

NEWS

# Doctor recognized for wound care work

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Mississauga's Dr. Gary Sibbald has been recognized for his work to improve wound care and reduce amputations for people around the world, including Canada.

The Gordon Woods resident and owner of the Toronto Regional Dermatology and Wound Healing Clinic at Applewood Village Plaza recently received the Phil Diamond Award at the 14th annual Canadian Healthcare Marketing Hall of Fame awards ceremony.

Sibbald co-established the International Inter-professional Wound Care Course, which is offered through the University of Toronto, a number of years ago to provide additional training for health care professionals and wound care specialists when it comes to diabetic foot ulcers.

To put in perspective just how important proper treatment of the wounds is, Sibbald says about 85 per cent of lower limb amputations for diabetics started with a foot ulcer and that about 80 per cent of them are "avoidable" through early intervention.



Supplied photo

**Dr. Gary Sibbald recently received the Phil Diamond Award at the 14th annual Canadian Healthcare Marketing Hall of Fame awards ceremony.**

In 1999, Sibbald and his colleague Dr. Brian Ostrow received funding through the Canadian International Development Agency to provide wound care medical support at the Georgetown Public Hospital in Guyana. Sibbald said, at

the time, about half of the people who came through the emergency department had diabetic foot ulcers and there were around eight leg amputations a month.

The doctors taught the wound care course to a number of key people at the hospital and also established a centre of excellence dedicated to diabetic foot ulcer care as well as a number of regional clinics.

Their work helped reduce the number of lower extremity amputations by 70 per cent.

Sibbald, who's a professor of medicine and public health with the University of Toronto's Dalla Lana School of Public Health, said the course has been run more than 30 times in Canada and internationally. Courses have been held in Iran, South Africa, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates while clinics have been established in Iran, Africa and the United Arab Emirates, among other countries.

The Phil Diamond Award is presented annually to a member of the Canadian life sciences community whose philanthropic or humanitarian work has resulted in positive outcomes.