

# INSIDE

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National Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel  
the NPUAP

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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## NPUAP Blazes Trails

Diane Langemo, PhD, RN, FAAN

The National Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel (NPUAP) is a unique organization of professionals engaged in cutting-edge work in the prevention and management of pressure ulcers, and as such, is the leading "Think Tank" on pressure ulcer care in the United States. The work of NPUAP in public policy is focused on effectively strengthening legislative liaisons by creating a legislative agenda and working with legislators and governmental agencies to create a unified national approach to the prevention and management of pressure ulcers. NPUAP more recently has provided input into the MDS 3.0, the CMS CARE Tool, and Healthy People 2010; and is a scientific partner of the IHI 5 Million Lives Campaign. NPUAP is also collaborating with the EPUAP in developing International Pressure Ulcer Prevention and Treatment Guidelines. It is anticipated that the international guidelines will be ready for release near the end of 2008.

The Research Committee was instrumental in initiating the Support Surface Initiative (S3I) work on redefining terminology for support surfaces and the Shear Initiative as well as defining of testing standards for support surfaces. NPUAP is actively engaged in providing regional and national educational offerings as well as CD-ROM series.

**February 27-28, 2009** is the date for the next NPUAP Biennial Conference in Arlington, VA. The conference will have two tracks, one focused on PU Best Practices and the other on the new PU prevention and treatment guidelines. Save the date and plan to attend!

More information on these and other NPUAP activities can be obtained on the website [www.npuap.org](http://www.npuap.org).

*Diane Langemo, PhD, RN, FAAN*

**Diane Langemo, PhD, RN, FAAN**  
NPUAP President

## JANUARY 2008 PANEL MEETING



*Outgoing President Joyce Black is recognized for her two years of service by incoming President Diane Langemo.*

*Dr. George Taler, outgoing NPUAP Director and chair of the Public Policy Committee, is recognized for his service by President Joyce Black.*



*Joe Rolley, Director, Public Policy & Reimbursement of ConvaTec and Corporate Advisory Council (CAC) member representative, is recognized for his distinguished service to NPUAP by President Joyce Black.*

## Shear Force Initiative Slides to a Close with Productive Meeting in New York

The Shear Force Initiative held its final meeting in New York City, NY on the 22nd of February 2008. The meeting included breakout groups for the Devices Intended to Measure Shear and the Education Committee.

This meeting marked the conclusion of a three-year effort funded by Gaymar Industries, to bring the level of awareness and understanding of shear to a point of action in our industry. The significance of shear for the bed bound patient is made evident when considering the common comment in Shear Force Initiative meetings that “perhaps we should rename [pressure ulcers] to “shear ulcers” or “shear sores”. This tongue in cheek comment brings to light the concern that pressure has long been the focus of attention at the bedside, and that we need to expand our horizons to the other, not so insignificant, contributors to tissue pressure injury.

The first milestones in that effort have now been achieved and include the creation of an educational package to enhance understanding of the issues related to shear and the significance of its impact, how and where it occurs, and interventions that should be considered in preventing and treating it. This PowerPoint presentation will be made available in the future for education and training. The terms and concepts presented in this document are being submitted as a first step in developing the shear element of International Standards,

**“A VALIDATION / CALIBRATION METHOD HAS BEEN WRITTEN AND TESTING HAS NOW BEEN CARRIED OUT IN THREE LABORATORIES.”**

now being undertaken by the NPUAP Support Surface Standards Initiative (S3I).

The second milestone achieved emanates from the work of the Devices Group which is directed at determining if the devices that are available, or future devices to be introduced into the market, reliably measure shear. A validation / calibration method has been written and testing has now been carried out in three laboratories. The participating labs included Cleveland Clinic, Gaymar Industries, and EC Service. The testing document will also become a seed document for the ISO Standard work. Special thanks are extended to those persons performing the work and those funding it, including DM Systems and Ehob Inc. Additional related shear work

has been performed at the Laboratory of Dr. David Brienza at the University of Pittsburgh. The Pennsylvania-based work will be presented as part of the upcoming St Louis S3I Meeting.

Watch for a poster on the Shear Force Initiative’s work and accomplishments to be presented at the World Union of Wound Healing Societies meeting to be held in Toronto June 4-8, 2008.

As the Shear Force initiative’s work comes to an end, sincere thanks is extended to Gaymar for their ongoing financial and staff support of this and other industry efforts. Without this type of commitment from industry leaders, we would be left struggling to put together the pieces of a very important puzzle and not have the direction and understanding of Shear related issues that we now have. We also express thanks to EHOB Inc and DM Systems for their support of the testing that was required for this work. The meeting closed with a Champagne and Sprite Toast, to three years of hard work. ■

**NPUAP Corporate  
Advisory Council  
Member Spotlight**

## Sizewise

Sizewise is a company dedicated to providing state of the art information and equipment designed to help clinicians prepare to meet the complexities and challenges inherent in caring for the bariatric patient. The mission of the company is to provide “Real Therapy for Real People.” Sizewise provides an active education program and offers a free newsletter, XTRAwisE, which covers a wide array of patient and caregiver topics. This publication has been in circulation for over a decade. Topics have included: avoiding caregiver injury, legal issues in the workplace, rotational therapy and the obese

patient, weight bias and stigma, compassion and sensitivity, and basic wound care and the Bariatric patient. The goal of the clinical education programs and publications is to drive informed decisions in order to improve patient care outcomes. Clinical case studies have been presented at various national venues. One of these studies won the coveted blue ribbon at the Wound Ostomy Continence Nurses national meeting.

The products are manufactured by Sizewise in the USA which allows a great variety of standard, Bariatric and “custom-made” equipment. Sizewise product line includes a wide array of home and hospital care equipment, lift and wheel chairs to 1,000 lbs., transferring and lift devices, as well as other items. Sizewise Rentals, L.L.C. offers the most complete spectrum of care to address the bariatric patient challenges faced by health-care professionals today, and does so cost-effectively. ■

## Support Surfaces Standards Initiative (S3I):

The upcoming S3I meeting being held in St. Louis will be the first official meeting of the United States Standards body for Support Surfaces. This is through the now effected relationship with the American National Standards Institute and the Rehabilitation Engineering Society of North America (ANSI/RESNA). This committee relationship provides the regulated mechanism to develop and vote upon standards to be implemented in the U.S. This action also cements the partnership with the already initiated International Standards Organization (ISO) body that has been brought together under the sponsorship of the NPUAP. These actions create National and International bodies responsible for the development and implementation of Standards intended to guide the industry on the devices intended to manage tissue integrity, and the terms and definitions for this industry segment. Both committees express thanks and appreciation to the NPUAP, who put forward the Convener and Secretariat for the international work.

The meeting in St. Louis April 15–16 is the meeting to brief U.S. participants on the events of the ISO meeting held in Ogden, Utah in October 2007. It will also be the venue for preparation of drafts of U.S. Standards documents, which are being used as the beginning point for the international work. The new ISO committee Convener, Mr. David McCausland is quoted as saying that “bringing forward an international standard is critical to our industry, and the opportunity to play a leading roll in this work is both exciting and humbling.”

The current focus of the S3I is to find the necessary funding to carry out the validation testing required to demonstrate that the standards that have been written generate accurate and repeatable results. This is expected to be an uphill battle, but is absolutely necessary to prevent the implementation of “flawed” standards. It is anticipated that this Standards work will have impacts on CMS reimbursement policy to be implemented in the near future.

The next international meeting for S3I/RESNA/ISO participants will be in Tokorozawa, Japan 24 to 30 May 2008. All interested parties are invited to contact S3I Co-chair David Brienza at [DBRIENZA@pitt.edu](mailto:DBRIENZA@pitt.edu), ISO convener Dave McCausland at [davem@therohogroup.com](mailto:davem@therohogroup.com), or S3I Co-chair / ISO secretariat Evan Call at [evan@ec-service.net](mailto:evan@ec-service.net) for meeting information, and participation opportunities. ■

## NPUAP Partners with the National Alliance of Wound Care®

We at the National Alliance of Wound Care® are proud to become the newest member of the NPUAP Collaborating Organizations Council. The NAWC® was incorporated in 2002 as a non-profit organization, certifying multidisciplinary wound care professionals in the United States. With a significant amount of local grass roots support, we have grown to over 4,500 Wound Care Certified (WCC®) professionals in just five short years, and are projecting equally aggressive growth in the near term going forward. Our objective as WCC® practitioners is to enhance overall quality of life, dignity and well being of every individual needing skin and wound management services.

In January of 2007 we launched our NAWC® Membership Organization in order to fill the need for support of our certificants, as well as other wound care professionals and corporations in the wound care industry. The NAWC® embraces members from all licensed healthcare backgrounds and disciplines. With our main objective being the delivery of quality wound care, we enrich our membership with a number of benefits, including the following: a free subscription to the Journal, “Advances in Skin and Wound Care”; a quarterly newsletter, “Wound Matters”, which focuses on updates in the wound care industry and regulatory issues that affect our professions; the opportunity to interact with other wound care professionals through our networking database; mentoring with other WCC®s and wound care professionals in areas such as research, writing and public speaking; career workshops through our affiliate network; priority registration and discounts on wound care conferences; and discounts on wound care educational materials and products through our association with WoundCentral.com.

It is our hope that through our participation on the COC of NPUAP we will have the opportunity not only to contribute our expertise, but also to enhance it by interacting with other organizations with our common cause. We wish to thank the NPUAP Board of Directors for providing us with this opportunity to better serve our industry!

Best Regards,

**Debbie Hecker**, RN MBA WCC®

*Executive Director*

National Alliance of Wound Care®

## Pressure Ulcer Webinar Attracts 5,000 Listeners

The Advancing Excellence in America’s Nursing Homes Campaign ([www.nhqualitycampaign.org](http://www.nhqualitycampaign.org)) held a free 90-minute webinar addressing pressure ulcer prevention. The webinar attracted 5,000 listeners across the nation, most of whom were nursing home staff members. The Advancing Excellence Campaign is a multi-year campaign targeting eight quality improvement goals in nursing homes, one of which is pressure ulcers. The webinar PowerPoint slides and audio recording are available on the Campaign website ([www.nhqualitycampaign.org](http://www.nhqualitycampaign.org)). ■



NATIONAL  
PRESSURE  
ULCER  
ADVISORY  
PANEL

## NPUAP 11<sup>TH</sup> BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

**JOIN US IN OUR NATION'S CAPITAL** for a two-day meeting with concurrent conferences addressing **BEST PRACTICE** and the release of **GLOBAL GUIDELINES FOR PRESSURE ULCER PREVENTION & TREATMENT**. Plan now to participate with international experts in the field of pressure ulcers!

### **NEW GLOBAL GUIDELINES:** Influencing Public Policy & Clinical Practice

**You can shape the future of pressure ulcer prevention and treatment globally.** Join NPUAP in discussing the challenges of implementing global pressure ulcer prevention and treatment guidelines across all practice settings, including pediatrics, palliative care, bariatrics, and critical care populations.

NPUAP offers unique opportunities to **Exhibit** and **Sponsor** activities before hundreds of high-level wound care attendees.



**FEBRUARY 27-28, 2009**

Arlington, VA (Washington, DC Area)  
Hyatt Regency Crystal City

**REGISTER  
ONLINE!**  
[www.npuap.org](http://www.npuap.org)

**APPLICATION  
DEADLINE:  
DECEMBER 12  
2008**

### **EXHIBITOR & SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES NOW AVAILABLE**

**EXHIBITORS & SPONSORS:** Don't miss this opportunity to showcase your latest products and services to the country's **most influential professionals in pressure ulcer care**. Only sixty exhibit spaces (10x10') will be available, and you may also select from a **wide range of sponsorship opportunities** to demonstrate your company's support for furthering research and development in the field of pressure ulcers.