

Healthcare Venture Attracts Senior Women to Key Roles

Bridgend-based biosurgical company ZooBiotic, supplier of innovative wound care products to the healthcare industry, has made two pivotal appointments.

Gill Davies joins the team as Sales and Marketing Manager. Gill spent the last seven years working with healthcare multinational Johnson & Johnson, where she specialised in wound management in their advanced wound care division.

Suzanne Morgan joins us as Quality and Regulatory Manager. Her previous roles include lead medical device auditor and technical reviewer with SGS UK - global leader in inspection, verification, testing and certification.

The new appointments will join a staff of 25 at ZooBiotic's purpose built facility on Dunraven Business Park.

The company - one of the UK's first NHS spinout businesses - is a fully commercial operation with rapidly growing markets in larval therapy. The company's products are now in routine use for the rapid debridement of infected, sloughy and necrotic wounds.

The LarvE BioFOAM Dressing is revolutionary in that it is acceptable from an aesthetic viewpoint, but does not compromise the impressive success rate of wound cleansing with maggots.

ZooBiotic now produces 600,000 maggots, and 1500 dressings per month from its pharmaceutical production unit - supplying a client base of more than 4,000.

Dr. Tim Coombs, ZooBiotic CEO, who has spent 30 years in the healthcare industry and managed four previous public sector spinouts says that the company has a strategic plan for significant business growth.

"Over the next five years we aim to bring the benefits of larval therapy to a wide audience internationally, and these important appointments will play a significant part in achieving that," he says. "With Gill's experience in wound management, and her passion for improving patient outcomes in this arena, we hope to see widespread recognition of the enormous benefits associated with larval therapy.

"As we are at the cutting edge of research in the larval therapy arena, our intention is to broaden our product range, which is where Suzanne's immense experience in quality assurance and regulation will be invaluable in enhancing our spectrum of innovative products."



Senior positions at ZooBiotic: L-R Gill Davies, Sales and Marketing Manager, and Suzanne Morgan, Quality and Regulatory Manager.

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Notes to editors:

Background to larval therapy:

For centuries, maggots were used by physicians for treating wounds, but they fell into disuse with the widespread introduction of antibiotics in the 1940s.

Recently, maggot therapy has enjoyed a revival as healthcare professionals recognise the considerable advantages they offer over conventional forms of treatment. Not only do they remove necrotic tissue and combat infection, but maggots can actively promote the regeneration of healthy tissue, thus bringing about wound healing.

Maggot therapy has been successfully used in the treatment of leg ulcers, wounds associated with diabetes, pressure ulcers, and many other types of infected wounds. Conventional treatments for these wounds can take months to achieve a successful outcome, but maggot therapy usually involves no more than one or two treatments, each lasting a maximum of 5 days.

Because maggot therapy acts far more quickly than conventional treatments, it can also reduce treatment times and the associated costs.

Evidence also suggests that it is successful in combating the hospital 'super-bug', MRSA.

An estimated 30,000 people have been treated with sterile maggots since the mid 1990s and the demand is growing rapidly throughout the world.

ZooBiotic's core competence is its knowledge of the species *Lucilia Serticata* and how it can be harnessed to treat wounds in humans and animals alike.

ZooBiotic's mission is to achieve outstanding commercial returns through the exploitation of Intellectual Property derived devices and bio chemicals of animal origin which contribute towards fighting infection and curing chronic disease.

Wider geographic revenues are being achieved through franchising the BioFOAM and LarvE products to partners internationally.

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