

## THET International Collaboration in Health - Welsh Wound Innovation Centre Report (April 2021).

The Welsh Wound Innovation Centre (WWIC), a not-for-profit organization was formally launched in September 2014 to create a centre of excellence in skin health, wound prevention, and treatment. WWIC uniquely brings together the key voices on wounds in Wales, spanning government, NHS, academia, business, industry, and the Third Sector. Following the opening of the centre in September 2014 it continues to pursue its ambition to be recognized as the Centre of Excellence for patients with wounds not only within Wales but also at a global level. Indeed, WWIC was created with the intent to be a genuine and mutually beneficial partnership between academic excellence, patient focused clinical care and innovation with commercial partners achieving significant progress in that regard across many portfolio collaborations as follows:

### 1. International Collaborations

As a not-for-profit organization, our primary goal is to make a difference for patients, ensure there is equity of access for all patients and to contribute to the health and wealth of Wales. This model is now being looked at by other countries in the World as more come to realize the enormity of the challenge of wound healing. Prior to March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020, WWIC hosted several overseas visitors interested in developing the WWIC model locally, to include:

- **Netherlands:** Dr. Sjef Van Baal – a vascular surgeon in the East of Holland is setting up a wound centre focused on diabetic foot disease supported by the local authority.
- **Australia:** The Wound Management Innovation Cooperative Research Centre in Brisbane, Australia was modelled on WWIC.
- A multidisciplinary team from **Helsinki** have approval from their hospital to set up a dedicated wound centre which builds on the WWIC model.
- More recently a virtual collaborative meeting was held with members of **Unity Health**, the largest health provider in downtown **Toronto**, with WWIC providing advice on how to set up a national wound centre in Canada.

As a Senior Clinical Research Director for the A\*STAR (Agency for Science, Technology, and Research Institute) in **Singapore**, Professor Harding was instrumental in the development of a 23 million SGD grant award for the advancement of wounds in the tropics. The group is currently focused on the development of a wound registry in Singapore and members of the WWIC team were instrumental to advancing the project as it builds on WWIC's wound registry which currently has over 20,000 entries. Aligned to his role Professor Harding holds a visiting Professorship at the LKC Medical School National Health Group. Additionally, in his role as Clinical Innovation Strategic Advisor, Cardiff & Vale University Health Board, Professor Harding is building on a collaborative innovation framework, centering on the 5 I's between the University Health Board and Tan Tock Seng Hospital. The 5I's relate to Impact, Ideas, Innovation, Improvement, and Implementation which aligns to the academic and NHS clinical innovation spectrum of activities.

**For further information please contact Professor Keith Harding**

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