



Monessa (Missy) Wadford

RN, BSN, WCC, OMS

Leading with Passion, Service, and a Commitment to Advancing Wound Care

This month, NAWCO is proud to recognize Monessa "Missy" Wadford, RN, BSN, WCC, OMS, as July's Outstanding WCC. With more than 30 years of nursing experience, Missy has dedicated her career to improving patient care, advancing wound care education, and mentoring the next generation of clinicians. She currently serves as the RN Care Coordinator for Plastic Surgery at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, Mississippi. In addition to her clinical role, Missy serves as Vice President of the NAWCO Board of Directors and as Director of the International Alliance of Wound Care Scholarship Foundation (IAWCSF), where she helps expand access to wound care education for clinicians across the country.

Missy's nursing career began at Jackson Hospital as a Graduate Nurse before she found her calling in home health care. What began as a new opportunity grew into a 24-year career, during which she advanced from field nurse to assistant manager and ultimately office manager. While leading her home health team, Missy recognized the need to expand her wound care knowledge and enrolled in a Wound Care Education Institute course, earning her Wound Care Certified (WCC) credential in 2006.

Her passion for wound care was evident from the very beginning. One of her first wound care patients was a 99-year-old woman with a Stage 4 pressure injury. For nearly two years, Missy cared for her almost every day, developing a special bond while helping the wound heal to nearly 100% before the patient peacefully passed away. That experience reinforced the profound impact wound care nurses can have—not only on healing wounds, but on improving quality of life.

Committed to lifelong learning, Missy earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Chamberlain University in 2013. That same year, she became one of the first clinicians to

earn NAWCO's Ostomy Management Specialist (OMS) certification, further expanding her expertise and allowing her to care for an even broader range of patients.

As her knowledge and experience grew, so did her vision. Seeing the need for a structured wound care program within her home health organization, Missy built one from the ground up. She developed standardized wound assessment protocols, trained nurses throughout the organization, and partnered with McKesson to streamline wound care supplies and eliminate unnecessary product variation. She also championed the implementation of digital wound documentation, introducing software that allowed clinicians to photograph wounds and objectively monitor healing over time. While the transition was initially met with resistance, Missy's leadership demonstrated that improved documentation led to better communication, better decision-making, and ultimately better patient outcomes.

In 2018, Missy joined the University of Mississippi Medical Center, where she now serves as RN Care Coordinator for Plastic Surgery. In this role, she coordinates care for patients recovering from reconstructive procedures while continuing to share her expertise through regular in-service education for nurses and physicians. Whether teaching proper dressing selection or introducing new treatment approaches, Missy is passionate about empowering others with the knowledge they need to provide exceptional care.

Throughout her career, Missy's dedication has earned numerous honors. In 2012, she was nominated as NAWCO's WCC of the Year and also received her organization's prestigious Home Health Founder's Award, recognizing both her clinical excellence and her unwavering passion for patient care.

Today, Missy's influence extends far beyond the bedside. Through her leadership with NAWCO and the International Alliance of Wound Care Scholarship Foundation, she continues to advocate for education, mentorship, and expanding opportunities for future wound care clinicians.

NAWCO is honored to recognize Monessa "Missy" Wadford as this month's Outstanding WCC. Her commitment to excellence, servant leadership, and passion for helping others have made a lasting impact on countless patients, colleagues, and clinicians throughout the wound care community.

Do you know a NAWCO credential holder who is making a difference in wound care? We'd love to hear their story! Click the link below to share it with us.

<https://www.nawccb.org/excellence-in-wound-care-nominees>