



Mission: The Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nurses Society™ (WOCN®) is a professional community dedicated to advancing the practice and delivery of expert healthcare to individuals with wound, ostomy and continence care needs. We support our members' practice through advocacy, education and research.

Vision: To be the preferred community for wound, ostomy and continence advocacy, education and research, recognized for promoting safe and effective care worldwide.

Core Values:

- **Integrity:** Demonstrated by uncompromised dedication to be a trusted, unbiased and credible source of evidence-based information and expertise.
 - **Leadership:** Demonstrated by being stewards of excellence with a common passion for mutual respect, shared experience and life-long learning.
 - **Knowledge:** Demonstrated by continuing commitment to education and research to generate and disseminate knowledge that improves patient outcomes.
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WOCN® & Relias Joint Venture FAQs

Who is Relias?

Relias is a software company specializing in education for healthcare providers. They maintain a rich history of delivering innovative learning products and training programs to the post-acute care, behavioral health, and acute care markets.

How did the relationship between WOCN and Relias come to be?

Representatives from Relias reached out to WOCN to discuss the possibility of conducting a joint conference in 2021 because both organizations were planning to hold their conference at the Marriott World Center in Orlando only three months apart, the conferences have a similar pattern, number of continuing education credits, approximately the same number of attendees with significant cross over in the exhibit hall and the opportunity for WOCN to provide education in alignment with our mission and vision. For these reasons, the Board agreed to a one-year joint venture.

Why is it a benefit to include WCC and OMS certified nurses at WOCNext®?

The WOCN Society is a specialty nursing organization but it has always been open to non-specialty WOC nurses and other healthcare providers. As the premier organization providing education for wound, ostomy and continence care, it the responsibility of the WOCN to provide access to evidence-based education to those health care providers who provide care to

individuals with wound, ostomy and continence care needs ultimately resulting in improved patient outcomes.

How will this joint conference impact the educational offerings at WOCNext?

The educational content at WOCNext revolves around the dissemination of the latest research and evidence-based knowledge of innovative techniques, applications, technologies, and treatments related to wound, ostomy, and continence care issues to positively impact patient outcomes. Educational content will continue to be of high caliber and quality, applicable for all levels of practice, across all areas of practice and the continuum of care.

WOCNext is an experiential event featuring online education, networking, and activities geared towards WOC nurses and other healthcare professionals dedicated to providing expert care to patients with wound, ostomy, and incontinence needs.

Why is WOCN promoting the WCC and OMS credential with WOCNext?

WOCN is not promoting the WCC and OMS credential with WOCNext, WOCN is promoting the educational content, speakers, exhibitors and networking. The joint conference and the relationship between WOCN and Relias have nothing to do with the WCEI program or the WCC/OMS credentials.

Is Relias a wound, ostomy and continence nursing education program (WOCNEP) accredited by the WOCN Society?

Relias has applied to become an accredited WOCNEP and is currently under review by our accreditation committee, in accordance with policies, procedures and eligibility criteria outlined in the Accreditation Manual. All schools (existing and prospect) are held to the same high accreditation standard. If Relias meets all the requirements set forth by the Accreditation Manual, it will be accredited.

How can WOCN accredit a program that is independent from a University?

It is not a requirement that an WOC nursing educational program is associated with a university and is not a new concept. WOCN has accredited independent programs in the past such as Wicks and currently accredits an independent program such as Web WOC.

If Relias is successful in becoming a WOCNEP, isn't that considered a conflict of interest because they have a competing credential?

The WCC credential is through the WCEI program, which is separate but under the umbrella of Relias. It is not a competing credential with CWOCN because they do not have the same level of education preparation. The WOCN Society does not certify wound, ostomy and continence nurses; the WOCN Certification Board, which is separate entity from WOCN, certifies and provides the CWOCN credential. In addition, Conflict of interest does not come into play, because Relias is not making decisions for WOCN or how it operates. Relias does not sit on the WOCN Board and Relias does not make decisions regarding WOCN's accreditation program.

WOCN® & Relias Joint Venture Resources

For additional information regarding the joint venture with WOCN and Relias, please review the following resources:

BLOG: [The WOCN® Society Collaborates with Relias to Enhance Education and Training](#)

VIDEO: [A Special Joint Venture Announcement from WOCN®](#)

VIDEO TRANSCRIPT: [A Special Joint Venture Announcement from WOCN®](#)

EMAIL: [Joint Venture Announcement to WOCN® Members](#)

VIDEO: [Why You Should Attend WOCNext® 2021: A Joint WOW Experience with the WOCN® Society and Relias](#)

EMAIL: [Gear Up for WOCNext® 2021: A Joint Experience with the WOCN® Society and Relias](#)

EMAIL: [Virtual Event Announcement](#)

EVENT WEBSITE UPDATE: [Attendee Information & FAQs](#)

EVENT SAFETY UPDATE: [Your Health and Safety is Our #1 Priority](#)

VIDEO: [WOCNext® 2021: A Virtual WOW Experience with the WOCN® Society and Relias](#)

VIDEO: [WOCNext® 2021 Will Be An Online-Only Experience](#)

For additional information about WOCNext® 2021: A Virtual WOW Experience with the WOCN® Society and Relias, visit wocnext.org.

Conflict of Interest Information

Purpose: The WOCN® Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest Policy are meant to provide direction and guidance for professional interactions; however, they should not limit or serve as a barrier to those interactions.

The Board of Directors establishes the organization's code of conduct and conflict of interest policy and determines how to handle conflict of interest matters guided by its policy and best practices. To ensure that all participants in the activities of the WOCN Society are governed exclusively by the best interests of the WOCN Society:

- Members of the Board of Directors cannot be employed by a commercial industry that provides products or services to the WOCN Society.
- Additionally, strategic employees of a wound, ostomy, and/or continence nursing education programs seeking or holding accreditation as a WOCNEP (e.g., Program Director, Assistant Program Director, or any employee who works in a similar capacity overseeing the business or strategic direction of the program) are not eligible to serve on the WOCN Board of Directors.

The WOCNEPs, like the Society, all provide educational and related services in the field of wound, ostomy, and continence nursing.

- Because WOCN develops the curriculum blueprint, accredits each of the educational programs, and provides and approves scholarship funding for individuals to attend educational programs, this affords the Board with access to proprietary and at times sensitive information regarding the programs.
- Having someone who serves on the Board that is involved in the strategic direction of an educational program provides that individual with confidential information about the business of other programs.

WOCN, the Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nursing Certification Board (WOCNCB), and the WOCNEPs are all independent entities with proprietary information and for that reason, we do not sit on each other's Boards or make decisions regarding each other's business.