

# FOCUS & OBJECTIVES OF THE EWMA PRESIDENCY 2015-2017

## PATIENTS' RIGHTS AND COLLABORATION ACROSS DISCIPLINES AND BORDERS

Interview with  
Severin Lächli,  
EWMA President

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When a new association president accepts the task of leading the organisation, it provides the opportunity to reflect on what has been achieved, as well as the future goals of the organisation.

EWMA's new president, Severin Lächli, has outlined his objectives for the 2015-2017 presidency, that build on foundations established by previous EWMA Presidents. When setting the course for the future, he emphasises the importance of acknowledging and respecting the complexities of the objectives and programs that have been developed and refined over many years.

"EWMA's objectives have set the path for the work of the organisation and have been honed over many years. A broad scope of activities are carried out by the EWMA Council and active members of the EWMA committees and boards in order to meet these objectives. It is my goal and obligation to all stakeholders to build on this and strengthen EWMA's role as a leading organisation in wound care," says Severin Lächli.

He believes that interdisciplinary collaboration is essential to achieve high-quality wound care, and he aims for the presentation of consistent, high-quality scientific content at EWMA Conferences and at other EWMA activities. He will further develop these focus areas during his EWMA presidency. The complete list of focus areas for the 2015-2017 EWMA presidency can be found on the EWMA webpage ([www.ewma.org](http://www.ewma.org)).

One of the focus areas he wishes to continue to strengthen, is the effort to ensure international collaboration and support modern wound care in limited resource settings. Severin Lächli elaborates: "EWMA holds a central position in wound care and this gives a responsibility to manage it



*Newly elected EWMA president Severin Lächli at the EWMA 2015 conference closing ceremony.*

well. EWMA's position provides an excellent basis for sharing knowledge and experiences, to the benefit of individual health care professionals, patients, and organisations in European countries, as well as in the rest of the world, via our extended collaboration with organisations operating outside Europe."

Severin Lächli also stresses the importance of continuing the primary focus of his predecessor, Salla Seppänen: Putting the patient first in all activities. In his objectives, Severin Lächli emphasises the continued need to promote a holistic approach to treating chronic wounds and to promote patients' rights for prevention and modern wound care in healthcare systems across Europe:

"To me, the patient plays the most important role in wound care and should always be the centre of all our activities. I see a lot of skin conditions in the Department of Dermatology at the University Hospital in Zürich and it is easy to forget what is behind a chronic wound: the person. We all need to constantly remind ourselves and our surroundings of the fact that every person is different and has different requirements. People come from different backgrounds and thus, have different factors influencing the treatment. Salla Seppänen

, immediate past president of EWMA, started the EWMA Patient Panel initiative to address these issues, and I personally think this is the right way to go. I see it as a major objective to continue this focus in EWMA and in wound care in general. At our next conference, we will also centre some activities around the fact that patients have rights.”

Severin Läubli began his term as EWMA President at the Annual General Meeting during the EWMA Conference in London, May 2015. He will direct EWMA for the next two years.

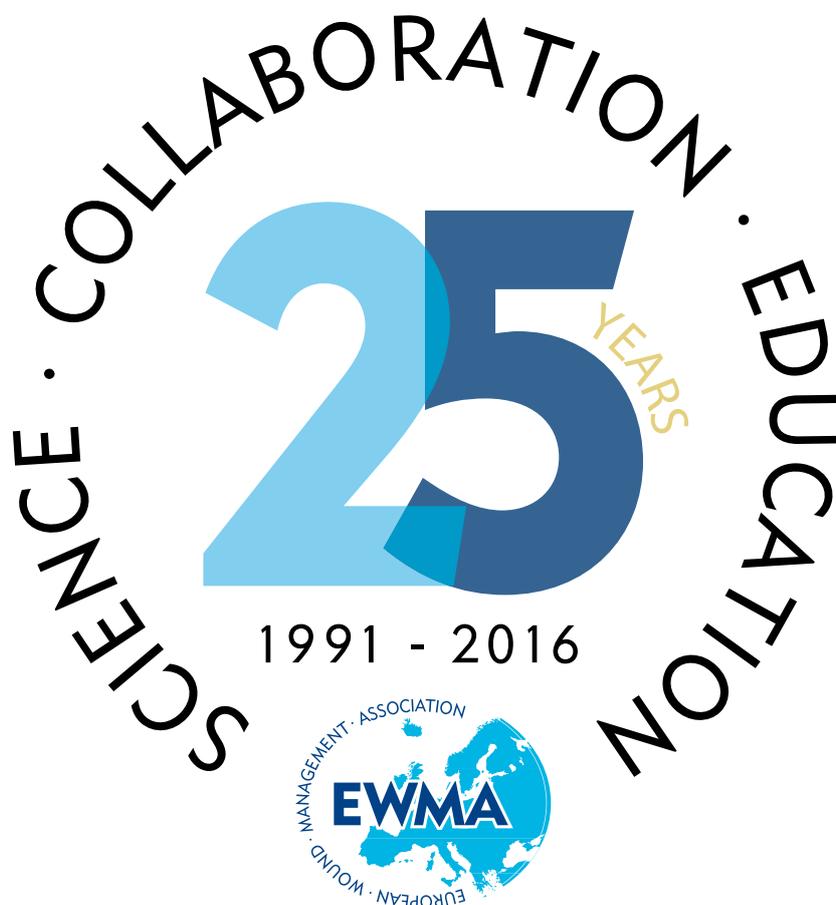
During his term, EWMA's 25th anniversary will be commemorated with different activities during 2016, including the EWMA Conference in Bremen, Germany. This

milestone event will provide a specific occasion to review the current state of wound care management and to address new challenges.

Asked about his obligations as EWMA President for the next three years, he says: “I look forward to an exciting term in office where I, together with the EWMA Council, will engage personally and rely on the collaboration with EWMA members and other stakeholders to work towards the continuous improvement of healthcare services offered to patients with wounds,”

Visit [www.ewma.org](http://www.ewma.org) for the complete list of the focus areas for the 2015-2017 EWMA presidency. ■

## EWMA CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY



**Throughout the year 2016, EWMA will celebrate its 25th Anniversary.**

A number of different events and activities will highlight important milestones in the history of EWMA and wound management in general. Many of these events and activities will take place during the EWMA 2016 Conference in Bremen, Germany, 11-13 May 2016.

We hope that EWMA members, collaborating partners and other stakeholders will join us and use this opportunity to share their experiences and views on the past as well as the future of wound management.

More information will follow on [ewma.org](http://ewma.org) and [www.ewma2016.org](http://www.ewma2016.org)