

## **EWMA conference article – Kerry Saari**

On May 9-11 2018, I was fortunate to be able to attend the 28th EWMA Conference in Krakow Poland. It was the first time I had attended an international conference. It was very exciting, all the more so because I had had my e-poster accepted to be shown in the e-poster section of the conference.

I had no expectations or ideas on what to expect at the conference. My first reaction was how big it was. The 3 days were completely full of presentations and lectures from 0830 until 1830, on a large variety of topics. It was difficult at times to decide which presentations to attend. It was an opportunity to learn about research that has been performed in relation to wound care techniques and wound care products, as well as hear about what is happening in wound care in other countries. What I was most looking forward to after seeing the program, was the workshop on wound debridement and the Chinese medicine presentation.

The wound debridement workshop was an opportunity to learn more about performing sharp debridement. We learnt how to perform a punch biopsy and even tried stitching, which was a lot harder than I imagined. I learnt basic tips which can be implemented on my ward such as how to use a blade correctly, why we should use a curette instead of a spoon, and why we should increase the use of local anaesthetic. The Chinese medicine was very interesting but not quite what I was hoping for. While it was interesting to see results of healing with Chinese traditional medicine seemingly similar to western methods, I was hoping for more information on the healing properties of the plants they use.

Other sessions I really enjoyed were: Care bundles, I feel like this is something that could be introduced at my work place; Surgical wounds and SSI; Adherence to health regimes; and Care Centres, where it was interesting to hear of many nations nurse led care centres.

Seeing my e-poster on display was a moment of great pride. It was an opportunity to show others what we have achieved in my work place in developing wound care education. It showed that we are making education accessible to all staff members in the health care area, and that they are positive in their responses to the education program. The conference was a benefit to my work place in that I received information and skills that can be shared, as well as demonstrating how we are advancing wound care in our local health area.

Overall it was a great experience, and I thank SHHY and HUS, Lohja Hospital for the opportunity to attend. I hope to be able to attend again in the future.