Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the Registered Nurses’ Association of Ontario (RNAO) and the Canadian Association of Wound Care (CAWC), we are pleased to introduce a new collaborative initiative: Diabetic Foot Canada eJournal. This online journal for healthcare professionals will focus on the prevention and management of foot ulcers.

This resource will be part of a broader, innovative initiative – Diabetic Foot Canada – which will mature over the coming months. The broader initiative will involve multiple partners to ensure a multidisciplinary perspective, and will utilize the latest technology, evidence and national teams of interprofessional experts to provide education, disseminate best evidence and educational tools and raise awareness of the importance of preventing diabetic foot complications and amputations.

This is a country wide concern, as the First Report of the Canadian Council of the Federation Health Care Innovation Working Group (2012) identified diabetic foot ulcers as an important healthcare focus and stated that ulcers and amputations can be avoided through education, monitoring and early treatment. Our organisations have a joint mission to improve the care of Canadians living with diabetic foot disease and prevent amputations. Through interprofessional education and care, diabetic foot ulcers can be prevented and CAWC and RNAO have a number of programs, which fulfil these needs.

Most recently CAWC was funded by Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) to develop self-management tools and deliver a peer-to-peer national educational programme that engaged all stakeholders within the management of diabetic foot disease, including the patient (Botros et al, 2012; Kuhnke et al, 2013).

RNAO, recognizing the critical importance of establishing best practices in care for persons with diabetes, has published two scientifically rigorous clinical practice guidelines (CPGs) addressing issues related to diabetes, including its latest release in 2013 of the second edition of Assessment and Management of Foot Ulcers for People with Diabetes (RNAO, 2011). RNAO’s 2013 edition of the CPG on care of persons with diabetes and foot complications was recently selected by the Council of the Federation for cross country implementation, in order to support the recommendations of the Health Care Innovation Working Group (2012). The Association’s world-renowned CPG implementation methodology, outlined in the Toolkit: Implementation of Best Practice Guidelines (the second edition of which was recently released in 2012), will inform the implementation of this CPG in many sites as well as the joint work of this partnership.

The goal of this new publication is to provide the reader with the most practical and relevant content available in the field of prevention and management of diabetic foot complications. We believe our collaboration brings together the resources of both organizations in an effort to improve the lives of persons living with diabetes, and provide healthcare professionals with the necessary tools to achieve this goal.

We invite you to share our enthusiasm for this new eJournal and we look forward to working with you all to achieve better client, provider, organization and financial outcomes in this critical area of health care.