



The Insider

November/December 2002

Volume 1, No. 7

News from Inside the UOA Central Office

- The United Ostomy Association has received a **grant from the Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation** to cover expenses associated with upgrading Central Office technology, enabling us to offer a new and expanded range of information and membership services. The \$45,000 grant will support a redesign of the UOA Web site and a new association management information system, replacing a 20+-year old DOS database of three separate record-keeping functions. We are grateful to the BMS Foundation and ConvaTec for their generosity and support.
- The first annual **Young Adult Conference**, scheduled July 17-19, 2003, in St. Paul, MN, will enjoy strong support from UOA's corporate partners. To date **Coloplast, ConvaTec** and **Hollister** have taken a top level position of support, while **Cymed Ostomy Company** and **Nu-Hope Laboratories** are supporting the conference at a secondary level. Sponsors will exhibit at the conference, advertise in the program, receive recognition in all promotion and interact with conference participants in a number of ways. The program has been finalized and will appear in the Winter *Ostomy Quarterly*. We thank our sponsors for their support!
- It's not too late to receive a **tax deduction by sending a contribution to UOA before the end of December**. If you are a federal employee, you should note that UOA is an approved agency of the Combined Federal Campaign. Our number is 2629. In addition, thousands of major corporations offer a matching gifts program to double the impact your donation will make. Please check with your employer, or previous employer if you are retired, to see if they offer these programs. You may also wish to consider donating stock. Please call the UOA office for more information. And finally, do you have a car, boat or RV that is just sitting in your driveway? Call the UOA office to learn how to donate your vehicle to our special cause. Your generosity will be recognized and appreciated.
- **The winter issue of the *Ostomy Quarterly*** will contain a special section on youth. The UOA Strategic Plan identifies Youth, Advocacy, Leadership and Education (YALE) as major pillars on which we operate, and we intend to explore each of these areas in upcoming issues of the *OQ*. The winter issue will include features on parents of children with ostomies, teens, young adults, and the 30+ age group. Soon,

networks for each of these age-related categories will be operational and services developed to serve them. We hope you enjoy this focus on our younger members who are one of the keys to a healthy UOA future. And lest you think we are forgetting the rest of us no longer in that under-40 category, this *OQ* will contain Ask the Doctor; Ask the Nurse; a Book Review; Chapter/Field Services; and articles on dehydration, cancer prevention, estate planning and more. There is something for everyone in this issue! Look for it in the mail mid-January.

- UOA's **year-end fund-raising campaigns** are underway. In November, we began our Year-End Leadership Giving solicitation of our most generous leaders and donors. After just six weeks, I am happy to report a 20 percent response to this campaign—a very healthy early response rate. In early December, all UOA members and donors were sent a complimentary UOA memo pad along with an explanation of why we need ongoing support and how the money is used. Your generosity has made UOA what it is today. Because of you, we are making a difference, and we are grateful.
- The November 2002 issue of the *Journal of Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nursing* (WOCN) contains a wonderful **tribute to UOA** in WOCN President Laurie McNichol's message, "A Ruby for a Friend." Laurie reviews UOA's mission and history, but more importantly, emphasizes the need for WOCN and UOA to work together to meet the needs of patients. She calls on WOC(ET) nurses to utilize the educational materials we produce, to share the UOA message with patients and to do more to assist chapters with visitor training and program content. We agree that joining forces with this important ally will provide better patient care and a faster rehabilitation. We thank WOCN for being a committed and caring partner. To review this article, visit the WOCN Web site at www.wocn.org/publications and click to the *Journal of WOCN*.
- The Central Office reports the following **response to member needs** for October:

• Telephone Calls:	898
• E-Mail Inquiries:	280
• Chapter Members, "D" Quarter:	25,384
• New Association/Professional Memberships:	488
- As 2002 draws to a close, we want you to know how much UOA values you as a member and as part of our extended family. We appreciate what you do for the organization and your continued dedication during the past year. May you have a **joyful holiday season** and a New Year that delivers the very best of everything.