a successful programme for care home and home care staff.
- In 2021, the Society continued to invest in its high quality journal, *Journal of Tissue Viability*, partners which brought in additional revenue via reprints, access and pay per view activity.
- Overall, a solid performance has once again been achieved by the Society due to the dedication and support of the Council of Trustees, who have given a significant amount of their time during this challenging period for the benefit of the charity.
- In addition, we recognise the importance of our ongoing relationships with our members and partners, who together allow the Society to deliver its goals.

Reserves:

The Society continues to hold business and savings accounts with Lloyds Bank. Following auditing of the Society's accounts, our reserves have increased from a year end forecast balance of £184,305 to £276,239. This change has been based on updated auditing requirements which now include monies held under Society guidance, such as the Legs Matter campaign, not previously included.

Whilst this is an increase on the prior year, some funding for certain activities paid in 2021, has seen actual activity taking place in 2022, in part due to Covid delays and challenges. The cost of running the Society for 12 months is seen as fulfilling our reserves policy, which is around £100k and we continue to hold this minimum reserve.

We have received three recommendations from our auditor; this year the auditor has been extremely thorough and looked at the Society's accounts in much more detail. Trustees are currently reviewing:

- A clear understanding between restricted funds versus non restricted funds. Restricted funds are where a donation is given for a specific task or purpose. Those need to be allocated and used for that specific task.
- To review opening another account to reduce the risk posed by Lloyds Bank defaulting. The Financial Services Compensation Scheme covers monies held up to £85,000, so by opening another account the Society reduces its exposure to the unlikely event of bank failure.
- To have improved oversight of the Society's funds held by Pink Marketing within its dedicated Society bank account.

The Council will look to review and implement appropriate changes where found.

To achieve the vision of the Society, to use the power of collaborative thinking and action to solve skin and wound challenges, the trustees of the Society must maintain financial security and stability. I am pleased to report that the Society is in a solid financial position as it exits 2021.

Income generation is critical to enable the Society to continue the key objectives of the charity. In 2021 the Society maintained several new income workstreams, which should continue into 2022.

As a final statement, DH thanked CH for her support to the Treasurer. He also thanked the Chair, Vice Chair and Trustees and in particular Pink for the excellent work they do in providing the information needed to perform the role of Treasurer.

JD thanked DH and asked if there were any questions? None were asked.

The financial accounts for 2021 were proposed by SG and seconded by DH. All members present at the 2022 AGM therefore unanimously agreed to accept the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2021 as written and the financial reports of the Society's Treasurer and auditors. The TVS Trustees Annual Report was also unanimously agreed. All reports are publicly available on the Society's website.

3) **Appointment of Trustees**

As Chair of the council of Trustees, JD proposed the following appointments:

That the following Trustees be reappointed as board members:

Sarah Gardner (and also appointed Vice Chair)

David Hibbitt (and also appointed Treasurer)

That the following be elected as Trustees and Board members:

Peter Worsley

Srinivasa Budithi

Sharon Scattergood
Samantha Rooney

That the following be co-opted to the council:

Paul Hardy
Ayesha Marshall

JD confirmed that trustee Kate Williams had taken on the role of Deputy Treasurer.

JD also thanked past Trustees Liang Liu, Jane Nixon, Linda Primmer and co-opted member Jane Munro who had now stepped down.

No objections were made to the appointment of new members to the council and their election was duly ratified at the AGM.

4) AOB

JD asked if there were any questions from those present; no questions were raised. JD responded that members were welcome to talk to her or contact any Trustee by email afterwards if they needed to.

5) Meeting close

JD closed the meeting by appreciating for their attendance and looked forward to working with everyone as the Society moves forward this year and beyond.

The meeting closed at 6.00pm