

Monday 27 April 2009



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

---

# **HOSPITAL PODIATRIST RECEIVES WOUND CARE AWARD**

Wimmera Health Care Group's chief podiatrist Sara Coats has received Monash University's prestigious Master of Wound Care prize.

Ms Coats was awarded the prize at the university's recent Academic Prizes Evening.

The award is granted to the student who receives the highest average mark as part of their Master of Wound Care degree. It is sponsored by Conva Tec, a wound product company.

The wound care program is run by the university's pharmacy and pharmaceutical sciences division at the Parkville campus. It is a coursework degree that prepares health professionals for advanced practice in wound care. The students undertake a clinical project that explores the evidential basis for current practice and potential improvement of a complex wound care problem in their workplace or within a health care setting.

Ms Coats said that her project was to develop a clinical protocol for the assessment of diabetic foot wounds. "My project used evidence based research into the parameters relating to comprehensive wound assessment in the diabetic foot, including the development of an assessment tool" she said.

"Globally, every 30 seconds a lower limb is lost as a consequence of diabetes. Alarming, foot wounds are the principal risk factor for amputation. Research shows that specialist foot clinics in which the diabetic foot is assessed, treated and monitored, can have a dramatic effect on diabetic amputation rates" she said.

Ms Coats said that with diabetes complications rating as the highest cause of preventative hospital admission in the Grampians, it is important that Wimmera Health Care Group's practice reflects best practice to minimise the frequency of adverse outcomes to the patients in their care.

Director of Medical Services Associate Professor Alan Wolff said that he was delighted that Sara had received the award. “Sara oversees our podiatry department and is a valued employee of Wimmera Health Care Group. She has worked hard to develop the protocol for diabetic foot wounds and this recognition is very well deserved” he said.



Sara Coats (left) receives the Master of Wound Care prize from Laura Dean (Course Director, Pharmacy Pre-registration Course, representing Adriana Tiziani Course Director Postgraduate Studies in Wound Care) at Monash University's recent Academic Prizes Evening in Parkville

**MEDIA CONTACTS:**

Sue Frankham  
Community and Private Patient Liaison Officer  
Ph. 5381 9309

A/Prof Alan Wolff  
Director of Medical Services  
Ph. 5381 9251

Sara Coats  
Chief Podiatrist  
Ph. 5381 9393