The International Lymphoedema Framework

The International Lymphoedema Framework (ILF) was established as a UK charity in 2009 and is proud to announce it has recently gained partnership with EWMA. Developed from a project aiming at bringing together the main stakeholders involved in the management of lymphoedema in the United Kingdom in 2002, ILF rapidly spread to become an international project with an objective to support individual countries develop a long-term strategy for lymphoedema management.

A new structure and the development of ILF Frameworks

In order to implement its vision for the future, ILF has strived this year to build a strong and new structure consisting in a board of Directors, an International Advisory Board, an Executive Team and a series of Committees in charge of implementing the strategy defined by the Board of Directors. Currently these committees reflect ILF’s field of competencies and main actions such as Best Practice, Conference, Dataset, Developing countries, Education, International, Patient Advocacy, Publications, Research and Development.

In parallel, ILF believes that the way forward to a better management of lymphoedema worldwide is extended through effective partnerships with:

- international organisations (such as World Health Organisation, World Alliance for Wound and Lymphedema Care, The Global Alliance to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis)
- groups of practitioners
- patients associations
- industry
- expert practitioners and researchers in the field of lymphoedema
- National Lymphoedema Frameworks Projects

ILF is pleased to work with official frameworks partners which are currently the American Lymphoedema Framework Project (ALFP), the Canadian Lymphedema Framework (CLF) and ILF Japan. Some other Frameworks initiatives have emerged in the past months in France, Australia, Denmark and Sweden. There has also been a will and a need to create many other partnerships in Europe and the rest of the world. In 2010, ILF representatives have been visiting some of its existing Frameworks partners in Japan and Canada but have also created new opportunities of work after visits in South Africa and Scandinavia for example.

Main Objectives

Since its launch, ILF has been driven by three key elements that encompass its vision and plan of action: best practices, research and data. In the near future, the ILF Best Practice Committee will go through a systematic and continuous review of research to ensure that Best Practices are up to date and that evidence-based practice is implemented. ILF will work in partnership with Frameworks to undertake systematic reviews of key subjects. It will finally develop a consensus methodology to ensure that the Best Practices are adapted to the context of care in each country to allow adoption by them. Simultaneously, research studies will be engaged on an international scale.

Finally and in order to implement an international dataset that all frameworks contribute to and that answers fundamental questions such as the size and complexity of lymphoedema and produces treatment outcomes to help profile of lymphoedema to be raised globally, ILF is starting to use electronic means including web based solutions which include a dataset and electronic means of collecting data for other studies.

2011 ILF Conference in Toronto, Canada: The next opportunity to network with Key Opinion Leaders from around the World

Following last year’s conference success in Brighton, UK, the 3rd ILF Conference will be held on June 16-18, 2011, at the Marriott Eaton Centre in Toronto, Canada. This conference will be facilitated thanks to the hosting partnership between ILF, the Canadian Lymphedema Framework and the Lymphedema Association of Ontario (LAO).

There will be two major launches in the field of Lymphoedema: the ILF Best Practice Document, 2nd Edition in partnership with the American Lymphedema Framework Project (ALFP) and the ILF Lymphoedema Dataset, in partnership with ILF Japan and the ALFP.

Delegates and keynote speakers are expected from around the world and the programme is built on our vision around Best Practices, Data and Research. The scientific programme will be adapted to specific needs of international lymphoedema experienced and non experiences practitioners, international patients and patients’ advocates.

To find out about all the industry sponsoring, education, promotion and networking opportunities please visit www.lympho.org