



Opportunities in Wound & Lymphedema Management

HVO's Wound & Lymphedema Management Programs are a partnership with the Association for the Advancement of Wound Care (AAWC) and its global initiative, the AAWC Global Volunteers.

Phnom Penh, Cambodia - Sihanouk Hospital Center of Hope (SHCH) - Volunteers teach basic and advanced wound and lymphedema care, with both basic and advanced supplies. Common wound types include pressure ulcers, traumatic wounds, neuropathic ulcers (due to diabetes and leprosy), arterial ulcers, and wound infections. Volunteers may also have the opportunity to work with the municipal hospital and the leprosy center. Activities may include providing lectures, participating in rounds, conducting prevalence studies, and assisting in the development of patient education materials. Assignments are 1-2 weeks.

Siem Reap, Cambodia - Angkor Hospital for Children (AHC) - Volunteers train physicians and nurses to improve the quality of care provided, as well as increase their ability to offer wound & lymphedema care training to local facilities. Patient and family education in wound management is also a priority. Common wounds seen in outpatient are abscesses, burns, laprotomies, and fractures. Volunteers participate in protocol development and implementation, teaching modules, and leading workshops for hospital staff and for family home care. Training will occur in clinical and classroom settings. Assignments are 1-2 weeks.

Deschappelles, Haiti - Hôpital Albert Schweitzer (HAS) - Volunteers will be involved in providing basic wound care training to the nursing staff at HAS. Physicians and Pts will also be integrated in to the training based on the volunteer's specialty and area of training. HAS sees many kinds of wounds and would benefit in training in the following areas (but not limited to): trauma, diabetic feet / ulcers, abscesses, pressure ulcers, and burns. Volunteers are needed between January and March and again in July to September. Assignments are 2 weeks in length.

Raxaul, India – Duncan Hospital (DH) - Volunteers provide wound care training to physicians, nurses, and other relevant staff at Duncan Hospital through an interdisciplinary training model. Specific areas of training needed are in moist wound healing, vascular surgery, wound assessment, wound debridement, nutrition for wound healing, and burn care. Training and education will be provided through a variety of means including lecture, hands on demonstrations, case studies, and participation in grand rounds with both physicians and nurses. Volunteers will serve as part of a 2-4 person team and assignments will be 2-4 weeks in length and scheduled once a year in January or February.

Qualifications: Volunteers must be willing and able to conduct teaching and training activities as HVO programs are focused on providing education, not service. Active or retired physicians, podiatrists, nurses, physical and occupational therapists, and researchers specialized in wound care and lymphedema management are needed. Qualified volunteers are actively providing advanced, evidence-based wound care including edema/lymphedema management and are working with wounds in an academic setting, a clinical practice setting, wound research, or infection control. Previous clinical or academic teaching experience is preferred but not required. Clinicians must have a current professional license and all volunteers must be members of AAWC. (Canadian Association of Wound Care members will be reimbursed by the CAWC for AAWC membership after completion of their volunteer assignment.)

Travel grants are available through HVO and AAWC to offset costs for AAWC Members to travel to HVO Wound and Lymphedema project sites

"I DID IT AND SO CAN YOU"

Stories from HVO volunteers

"I remain overwhelmed at how receptive the doctors at AHC were to the changes I advocated - they were very willing to go where the evidence leads. By the time I left on Friday they had made HUGE changes in the way they were doing wound management, which they attributed to me bringing them solid evidence for moist wound management in the tropical setting. It is possible that in the past the MDs have tended to teach surgical procedures, rather than basic wound management, so the surgeons had heard less of the modern wound management evidence than had the nurses."

Linda Benskin, PhD, RN, CWCN, CWS
Wound Care – Cambodia (AHC)

"We rounded daily with the surgical team consisting of the chief of surgery, the lead surgeon and 4 other surgical staff members including residents delivering care to outpatients at the Community Medical Center and inpatients at SHCH. We assessed wounds together and proposed solutions to problem wounds. The surgeons graciously accepted us as an integral part of the team, soliciting our opinion as to antibiotic treatment and wound care."

Lawrence Eron, MD & Lisa Bryd Nunn, RN
Wound Care – Cambodia (SHCH)

"Arriving was exciting, but nerve-racking. In a way, I felt kind of trapped-with fear of the unknown as the limiting factor. As the trip progressed, everything started falling into place for us from a personal and professional standpoint. The medical staff welcomed our ideas, we scheduled some lectures, and we began to develop relationships with our colleagues, housemates, and the locals. HAS is set up in such a way that makes connecting with other volunteers and/or professionals very easy. These other people not only made the trip more fun, but also allowed us to learn so much more about Haiti and about other areas of the world. "

Jen Quisberg, MPT, CWS
Wound Care – Haiti (HAS)

Volunteers interested in participating in Wound & Lymphedema Management programs must be members of the Association for the Advancement of Wound Care

For more information, visit our website at www.hvousa.org or contact:
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