

Alisha Oropallo, MD, FACS, APWCA

AAWC member since 2017

My interest in wound care stemmed from my Vascular Surgery fellowship at Boston University where my mentor, Gary Gibbons MD, ran an innovative multi-disciplinary team. The team approach at Boston University Medical Center Foot Care Clinic involved a team of podiatrists, vascular surgeons, nurses, diabetic educators, and orthotists which helped provide a more comprehensive care plan for patients. It was in this setting that I realized that patients were not concerned with the vascular surgical procedure of “fixing the plumbing” but rather the end result which was wound closure. Educating my patients on wound care products, guidelines, and upcoming research trials became vital to help assist with improving the quality of life. I also found that there was a paucity of literature of translational wound research.

In 2011, I joined an academic center, Northwell Health, as the Director of the Comprehensive Wound Healing and Hyperbarics Center. This center has over ten thousand outpatient visits annually encompassing all types of wounds. Initially, I formed a multi-disciplinary team helping to provide efficiency to the office and the ability to follow patient outcomes of treatment. As an integral part of the Zucker Hofstra School of Medicine and the Feinstein Institute for Medical Research, I was able to collaboratively work together with a team of research scientists and nurses to help initiate translational research in wound healing.

One of my first projects involved bringing this basic science wound research to the clinical realm of patient care through the AAWC/Shire Research Grant. As a grant recipient, I evaluated patients’ tissues and blood specimens to assess for a specific biomarker, CIRP, in wounds. This research remains in progress but has helped propel me into the realm of translational wound research where the basic science and the clinical application meet. The AAWC was able to lay the foundation for my further research in wound care projects. Over eight wound care research projects are in progress.

I would like to be a member of the AAWC Speakers Bureau to return the honor of the opportunity AAWC afforded me. The AAWC enabled me to develop a career in wound care research. I believe it would be a rewarding experience to be able to give back to the AAWC as a lecturer on the AAWC Speakers Bureau.