**The importance of bridging the gap between clinical learning related to wound care and research among healthcare students and clinicians**

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The truth exists whereby healthcare students acquire knowledge in the classroom related to care that they are expected to provide in the clinical space, but the gap between what is learned and what is happening in clinical practice is left unnoticed. The healthcare students feel disconnected to the clinical learning environment while they are in the classroom setting, which is often problematic to all health professions. The gap needs to be bridged through making reasonable connection between classroom learning, clinical learning and conducting research in the clinical environment. The dedicated time for these must be reviewed.

In South Africa, for example, Continuing Professional Education (CPD) after basic healthcare training is encouraged, aiming at bridging the gap between research and practice. This is understood as encouraging and promoting clinical research that will benefit patients during healthcare interventions, including wound care. Research related to wound care, amongst others, will assist in realizing effective treatments to improve quality wound care for those affected.

These will encourage healthcare students to realize that what they have learned in the classroom could further be verified through conducting research, e.g. to determine what could be done to prevent certain types of wounds to develop or in the worst cases, to determine if existing medications used to treat some wounds could be of benefit to other different types of wounds.