

Life at Wound Management



Academy goes to Venezuela

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World Walk takes Ac

The Spanish wording on the World Walk logo, right, translates into the organisation's basic philosophy of why it works for the poor: "Because we are not a race of angels."

An American doctor is using Wound Management's web-accessible curriculum to promote wound prevention and healing across the developing world

Lower extremity wound specialist Dr Neil Donohue works full time at three hospital-based wound centres in Philadelphia, US. He is also the founder and President of charitable organisation the World Walk Foundation.

World Walk is an international group of volunteer podiatric surgeons, orthopaedic surgeons, medical

doctors, plastic surgeons, nurses, anaesthetists and physical therapists specialising in diseases and deformities of the lower extremity, especially those linked to diabetes and congenital abnormalities, such as clubfoot. It takes an active role in reducing podiatric problems worldwide by developing a series of centres of excellence, along with a healthcare model that is both universally applicable and available to all.

In July, Dr Donohue travelled to Venezuela to continue the World Walk lecture series, which attracted medical staff and students from across South America who were keen to learn about the principles of modern wound prevention and healing. He said: "My role in a place like Venezuela is to expand the knowledge and surgical skills of the doctors, nurses and medical students so that they acquire a vision for wound healing and limb preservation, rather than seeing amputation as the only option."

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"That's why I was so excited when Smith & Nephew offered online access to its Global Wound Academy, a web-accessible curriculum on wound healing that's constantly being updated and expanded. It's a tremendous body of knowledge that covers everything from the modern, fundamental principles of cellular and molecular biology through to clinical aspects of wound healing. Not surprisingly, when I delivered my presentation about this new curriculum, the reaction of the Venezuelan audience was tremendous – they were thrilled!"



To learn more about the Global Wound Academy go to www.globalwoundacademy.com



The interactive learning zone expands knowledge of wound management



Demonstration of a cyber consultation between Philadelphia, US, and Barinas, Venezuela

Academy to Venezuela

'Many doctors, nurses and medical students are already applying the knowledge they have acquired from the Smith & Nephew site to their treatment of patients in hospitals and outpatient centres.'



Dr Neil Donohue with children outside the military hospital in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, where many patients, including the fathers of these children, were being cared for after becoming victims of land mine injuries

Access to the Global Wound Academy, available in Spanish and English, is already starting to make a big difference to the South American medical world. According to Dr Donohue, many doctors, nurses and medical students are already applying the knowledge they have acquired from the Smith & Nephew site to their treatment of patients in hospitals and outpatient centres. He said: "One medical student told me that, almost immediately, the site became the entire curriculum on wound healing – now that was exciting news!"

University of the Andes Medical School in Barinas. Smith & Nephew's Global Wound Academy is being used there to train medical students as well as nursing, medical and surgical staff.



Venezuelan orthopedic surgeon Dr Rafael Barrios, left, Dr Neil Donohue, centre, and Dr Frederick LaVan, US plastic surgeon and World Walk Medical Director, discussing a patient before surgery

Dr Donohue, who worked with Smith & Nephew's Vicky Ward and Dr Mary Regan, concluded: "I am humbled by Smith & Nephew's generosity. I feel that corporate partnerships like this are absolutely essential for a non-profit organisation like World Walk to be able to really make an impact.

Operation Walk 3

Plans are already underway for 'Operation Walk 3' in January 2006, when Dr Donohue will lead an international World Walk medical team on a 10-day surgical mission in Venezuela to treat seriously wounded patients, while at the same time providing training on modern healing methods.

"The 'teach the teachers' programme facilitated by Wound Management's Global Wound Academy is helping to create a whole new generation of wound prevention and healing experts across the developing world. To put it simply: we're not just handing people the fish, we're actually teaching them how to fish."

World Walk aims to have centres of excellence at strategic sites around the world, linked by the internet

In addition, World Walk corporate partner, Med-e-Gate LLC (www.medegate.com), will donate its Mederi-Nexus ('Healing Link') electronic record system for remote wound care specialist consultations and improvement in healing outcomes at World Walk's wound centre at the

To find out more about the World Walk Foundation, visit www.world-walk.org Click on 'CyberMed' to see a recent live webcast about World Walk and two papers about the World Walk model and wound healing curriculum.

