

Wound Community Grows and Excels in 2005

Donald E Mrdjenovich, DPM, CWS, FCCWS
Immediate Past President, AAWM

Time flies when you're having fun is an understatement. The past year of my tenure as President of the AAWM has been a rewarding and an enjoyable experience. Watching the growth that has occurred in the past twelve months has been phenomenal. I am not only referring to the organization itself but also the awareness and momentum that the AAWM has gained in the wound community.

In January of this year the Academy had answered the call of its over 2000 CWSs to formulate an avenue in which the credential of Certified Wound Specialist® (CWS®) could be brought to the level that it deserves in the health care arena. This was accomplished through the diligence of the Board of Directors to sanction the development of the College of Certified Wound Specialists™ (CCWS™). This is a natural progression for the American Academy of Wound Management. Like many certifying boards, an entity such as a college is developed to complement and carry out tasks that a credentialing body in itself is not capable of doing. One cannot become a Fellow of The College, FCCWS, without possessing a CWS®. It should be stated that these are two separate and distinct organizations, however, these two organizations coexist to complement each other. As an advocacy arm of the AAWM, The College will provide educational endorsements of exam preparatory courses, research grants, and provider and public relations, as well as political activism to promote the CWS® credential. These are feats that the Academy cannot perform without risking its consistency as a credentialing organization. The newly founded organization will also be an avenue that affords CWSs the opportunity to voice their view. The response has been very positive thus far and I would like to thank all the Diplomates of the AAWM who have responded so promptly and joined The College. This action can only serve to strengthen and benefit the CWS® clinician.

Additionally, this was also the first year that an AAWM president was invited to a WOCN conference opening session, as well as a Canadian candidate sitting for the CWS® exam. This demonstrates the collaborative spirit that is budding in the wound world.

The year 2005 marks the AAWM's 10th anniversary. We had excellent attendance at the 10th Anniversary reception held at the SAWC in San Diego, California, in April. Along with the announcement of the launching of the College of Certified Wound Specialists™, the introduction and presentation of founder's diplomas to the three founding board members **Chester Evans**, MS, DPM, CWS, FCCWS, **John Nelson**, DPM, CWS, and **John Prior**,

"We have great strength in our numbers and have a vast road ahead."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Newly-Elected Board of Directors

Last fall, the following individuals were elected to three-year terms (ending 10/07).



Donald Mrdjenovich, DPM, CWS, FCCWS

Dr. Mrdjenovich was re-elected to the AAWM Board of Directors on September 9, 2005 and is currently the Immediate Past President. He has served on the AAWM Board of Directors for the past three years and was Vice President from 2003-2004 and President from 2004-2005. Dr. Mrdjenovich is the current President and owner of Central PA Podiatry Associates, PC in Altoona, PA, receiving his degree in Podiatric Medicine from the Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine. He is also the Podiatric Director of the Vascular Wound Care Program at a local hospital in Pennsylvania. One of his main goals is to see an increased awareness and value of the CWS® certification with providers, hospitals, and insurance carriers.



Mona Baharestani, PhD, ANP

CWOCN, FAPWCA, CWS, FCCWS

Dr. Baharestani was re-elected to the AAWM Board of Directors on September 9, 2005. She has been an AAWM director since 2002. Dr. Baharestani is currently the Director of Wound Healing at the Long Island Jewish Medical Center in New Hyde Park, NY and obtained her Doctoral degree from Adelphi University. Her major area of responsibility is to direct the development and implementation of interdisciplinary wound healing educational programs

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

NEW DIRECTORS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

intra-institutionally, nationally, as well as annual international preceptor-ships. Dr. Baharestani also directs the Neonatal and Pediatric pressure ulcer and skin care program. One of her main goals while on the Board of Directors is to see an increased number of qualified wound care practitioners sitting for the CWS® exam in states which have historically displayed low to no attendance.



Stanley McCallon, MPT, CWS, FCCWS

Mr. McCallon was elected to the AAWM Board of Directors on September 9, 2005. He has obtained his Masters in Physical Therapy from Louisiana State University. He is the former Vice President of the Louisiana Physical Therapy Association. Mr. McCallon has been a CWS® since 2001 and is currently part of the Recertification Committee. ■



Heather Leigh Hettrick, PhD, PT, CWS, MLT, FCCWS

Dr. Hettrick was elected as the 2005-2006 President of the AAWM on September 9, 2005. She holds a Doctoral degree in Philosophy in Physical Therapy from Nova Southeastern University as well as a Master's degree in Physical Therapy from Chapman University. Dr. Hettrick is a Clinical Assistant Professor at New York University, where she is responsible for the development of the Integumentary Curriculum for the Physical Therapy program. She currently participates in the Examination, Recertification, Marketing and Exhibit Committees with the AAWM.



Charles Gokoo, MD, CWS, FCCWS

Dr. Gokoo was elected as the 2005-2006 President Elect of the AAWM on September 9, 2005. He received his Medical Doctorate degree from Autonomous Universidad de Guadalajara, Guadalajara, Mexico. As Medical Director of American Medical Technologies, he maintains knowledge of the changing social, regulatory, political and economic factors that affect medical and health services of long term care patients. He currently participates on the Examination and Item Review Committees with the AAWM.



Cynthia Fleck, RN, BSN, DAPWCA, MBA, CWS, FCCWS

Ms. Fleck was re-elected as the 2005-2006 Secretary/Treasurer of the AAWM on September 9, 2005. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing with a minor in Nutrition from Southeast Missouri State University. She has also earned her MBA from Fontbonne University. As Vice President of Clinical Marketing with Medline Industries, she is responsible for North American clinical development of sales and marketing for the advanced wound and skin care division. Ms. Fleck is also a Skin and Wound Management Clinical Consultant who provides primary clinical consultation on a variety of medical, skin and wound cases from pediatrics through geriatrics. She currently participates on the Exhibit Committee with the AAWM. ■

PAST PRESIDENT, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

DPM, MS, FACFAOM, FACFAS, CWS, FCCWS, was momentous. These three founding members had the foresight to establish the only interdisciplinary credentialing board for Certified Wound Specialists, which has grown to an unanticipated level. We all owe a great debt of gratitude to these fine gentlemen.

Finally, reflecting on the development and progress that the American Academy of Wound Management has accomplished in the past ten years is a tremendous thrill. The anticipated future accomplishments and interactions of the AAWM provides great hope for the expectations of the legitimacy and prevalent acknowledgment of the CWS® credential. We have great strength in our numbers and have a vast road ahead. ■

Visit our website: <http://www.aawm.org> AAWM and Board Certification
Information | Resources for wound care professionals

Recent Certified Wound Specialists

These individuals successfully passed the **National Board Certification Examination for Wound Management Professionals** on April 16 and October 15, 2005, and may utilize the CWS® designation. The April exam had a pass rate of 63 percent and the October exam had a pass rate of 62 percent.

APRIL 16, 2005

Scott A. Amoss, DPM, CWS
 Holly A. Appelqvist, PT, CWS
 Andrew J. Applewhite, MD, CWS, FCCWS
 Dale James Atkinson, RN, CWS
 Bradley B. Bailey, MD, CWS, FCCWS
 Edward L. Batzel, MD, CWS
 Sharon K. Blackburn, PT, CWS, FCCWS
 Randi Bonner, MAPT, CWS
 Kari K. Brizendine, PT, CWS
 Cynthia J. Brown, RN, CWS
 Virgilio Brunet-Cardona, MD, CWS, FCCWS
 Valerie D. Carter, RN, CWS
 Irma Chavez, LVN, CHT, CWS, FCCWS
 Heather E. Chudy, PT, CWS
 Naomi R. Cox, RN, CWS
 Anthony B. Cresci, DPM, CWS
 Kimberly Crosby, MPT, CWS
 Patricia Cyr, RN, MS, FNP-C, CWS
 Susan M. Dawson, RN, CWS
 Rhonda M. Delaney, LPN, CWS
 David K. Denkers, PA-C, CWS
 Jayne E. Derocher, MSN, ARNP-C, CWS
 James Craig Dowdy, MD, CWS
 Gregory L. Eck, PT, CWS
 J. Suzanne Ehmman, MPT, CWS
 Celia G. Elkhara, RN-C, CWS
 Margot S. Elmore, RN, CWS
 Gayle Esdaille, MD, CWS
 Barbara A. Fagerlin, RN, CWS
 Steven G. Farmer, DPM, CWS
 Ikram A. Farooqi, MD, CWS
 Kevin K. Florek, DO, MPH, CWS, FCCWS
 Nancy L. Flournoy, RN, BSN, CWS
 Steven S. Gale, MD, FACS, RVT, CWS
 Michelle E. Giovannelli, MSN, RN, CRNP, CWS
 Mark W. Gordon, MD, FACS, CWS, FCCWS
 Marilyn K. Grass, MSN, CWS
 Amy Green, MSN, CWS
 Gerard Guerin, DPM, CWS
 Daniel J. Hakim, PT, DScPT, CWS
 Barbara G. Hamburg, BSN, CWS
 Katy Hammer, PT, CWS
 Angela Hardy, MPT, CWS
 Erin Marie Harms, PTA, CWS
 Loren C. Hayes, ARNP-BC, MSN, RN, CWS
 Martha J. Hayton, BSN, MSN, CWS
 Richard J. Heck, MD, CWS
 Lara L. Hysinger, LPN, CWS
 Vicki Jessop, RN, CWS
 Anne L. Johnson, MPT, CWS
 April D. Johnson, RN, CWS
 Donna Rae Johnson, MS, CRNP, CWS
 Melissa K. Johnson, MPT, CWS
 Penny Sue Jones, RN, CWS
 Elizabeth A. Ketchem, BSN, MS, CWS, FCCWS
 Nancy M. Kim, BS, MD, CWS
 Adrian N. King, DPM, CWS
 Victoria Kirk, PT, CWS
 Natalie Kotsovetis, MSPT, CWS
 Katie J. Kovacich-Smith, DPM, CWS
 Valerie J. Lastition, RN, BSN, WOCN, CWS
 Lisa R. Laurendine, RN, CWS
 Peter Leger, MD, CWS
 David W. Lindner, BSN, CWS
 Tammy A. Lloyd, RN, CWS
 Ann G. Long, PTA, CWS
 Janis Lorenzen, RN, BSN, CWS
 Billie Ann Lott, MSN, CWOCN, CWS
 Margaret N. Loughran, ARNP, CWS
 Erlinda Lu, PT, CWS, FCCWS
 Michael D. Magri, RN, CWS
 Carrie Elizabeth Main, PT, CWS
 Marguerite Maloney, PTA, CWS
 Tammy R. Manns, PTA, CWS
 Kristin M. Manske, PT, DPT, CWS, FCCWS
 Jeffrey Martone, DPM, CWS
 Glenn M. McAlpin, MD, MBA, FACS, CWS, FCCWS
 Stephen J. McKenna, MD, FACS, CWS
 Conway T. McLean, DPM, CWS
 Kimberly Ann Meek, DPT, CWS
 Jennifer Lynn Menard, PT, CWS
 Charlotte B. Messina, PT, CWS, FCCWS
 Ralph Anthony Micheletti, MSN, CWOCN, COCN, CWS
 Yoshinobu Mifune, MD, CHT, CWS, FCCWS
 Melissa E. Miller, PA-C, CWS

Teeraporn Miller, RN, ARNP, CWS
 Adila Millwala, PT, CWS
 Keri R. Mitchell, PT, CWS
 Lisa M. Monroe, MPT, CWS
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 Tracy L. Mose, MSPT, CWS
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 Misti T. Nash, PT, CWS, FCCWS
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 Cari J. Normand, MSPT, CWS
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 Margot A. Oyola, RN, CWS
 Melissa J. Pacquin, MSN, ARNP, CWS
 Scott F. Parratto, DPM, CWS
 Steven M. Pearl, MD, FACEP, CWS, FCCWS
 Patricia M. Petrecca, PT, CWS
 Kenneth L. Pettit, DO, CWS
 Carla J. Porter, DPM, CWS
 Kim Dawn Powell, RN, CWS
 Shannon N. Pritchard, RN, CWS
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 Brook Ashley Rivera, MSPT, CWS
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 Andres E. Salazar, MD, CWS, FCCWS
 Cathleen Sallitto, RN, BSN, CWS
 Karen M. Salmoiraghi, RN, CWS
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 Michael J. Scanlon, DPM, CWS
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 Starr Lynn Shank, LPTA, CWS
 Philip M. Sharp, MD, CWS, FCCWS
 Ana Maria Shaw, RN, CWS
 Michael K. Shea, CWS, FCCWS
 Trinda Shepard, RN, CWS
 Lawrence Shevlin, MD, CWS
 Melissa Shah Shukla, DPM, CWS
 Ashfaq H. Siddiqui, MD, CWS
 Stephanie A. Slayton, PT, DPT, CWS, FCCWS
 Jo An Smith, RN, CWS
 Latisha A. Smith, MD, BS, CWS
 Angela Snyder, PT, CWS
 Anne Sonoga, DPM, CWS
 Francesca Dianne Soria, RN, CWS
 Donna M. Steffensmeier, LPN, CWS
 Mary Jane Stubbs, PT, MS, CWS, FCCWS
 Robert W. Tinsley, DPM, CWS, FCCWS
 Kelly H. Turner, PTA, CWS
 Janet M. Ungacta, RN, HCS-D, CWS
 Leonora H. Victoria, PT, CWS
 Frances R. Vitalis, ARNP-C, CWOCN, CWS
 Amy J. Walker, MPT, CWS
 Barbara Walsh-Rego, RN, BSN, CWS
 Natalie A. Walton, RN, CWS
 Janiece Weinberger, RN, CHRN, CWS
 Wendy Weiss, DO, CWS
 Traci L. Wickert, LPTA, CWS
 Karen R. Wilcox, PT, CWS, FCCWS
 Robert Lewis Williams, MD, CWS
 Jacqueline Windham, RN, CWS
 Douglas D. Yarboro, DPT, CWS
 Kim E. Yerkes, RN, C, CWS
 Brian J. Zimmerman, DPM, CWS
 Larry J. Zimmerman, DPM, CWS

OCTOBER 15, 2005

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 Starley S. Bartholomew, PT, CWS
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 Predrag Popovic, MD, CWS
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 Erik Reid, MPT, CWS
 Shelia G. Roberts, CHRN, CWS
 Debra J. Rogers, RN, CWS
 Charles Rossetti, LPTA, CWS
 Stanley D. Rowicki, MD, CWS
 Bengta L. Sahlgren, PT, CWS
 Maria Lucille Sales-Wixom, PT, CWS
 Gregory P. Schlegel, MD, CWS
 Eric Schloe, PT, CWS
 Nathan R. Schmidt, PT, CWS
 Caroline I. Schober-Flores, BSN, CWS
 Jane B. Schurter, MSPT, CWS
 Susan Sharps, RN, CWS
 Beth Sherman, BSN, PT, CWS
 Theresa M. Siegel, RN, CWS
 Brian D. Sigal, DPM, CWS
 Matthew R. Sivret, PT, CWS
 Daniel J. Smith, MD, CWS
 Lisa A. Smith, RN, CWS
 Barbara D. Spenrath, CWS
 Joyce C. Spivey, BS, RN, CWOCN, CWS
 Mary C. Spurlock, BSN, CWS
 Sonia Stephens, RN, CWS
 Virgene M. Stilwell, PT, CWS
 Jacqueline Stubits, BSN, CWS
 Sarah J. Tackson, MSPT, CWS
 Susan L. Tamburrino, RN, CWS
 Nancy F. Taylor, RN, CWS
 Vallur Thirumavalavan, MD, CWS
 Kristen Thurman, MPT, BS, CWS
 Aletha W. Tippett, MD, CWS
 Richard Joseph Traczyk III, DPM, CWS
 Kimberly A. Tran, PT, CWS
 Archie Ray Traynor, Jr., MD, MBA, CWS
 Kimberly Jane Trepanier, PT, CWS
 Maryann Trivlis, DPM, CWS
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 Jeffrey S. Wick, MD, CWS
 Ellen L. Williams, LPN, BA, CWS
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 Teena Wimmer, PT, CWS
 Jacqueline S. Wiseman, BSN, RN, CWS
 Jody Beth Wong, PT, CWS
 Mary Jane Yacopino, RN, CWS
 Angelito B. Yang, MD, BSN, CWS
 Thelma Rita Yanga-Barksdale, PT, CWS
 John Yee, MD, CWS
 Carrie J. Yenne, MSPT, CWS
 Janette M. Zdanuk, MSN, CS, RN, FNP-BC, CWS

Exam Questions: Always Needed!

The American Academy of Wound Management is challenging all CWSs to write at least one question for the Exam Committee for potential submission to the Board Certification Examination for Wound Management Professionals.

Some guidelines for writing questions:

1. They must be multiple-choice format
2. They must have four possible answers (with the correct answer identified)
3. They must have a referenced source with each question
4. They should be designed for participants to recall, understand, apply or evaluate

AAWM is also looking to include case studies with photographs for future examinations. When submitting a photograph/digital image, the same question guidelines above apply, as well as the following for photographs:

1. Photographs/digital images may be in either color or black/white (no Polaroids)
2. If using a digital camera, a high-resolution setting produces quality images
3. The area of interest should be clear and easily identifiable
4. Patient privacy must be respected; no names or identifying information may be visible

5. If possible, a ruler (in cm or mm for scale purposes) should be visible in the photograph

Please remember that all case studies and photographs/digital images become the property of the AAWM for use as determined by the AAWM.

If you have a question or case study you feel would make a good addition to the examination, you may submit those to Sallyann Henry, Professional Testing Corporation, at shenry@ptcny.com

You can also submit questions on line at our website: http://www.aawm.org/members_only.lasso You'll need your CWS® ID number (printed on your CWS® ID card) for access. ■

Reminder: Recertification



All Certified Wound Specialists are required to recertify every ten years. The first group of Diplomates up for recertification was certified in 1995 and have been mailed the recertification application.

The recertification process requires Diplomates to complete a self-assessment examination. Diplomates may use whatever materials and resources desired (books, journals, internet, colleagues, etc.), but they must achieve a passing score on the assessment of 80%. If Diplomates do not successfully pass the self-assessment, they must then register and pay to take the next regularly scheduled written examination. Failure of this examination will result in revocation of their CWS® certification.

Recertification applicants will have up to 90 days from receipt of the self-assessment exam, to return the exam to PTC (testing center) before their certification expires to complete the self-assessment.

Upcoming Exam Dates

April 22, 2006
Materials due: 3/10/06

October 14, 2006
Materials due: 9/1/06

The American Academy of Wound Management formation of The College of Certified Wound Specialist™

The College of Certified Wound Specialist™ (CCWS™) was developed to maintain the integrity of the American Academy of Wound Management (AAWM)/CWS® and was incorporated on January 26, 2005. The AAWM has grown to the point that a formation of a College for wound specialists was a natural progression in the development of its goal to promote advanced wound care and set the standard of care in wound management in the wound community. Are you interested in joining The College of Certified Wound Specialists™? Please contact The College for more information at 202-521-1380, email info@theccws.org or visit their website at www.theccws.org. ■

COMING SOON:

Topics on Reimbursement.

Look for this section in our next edition of the Newsletter.

Differences Between AAWM & CCWS™

Like many certifying boards, an entity such as a college is developed to complement and carry out tasks that a credentialing body in itself is not capable of doing. One cannot become a Fellow of The College, FCCWS, without possessing a CWS®. It should be stated that these are two separate and distinct organizations, however, these two organizations coexist to complement each other. As an advocacy arm of the AAWM, The College will provide educational endorsements of exam preparatory courses, research grants, and provider and public relations, as well as political activism to promote the CWS® credential. The main differences follow:

	American Academy of Wound Management (AAWM)	The College of Certified Wound Specialists™ (CCWS™)
WHO WE ARE	A national interdisciplinary certifying board for health-care professionals involved in wound care.	A body of interdisciplinary Certified Wound Specialists®.
PURPOSE	To stimulate, support and promote education, research and knowledge in the interdisciplinary field of wound management and, thereby, elevate the standards of prevention, care, and treatment of acute and chronic wounds.	To stimulate and support patient care, education, research and knowledge in the interdisciplinary field of wound management; and more specifically to elevate the standards of prevention, care and treatment of acute and chronic wounds and, thereby, improve the public health.
DESIGNATION	Certified Wound Specialist® or CWS®; achieved through years of work experience and through preparation and passing of the CWS® Examination.	Fellow of the College of Certified Wound Specialists or FCCWS; achieved by membership to The College as a CWS® in good standing.
WHO IS ELIGIBLE	To take the CWS® Examination, any licensed health-care professional with a doctoral or masters degree must have two (2) or more years of wound care experience post-residency. Any licensed healthcare professional with a bachelors, associates, certificate, or diploma, must have five (5) or more years of wound care experience.	<p>A Fellow of The College shall be currently certified as a Certified Wound Specialist® (CWS®) by the American Academy of Wound Management (AAWM). The original Fellowship of The College, as determined by the Board of Directors, shall individually be known as Founding Fellows.</p> <p>A Corresponding Member of The College shall be an individual who possesses the same qualifications as a member of The College but whose permanent residence is outside of the United States and Canada.</p> <p>An Industry Sponsor of The College shall be a corporation or other business entity that has an interest in wound management and is represented in The College by an individual of senior status.</p>
EXAM PREPARATION	<p>The CWS® examination is a self-preparation exam. We offer an outline of the exam in our Candidate Handbook as well.</p> <p>As a certifying organization, The Academy cannot endorse wound care courses or textbooks related to the field of wound management. This is also true in terms of unrestricted grants from industry or being involved with any political action group (inducement).</p>	Beginning in year 2006, the Education Committee of The College will develop and provide continuing education short seminar/workshop type courses that address a variety of topics related to wound healing. The courses will be designed for CCWS™ members who wish to take refresher courses and for non-member health care practitioners who wish to prepare for taking the American Academy of Wound Management CWS® examination, and courses for those members who wish to advance their understanding of current wound management topics.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

**DIFFERENCES BETWEEN
AAWM & CCWS**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

**ACTIVE
COMMITTEES**
**American Academy of Wound
Management (AAWM)**

Exam Committee Responsible for oversight of the examination process. Meets at least annually to approve examinations for the calendar year. Subgroups of this committee are also responsible for serving on Item Review sessions and with the Recertification Committee. However, no more than 50% of the members of the Exam Committee can serve on the Recertification Subcommittee.

Exhibit Committee Mission: to support, promote, and expand the recognition, membership, and validity of the AAWM and the CCWS™ via exhibition at professional conferences and symposia across the country.

AAWM exhibits at the following conferences:
Symposium for Advanced Wound Care; Clinical Symposium on Advances in Skin & Wound Care; Wound Care Congress; American Burn Association; Wound Ostomy Continence Nurses; American Burn Association; New Cardiovascular Horizons

Item Review Committee Ad hoc committee, formulated each year to assist with reviewing of new test items being added to our test item bank. Is representative of the major disciplines certified by the Academy and has limited participation from members of the Exam Committee. Membership on this committee is determined annually by the Exam Committee Chair.

Marketing Committee Mission: to attract new members to be board CWS® and to develop name recognition for the AAWM and the CWS® designation.

The Marketing Committee promotes their goals by:

- Advertising in industry publications (i.e. magazines, newsletters, journals, etc.) with informative articles, advertisements and editorials.
- Mail and e-mail press releases to healthcare industry publications.
- Position AAWM members to speak on wound management and the CWS® designation at the educational meetings of related organizations.
- Distribute National Registry of Board Certified Wound Specialists guide as part of a press kit to medical societies on the state and national level.
- Promote the importance of the CWS® designation to patients through literature.

Recertification Committee Responsible for oversight of the recertification process. Meets as necessary to approve new versions of the recertification examination. Membership on this committee is determined by the Exam Committee Chair and represents the major disciplines certified by the Academy. Anyone within two years of their recertification date is prohibited from serving on the committee. No more than 50% of the members of the Exam Committee can serve on the Recertification Committee.

**The College of Certified Wound
Specialists™ (CCWS™)**

Education Committee Mission: to provide continuing education wound seminar/workshop courses in preparation for the AAWM CWS® examination, and courses for those members who wish to advance their understanding of current wound management topics. Will be made up of individuals from several health care disciplines including but not limited to: nursing, medicine, physical therapy and podiatry.

Industry Committee At the present time The College is presenting opportunities for Industry Sponsors. These areas will comprise funding and unrestricted grants for: Receptions and Exhibits at National Conferences and Work Shop Sponsorships and Journal Sponsorship.

Research Committee To assist in evidence-based projects by providing funding for credible wound management projects. The Research committee is developing other areas of research at this time.

Political Action Committee Building on the first three objectives, The College intends to add substantial credibility to the CWS® by elevating the standards of wound management. One method to achieve this is to encourage all health professionals involved with wound management to become certified by an accredited organization (e.g. AAWM or WOCN). In addition, establishing alliances with other national and international wound organizations will help to foster ideas and goals to strengthen wound management worldwide.

Provider Relations Committee Mission: Raising the "awareness" of the presence of an advanced level of wound care practice with the opportunity to provide "Best Practice Care." The committee imparts information to focal awareness groups that the most excellent outcomes are provided by those most educated, trained and certified as Advanced Wound Care practitioners.

The Provider Relation's Committee will work to heighten awareness groups that include:

- Consumers and community
- Providers (hospitals, wound care clinics, etc.)
- Payers (CMS policy makers-reimbursement)
- The wound care product industry governmental and private payers (Medicare/Medicaid, insurance companies—i.e. HMOs/PPOs, etc.)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

**DIFFERENCES BETWEEN
AAWM & CCWS**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

**WHY SHOULD I
APPLY?**

**American Academy of Wound
Management (AAWM)**

A CWS® can be any health care provider who meets the qualifications to take the board examination. Current CWS's include: MDs, PhDs, podiatrists, nurses, physical therapists or physician assistants. Not only do they possess knowledge in their respective fields, but they have each earned the title CWS® by demonstrating exceptional knowledge in wound care and management.

The benefits of being treated by a CWS® are numerous. For example:

Certified Wound Specialists® are required to attend yearly continuing education courses to enhance their knowledge regarding state of the art wound management and reimbursement issues. This translates into faster healing times and more efficient and cost-effective care.

Certified Wound Specialists® are also networked with each other through the AAWM so information and knowledge can be shared to improve the quality of care delivered to patients.

**The College of Certified Wound
Specialists™ (CCWS™)**

As a member, you can assist in making the committee missions become reality. You will have a voice in making a difference in wound care and management for today and the future.