

## **About Ontario Wound Care, Inc.**

Operating from the Judy Dan Wound Care Centre in Toronto, Ontario Wound Care, Inc. is a non-profit registered charitable organization offering treatment for chronic non-healing wounds utilizing Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy. Under the leadership of Dr. Ron Linden, Medical Director and CEO, Ontario Wound Care Inc. is dedicated to reducing patient suffering and disability, and to the prevention of unnecessary amputations.

## **Organizational History**

### **1999**

Dr. Ron Linden submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Health to establish a hyperbaric wound care centre for the treatment of chronic non-healing diabetic wounds. The proposal was extensively reviewed and supported by the Ontario Medical Association, the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Ontario, the Toronto District Health Commission and other Ministry of Health committees.

### **2003**

After years of discussions, the Ministry of Health agreed to support the proposal, and to expand it into a four-year clinical evaluative research study involving 700 diabetic patients, in cooperation with the Toronto General Hospital and University of Toronto. The study would research the biochemical factors involved and develop optimum treatment protocols that would identify patients most likely to benefit from this treatment and those who would not. The results of this research trial would serve as a benchmark for the utilization of hyperbaric oxygen therapy in chronic diabetic wounds, provincially and nationally. Knowledge gained in the role of oxygen in healing wounds, and its effect on biochemical factors, could have far reaching implications, beyond wound care.

The 'Ontario Wound Care Inc., Research and Treatment Centre' was created to be the non-profit facility in which the research and treatment was to be conducted. The centre was established as a satellite facility of the Toronto General Hospital.

### **2004**

Early in the year, funding for the project was cancelled by a newly-elected provincial government.

### **2005**

Media reports led to increased public awareness of healthcare spending and the lack of comprehensive, equitable, portable and timely access to '*essential medical treatments.*' Following publicity on the benefits of hyperbaric treatments for diabetic wounds and public outcry for this treatment, the Ministry of Health requested an independent expert opinion from the Ontario Health Technologies Assessment Committee (OHTAC).

The OHTAC analysis recommended that the government support the clinical study into the benefits of treating diabetic wounds with hyperbaric medicine. The Ministry of Health stated its interest in assisting with the research costs of the proposed study, but will not fund capital or operational costs.

Ontario Wound Care was re-incorporated as a non-profit registered charity in order to fund the capital and treatment costs necessary to make this treatment available and prevent unnecessary amputations and loss of life.

### **2006**

Ontario Wound Care Inc. successfully raised the funds required for the one-time capital costs of purchasing and installing three hyperbaric chambers, ancillary equipment and leasehold improvements for a facility.

### **2007**

In March, The Judy Dan Wound Care Centre is officially opened at 555 Finch Avenue East in Toronto. The 372 square metre (4000 square foot) facility houses three state-of-the-art hyperbaric chambers. The centre can provide assessment, diagnosis and treatment for 120 patients annually. This treatment will prevent approximately 90 amputations per year, and represents a savings in excess of \$4.5 million in annual health care costs.