

# Proof of concept for wound care trial

**A PROOF-OF-CONCEPT clinical trial for a new therapeutic agent for venous and pressure ulcers has been given the go-ahead at Melbourne's Austin Hospital.**

Led by well-known wound care researcher Associate Professor Michael Woodward of the University of Melbourne, the trial will assess the safety and efficacy of Phoenix Eagle's patented OPAL A filtrate and cream treatment for hard-to-heal ulcers.

It will be a double-blind, randomised, placebo-controlled trial, expected to last for 18 months, Woodward, a member of the company's medical and scientific advisory committee, said.

"Screening will ensure that only truly hard-to-heal ulcers



Michael Woodward

will be admitted to the trial proper and any subject that shows significant improvement in the screening stage will be excluded," he said.

"There are not many new treatments being tested in the area of wound therapies and positive results from this trial are likely to generate strong interest globally."

Woodward said no new active

therapeutic agents for wound care in more than a decade had achieved positive trial results and proceeded to the registration and marketing stage.

"It is wonderful to test an Australian-developed preparation for a problem that affects four per cent of the world's elderly population."

OPAL A is a topically applied liquid or cream derived from paw paw. Phoenix Eagle, a private company based in Perth, has developed a process to extract active compounds from fruits and vegetables for clinical and cosmetic use.

At present, all indications of efficacy are anecdotal but impressive, according to a paper published in *Wound Practice and Research* in May 2008 and a

presentation by Associate Professor Geoffrey Mitchell of the University of Queensland at the Australian Wound Management Association conference in the same month.

The trial will begin on January 15. **HA**

