



## Canadian Approach to Wound Care Serves as International Model

*Dr. Gary Sibbald from Women's College Hospital Leading Expert on Wound Care*

TORONTO, June 5, 2008 – A made-in-Canada approach to wound care pioneered by clinical researchers from Women's College Hospital is serving as a model for international health care providers.

Prof. Gary Sibbald, Director of Women's College Hospital's Wound Healing Clinic, is today's keynote speaker at the Third Congress of the World Union of Wound Healing Societies. He presents his model of evidence-based care to this conference of health care providers from around the globe taking place this week at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre.

"As our population ages, it's vitally important that we look at ways to provide even better care for patients suffering from wounds as a result from local excess skin pressure or other medical conditions," said Prof. Sibbald. "By sharing best practices, Women's College Hospital is hoping to provide a model that can be applied in other countries to help sufferers heal better and reduce the incidence of amputations."

Chronic wounds are a common affliction in older patients, affecting the quality of life of sufferers and constituting a significant burden on the health care system. Experts estimate Ontario's health care system can save up to \$338 million in direct medical costs with the implementation of an interprofessional team approach to wound care, promoting faster healing and reducing infections and amputations for persons with diabetes-related foot ulcers.

Prof. Sibbald's approach to wound care is an anchor for discussion and debate at the conference. At the same time, Women's College Hospital is a partner in the launch of "Woundpedia" – a new online resource that will collect and catalogue information related to wound care. The principal audience will be health care professionals with an interest in wound care including physicians, nurses and rehabilitation specialists. The website will also be accessible to the general public.

### **About Women's College Hospital**

For the past 100 years, Women's College Hospital has been dedicated to a single mission: groundbreaking advances in women's health. Women's College collaborated in the invention of the Pap test. It opened the first provincial cancer detection clinic and Ontario's first regional Sexual Assault Care Centre. It delivered the nation's first test-tube quintuplets and was the first hospital in Ontario to use mammography.

Today, Women's College is focusing on the one of the most important and unrecognized healthcare realities. When it comes to health, women and men are not the same. Sex and

gender differences – that is, differences in physiology and social roles – mean that women have different healthcare needs.

That is why Women's College Hospital is conducting leading-edge research and providing state-of-the-art services around women's health. As Ontario's first and only ambulatory care centre and a teaching hospital affiliated with the University of Toronto, Women's College is leading the way nationally and globally as it translates new knowledge into better practice.

### **About womenshealthmatters.ca**

WomensHealthMatters.ca is a comprehensive online resource for reliable, evidence-based and up-to-date information on women's health and lifestyle issues. Consumers will find the latest news and research findings on women's health, diseases and lifestyle trends. A "*Women Wading Through the Web*" toolkit helps women navigate the Internet to find answers to health care questions. Visitors to the site can sign up for a women's health e-bulletin, take part in "*Le Club*," which offers an online discussion group with other women, or "*Ask the Expert*" about a specific concern. Visitors can also read "*Personal Stories*" from other women about their health care experiences. This bilingual site is updated regularly and is backed by women's health experts from Women's College Hospital.

### **About Women's College Research Institute**

Most medical research has traditionally been done on men and has applied a male yardstick to female health.

Until now.

Women's College Hospital has established Canada's largest research institute dedicated solely to generating knowledge about women's health. Called the Women's College Research Institute (WCRI), it is leading the charge in breakthrough research and charting the path globally in new developments.

In just over a decade, its accomplishments have been nothing short of stunning. Breech births are safer because of its research. Women's College Hospital is a world leader in understanding the genetics of breast and ovarian cancers. And it is now possible to identify the potential for osteoporosis in young women.

WCRI's work is based on three principles. Increase knowledge in key women's health areas. Advance women's health by connecting researchers, students and clinicians. And share knowledge with health-care providers, policy-makers and the public. And with Women's College's new role as the first and only centre for ambulatory care, WCRI is Canada's only facility that tests women's healthcare innovations within an ambulatory care community.

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Women's College Hospital

# news release

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