



Northeast Region Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society

2022 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Kalahari Resorts & Conventions • Pocono Manor, PA

DECEMBER 2-4

Creating a Thirst for Knowledge

NER SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

2022

NER Scholarship Committee 2022

- Emilee Bartolo, Chair
- Donna Truland
- Erin Donohoe
- Janet Mantel
- Jaylynn Fisher
- Vashti Livingston
- Marilee Klaschka
- Lia Van Rijswijk

Thank you for your hard work and dedication!



John-Ross Harrison, WOC

The Journey to Serve My Community

During my first week of the nursing school clinic, I saw a patient with a stage four pressure injury on his buttocks. My clinical preceptor was a WOC Nurse. I asked her whether she thought the patient's pressure injury would ever heal. She told me that the patient's pressure injury may or may not heal. Nevertheless, the focus of her care was to help patients with pressure injury to have the best quality of life. During my time working at Mount Sinai Hospital, I got the opportunity to work very closely with many WOC Nurse to facilitate care for many patients that needed wounds, ostomy, and continence medical service. Through this time, I also developed a better understanding of why my clinical preceptor told me a few years ago that the focus of her care was to help patients with wounds, ostomy, and continence to have the best quality of life. I also developed a passion and deep desire to help these patients to live the best quality of life. I firmly believe that receiving my WOCN Education from the Rutgers WOCNEP program would help me receive the best knowledge and skills to help patients with wound care. As a WOC Nurse, I would acquire more knowledge and skills to have more autonomy to better serve patients that need wound, ostomy, and continence medical assistance.

Tjwana Dennis, Advanced



I am a student at Thomas Edison State University majoring in Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP). Completion of the DNP degree aligns with my goal of serving in academia and policy to improve WOC health outcomes. I am an active member of the WOCN Society, Northeast Region (NER), and New York Metro chapters for over eight years. I have attended and participated in WOC conferences on the national, regional and local levels. I have contributed to the WOC profession through the preceptorship of over five WOC students and four novice CWOCNs at New York Presbyterian Columbia University Medical Center (NYP-CUMC). I am a Preceptor registered with Cleveland Clinic, Rutgers University and the WebWOC education programs. I have co facilitated a Wound Care Fair, contributed to a poster, and reviewed and revised policies related to WOC Nursing at NYP-CUMC. Currently, I am the Wound Care Specialist on a research study at Columbia University School of Nursing.

Bethannie Parks, WOC



Working with wounds has always relaxed me. There is something about the hands on, practical nature of wound care that calms me, centers me, delights me. The focus of a singular task, the intimate one-on-one that happens with the patient, and the satisfaction of watching the body heal, these are at least part of what attracts me to wound, ostomy, and continence care.

I also appreciate the universality of wound care. I've grown comfortable with the flexibility that nursing provides me in terms of where I can practice. However, not all nursing skills are as useful in a global context. Knowing how to manage a heparin drip is hardly relevant in a village of a few hundred along the coast of Oaxaca, Mexico. But wounds and incontinence are everywhere.



I am a clinical nurse specialist and WOC nurse specialist. I am completing the Advanced Certificate in Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner studies. Obtaining this advanced certificate will allow me to function as a full provider. This will be most beneficial for clinic patients, resulting in more efficient visits and follow up. I enjoy seeing patients progress but going through multiple providers and medical visits often delay treatment. As a nurse practitioner, I can fill this gap and better coordinate care.

I joined the WOCN society in 2009 and have served on the Metro NY affiliate and Northeast Region executive boards. I will continue my support to the region as well as national leadership. I work at a level 1 trauma facility and its newly created outpatient ostomy clinic. I wrote the business plan for the ostomy clinic which was approved in 2021. I revised our current skin/wound/ostomy program along with formulary revision. I have presented at conferences and submitted multiple scientific posters. I am co-author in an upcoming journal publication focusing on the needs of persons with ostomies.

Rachelle Sideris, Advanced

Ora Toby, WOC



My first experience with wound care occurred long before my professional life in healthcare. During my late 20s, my mother had an exploratory appendectomy. When her wound dehiscenced, I was taught, at her bedside, by an attending wound specialist, the art of wound measuring and wet-to-dry packing. I was thrown headfirst into a brand-new world of healthcare that I had never witnessed firsthand, and I had not one single complaint. To this day, that experience has stuck by my side and acted as the driving force of my passion for nursing.

As a registered nurse, I often witness the need for knowledge of wound, ostomy, and continence (WOC) care. Becoming a certified WOC care nurse is only a matter of time for me, as such skills prove invaluable to my position, time and time again. This certification program is crucial for my career as it will help me gain in-depth knowledge on providing exceptional care for patients experiencing wounds, ostomies, and continence issues. With the NorthEast Region WOCN® Scholarship program, I can get the assistance I need to become an invaluable asset to the WOC community.



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CONGRATULATIONS!!!!!!