

**Australian Wound Management Association Conference 2012**  
18 – 21 March 2012 Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre



## Conference Companion

Codes: CC = conference companion, CCD = conference companion delegate

### **What is it?**

A conference companion (CC) is a mentoring role where an experienced delegate attending the conference agrees to guide, advise and support a small group of participating delegates within nominated sessions of the AWMA 2012 conference program.

### **Why have it?**

Attending a large conference is exciting. However, if English is not your first language, you are attending a national conference for the first time, or you just feel you could benefit from some help and guidance to get the best out of your conference experience, then the friendly advice and support of a “seasoned” delegate, who “knows the ropes” may be what you need.

The Australian Wound Management Association’s 2012 Sydney conference is the launching pad for the concept of the ‘Conference Companion’. A partnership between experienced delegates and those attendees seeking a guiding hand. The Companion process demonstrates the attributes of inclusiveness, friendliness and mentorship, ensuring that each participant can conclude the meeting having had their expectations exceeded.

### **Who is a CC?**

The CC is an individual who has extensive experience within the specialty of wound management and who has attended and taken part in numerous national and international conferences. The CC conducts this role in a voluntary capacity to enhance the participating delegate’s conference experience.

### **The activities the Conference Companion initiative is likely to include :**

1. Assisting an attendee to establish their learning needs for the relevant program session.
2. Designing a plan of action in order to select the combination of plenary and concurrent session discussions that best meets the defined learning needs.
3. Co-ordinating opportunities for poster presentations and trade visitations so that information obtained is consistent with the goals identified for the session.

4. Introducing attendees to a delegate's peers or to known persons most likely to assist in the attendee's defined learning process [includes utilising contacts in the product / trade industry].
5. Assisting the attendee with questions that may arise from the session. Providing occasion for clarification of current issues or controversies.

### **How will it work?**

Each Conference day is configured of a morning and afternoon session. Experienced clinicians who are willing to assume the role of a Conference Companion may choose to nominate their preference for either a morning or afternoon session, on any one of the Conference days. The delegate may of course volunteer to make themselves available for more than one session.

Delegates and attendees participating in the Conference Companion scheme should meet adjacent to the Registration Desk at least 15 minutes prior to the commencement of a session. The Conference Companion Delegate will be identified by their lanyard and where possible, individuals will be matched by profession or practice context so that interaction and relevance is maximised.

Persons interested in participating in the Conference Companion scheme are invited to make their expression of interest known on the Conference registration document. Individuals will be requested to designate themselves as either a "Conference Companion - CC" or "Conference Companion Delegate - CCD".

In appreciation for their time, energy and enthusiasm, Conference Companion's will be presented with a certificate of appreciation from the Conference's Organising Committee.

In 2000, Sydney held the "friendly Olympics" – officially the best ever. Welcome to our hosting of the Australian Wound Management Association Conference 2012, where the same spirit lives on.

