

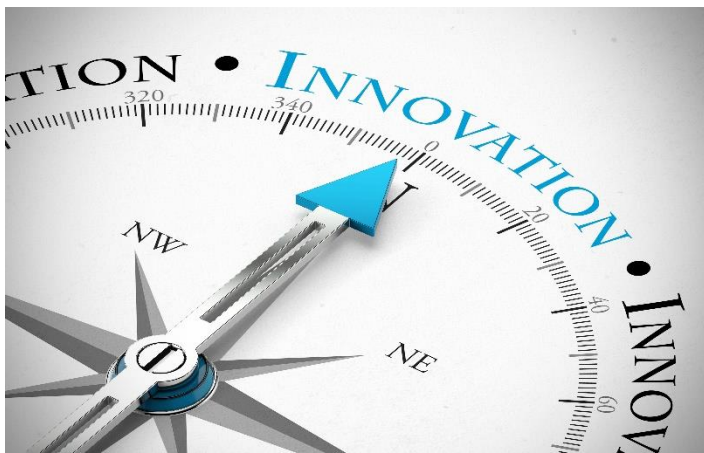
Wound Market Consulting

The International Wound Care Market Specialists

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NORDIC WOUND CARE, Research, Collaboration & Innovation.



Nordic Innovation has set a vision that the Nordic region will be the most sustainable and integrated health region in the world, providing the best possible personalised healthcare by 2030. This supports the increased focus on the prevention and treatment of wounds. Lina S. D. Lernevall, MScN, board member of the Norwegian Group for Wound Healing (NIFS) says *'Nordic healthcare systems emphasize patient-centered care, ensuring that wound care treatments are tailored to individual patient needs. This approach involves shared decision-making and empowering patients to actively participate in their wound healing process'*.

Advanced Dressings

For decades now, Nordic countries have been actively involved in the development and use of advanced wound dressings.

The HEALiX (<https://healix.se/>) research project has clinical wound care experts, industry representatives, and researchers collaborating to develop customised wound dressings that provide optimal conditions for wound healing. HEALiX is financed by the Swedish Foundation for Strategic Research.

Projects include the development of a nanocellulose wound dressing which will detect early signs of infection without interfering with the healing process. The dressing is made of tight mesh nanocellulose that prevents ingress of bacteria and other microbes. The material simultaneously lets gases and liquid through, which is important for wound healing. Once applied, the dressing is intended to stay on during the entire healing process. Should the wound become

infected, the dressing will show a colour shift. Non-infected wounds have a pH value of about 5.5 but when an infection occurs the wound may have a pH value of 8 or higher because bacteria in the wound change their surroundings to fit their optimal growth environment. An elevated pH value in the wound can be detected long before any exudate, soreness or redness, which are the most common signs of infection.

Research and Collaboration on Artificial Intelligence

The AI.ALL Regional Development Project is coordinated by Örebro University and has a number of partners in the public sector and industry. The project brings together researchers, healthcare professionals, and AI experts to explore the application of AI in wound care. The goal is to develop a system where AI can analyze images of wounds and provide estimates of healing time and progress. The project aims to improve patient care, minimize the use of antibiotics, and optimize wound treatment. Researchers are developing machine learning algorithms and collaborating with various stakeholders in the healthcare industry. The project is funded by the European Regional Development Fund and the Örebro County Region.

Scandinavia is well served by systems of grants available to support innovation in medicine. Nordic Innovation, HealthTech Nordic, Norway Health Tech, Vinnova ... Some funding comes from the European Union and many universities also have their own research programmes. These grants aim to fund research projects, develop innovative solutions, and improve health and welfare. HealthTec Nordic (<https://healthtechnordic.com/>), Norway Health Tec (<https://www.norwayhealthtech.com/>) Vinnova (<https://www.vinnova.se/en/>).

HealthCatalyst AS has been established by the three healthcare clusters Norway Health Tech, Norwegian Smart Care Cluster and Oslo Cancer Cluster. This new collaboration will make it easier to test medical technologies. The organization aims to create the world's leading centre for testing and innovation, which will strengthen Norway's position as a unique intermediary for the future of medical and technology services.

A **milestone** in the history of innovation in the Nordic region is the recent acquisition of Kerecis (an Icelandic biotech) by the Danish company Coloplast. Since the launch of their intact fish-skin wound care products, Kerecis has become the fastest growing company in the biologics wound care sector. The acquisition is a major success for Nordic innovation and entrepreneurship.

POLAND: NEW CATEGORISATION OF WOUND DRESSINGS

For four years now industry organisations, scientific societies, and partner organisations have been working with the Polish Ministry of Health on the new categorisation of specialist dressings. The changes will allow patients access to modern specialist dressings available on the current market and patients with chronic wounds will be able to use reimbursed dressings without the excessive co-payments. Products will be categorised into individual groups and an appropriate patient copayment will still be in line with the Polish reimbursement system and the rules of payment.

"We are extremely pleased with the agreement reached. We are grateful to the Ministry of Health for its openness to dialogue and taking into account the demands of scientific societies, patient organizations and the joint position of industry", Arkadiusz Gradkowski, President of the POLMED Chamber.

GERMANY: IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...THE FEDERAL JOINT COMMITTEE (G-BA) HAS CLARIFIED:

The Federal Joint Committee (G-BA) has clarified that semi-solid to liquid preparations ('non-dimensionally stable') are not 'dressings' as defined by the social law book 5 - dressings. Medical devices in the form of gels, solutions or emulsions do not act as a dressing i.e., cover the wound and or absorb wound fluid. These products will be assigned to other products for wound treatment and can only be prescribed from December 2023 if manufacturers have requested that the G-BA review the products Health Economic Benefit. Applications will be reviewed within 90 days. The G-BA's aim is to improve quality and cost effectiveness of wound care. For the full announcement, click [here](#).

IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON – MEDTEC REPORT:

Academic's from Imperial have published recommendations to boost the UK's competitiveness in Biopharmaceuticals, Medtech and Telecommunications. They report that the MedTech sector shows promising growth but missed opportunities. Of particular concern is the uncertainty surrounding the UK's post-Brexit medical device regulation. The report recommends improving the regulatory environment and clarifying the fast-track route of devices already approved by the US, EU and Japan. The report urges policymakers to find ways to encourage NHS adoption of innovative MedTech devices, including by working with NHS staff to identify and address unmet needs. Click [here](#) for the report in full.

INTERESTING STUDIES UNDERWAY:

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS ON DFUs INCIDENCE – A mixed mode Survey

King's College London will be completing a survey to establish and understand the impact of various environmental factors on incidence, severity and recurrence of Diabetic Foot Ulcers (DFUs). Data collected from participants will include job type, quality of life, diabetic therapy, comorbidities and environmental factor questions. Participants will have the option of a questionnaire 12 weeks after collection to determine and understand the impact of the healing process and any changes to the quality of life.

LACERTA LIFE SCIENCES - LACERTAMATRIX™

American based Lacerta Life Sciences are in the process of developing a reptilian hyaluronic acid (HA) foam dressing. A multi-centre trial designed to evaluate the use of HaM in Wagner grade 1 and 2 diabetic foot ulcers (DFUs) is due to start this month. Subjects will receive weekly applications of HaM for 8 weeks and standard of care (SOC) for the remainder of the 12 week trial. The HA forms a gel once placed on a wound and is reabsorbed over time whilst providing protection from contamination. Click [here](#) for more information.

National Wound Conferences and Seminars

	 United Kingdom:					
Scotland: Sottish Diabetic Foot Conference 13 th September 2023: Click here .	ICW 2023 29 th International Complement Wound Workshop Newcastle 31 st August – 5 th September 2023 Click here .	2nd International Conference on Wound Care & Tissue Science London 12 th – 13 th September 2023 Click here .	EPUAP – 23rd Annual Meeting of European Pressure Advisory 13 th – 15 th September 2023 Click here .	WoundExpo: Interactive Wound Care Experience Manchester Central 26 th September 2023 Click here .	Lindsay Leg Club Foundation: 2023 Leg Club Conference Worcester 27 th – 28 th September 2023 Click here .	XVII AIUC Congress Turin 11 th – 14 th October 2023 Click here .