

International initiatives

Combining clinical training and cyber medicine: World Walk

'World Walk' is a new model for foot care that:

- provides clinical teaching in the management of the diabetic foot, wound care and related areas in parts of the world where resources are limited
- increases awareness of how to care for the diabetic foot
- encourages healthcare practitioners to provide training for other practitioners in their own areas
- takes advantage of new technologies including cyber-learning opportunities

Training for local caregivers

The first aim of World Walk is to create centres of excellence that can provide training for local caregivers and give opportunities for local 'leaders' to participate in exchange programmes. Volunteer caregivers in the programme undertake to train 100 caregivers during their careers, who in turn will train others.

'Cyber medical' education

The second aim is to establish 'cyber medical' education programmes where possible, with high-speed internet access, in order to provide both live and archived educational programmes and a consultation service manned by a team of on-call physicians around the world, thus sharing skills and knowledge.

The three C's

The three core components of the programme are:

- Classroom education in basic science and clinical lectures
- Clinical education in out-patient, hospital and operating room settings
- Cyber education in basic science and clinical work, also providing reference material and consultation services

The best venue is a hospital with a medical school where medical students and staff can be involved in the programme.

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The Future

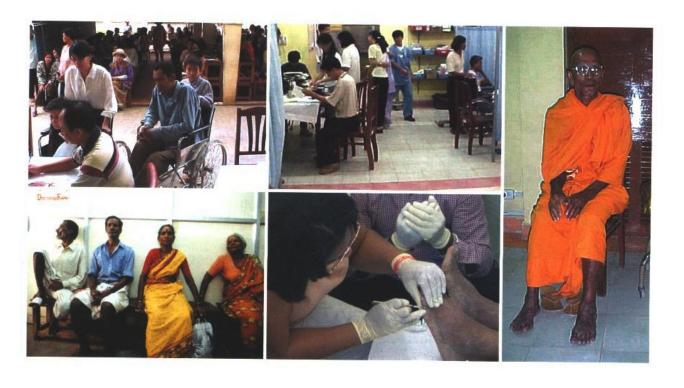
World Walk has shared key concepts in foot care, including early recognition of wounds, cleansing, dressing, debridement and offloading, and has transported patients to surgeons where necessary. Programmes have been conducted in Peru, Jamaica, Cambodia and Venezuela. Live cyber conferences have brought together speakers and audiences across the United States and have linked participants from Jamaica. The next goal for the programme is to use Venezuela and Jamaica as training hubs for Latin America and the Caribbean.

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By combining clinical training and cyber-medical education in wound prevention, diagnosis and care, World Walk has contributed to increasing local, regional and national self-sufficiency in managing limb and life-threatening disorders.

Increasing local, regional and national self-sufficiency

The contact details for World Walk are provided on page 194.



Organizations of interest

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IDF Consultative Section and International Working Group on the Diabetic Foot (IWGDF)

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American Diabetes Association Council on Foot Care

www.diabetes.org

Diabetic Foot Society of India (DFSI)

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Diabetic Foot Study Group of the European Association for the Study of Diabetes (DFSG)

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Eurodiale Consortium

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Fédération Internationale des Podologues/International Federation of Podiatrists (FIP)

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Grupo Latinoamericano de Estudos de Pé Diabético/Latin American Diabetic Foot Study Group (GLEPED)

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For information and material on World Diabetes Day, please visit: www.worlddiabetesday.org