



EPUAP CURRICULUM VITAE

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Year of joining EPUAP 2021

Relevant publications for the last two years (in English only):

Žepina Puzić, A.; Filej, B.; Žulec, M.; Bušac, V.; Bertić, Ž.; Jurčev Savičević, A. Initial Validation and Psychometric Properties of the Croatian Version of the Pieper-Zulkowski Pressure Ulcer Knowledge Test. Preprints 2025, 2025042584.
<https://doi.org/10.20944/preprints202504.2584.v1>

Žepina Puzić A, Žulec M. Psychometric characteristics of the Croatian version of the Pieper-Zulkowski Pressure Ulcer Knowledge Test. In: Proceedings of the 3rd International Congress of the Wound Care Association – Croatian Initiative. Book of Abstracts. 2024;:47–48.

Žulec M, Rotar Pavlič D, Žulec A. The Effect of an Educational Intervention on Self-Care in Patients with Venous Leg Ulcers-A Randomized Controlled Trial. Int J Environ Res Public Health. 2022;19(8):4657.

Clinical

Founder and clinical lead at Polyclinic Marija since 2013, providing specialized outpatient hyperbaric and wound care services. Daily involvement in patient care, protocol development, and pressure ulcer management across various patient populations

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Steven Smet (Belgium)

Camilla Leerskov Sørensen

(Denmark)

Helen Strapp (Ireland)

Daphne Weihs (Israel)

Peter Worsley (United Kingdom)



Scientific research

International consensus study to elicit elements of a Minimum Data Set for reporting Medical Device-Related Pressure Ulcers (University of Southampton Ethics ref. ERGO49718).2020

Main Publications in this field

Books

Huljev D, Žulec M, editors. *Akutne i kronične rane: od teorije do prakse* [Acute and chronic wounds: from theory to practice]. Bjelovar: Veleučilište u Bjelovaru; 2021. University textbook.

Articles in journals

Žepina Puzić, A.; Filej, B.; Žulec, M.; Bušac, V.; Bertić, Ž.; Jurčev Savičević, A. Initial Validation and Psychometric Properties of the Croatian Version of the Pieper-Zulkowski Pressure Ulcer Knowledge Test. *Preprints* 2025, 2025042584

Žepina Puzić A, Žulec M. Psychometric characteristics of the Croatian version of the Pieper-Zulkowski Pressure Ulcer Knowledge Test. In: Proceedings of the 3rd International Congress of the Wound Care Association – Croatian Initiative. Book of Abstracts. 2024;:47–48.

Žulec M, Rotar Pavlič D, Žulec A. The Effect of an Educational Intervention on Self-Care in Patients with Venous Leg Ulcers-A Randomized Controlled Trial. *Int J Environ Res Public Health*. 2022;19(8):4657.

Šepl Plentaj A, Žulec M. Nurses' knowledge about wound care – Croatian perspective. *Croat Nurs J*. 2021;5(2):113–128..

Žulec M, Eljuga K. Medical devices pressure injuries. In: Proceedings of the 14th Congress of the HDMSARIST. 2021;3.

Orban I, Puharić Z, Žulec M, Eljuga K, Puharić F. The public health aspect of the care of the diabetic foot in family medicine. *Hrvatski časopis za javno zdravstvo*. 2019;14(53):49–53.

Zulec M, Rotar-Pavlic D, Puharic Z, Zulec A. "Wounds home alone" – why and how venous leg ulcer patients self-treat their ulcer: a qualitative content study. *Int J Environ Res Public Health*. 2019;16(4).

Friščić M, Šantek-Zlatař G, Žulec M. Patients with pressure ulcers in the unified emergency admission department – our reality. *Acta Med Croatica*. 2016;70(Suppl 1):93–96.

Zulec M, Volf A, Puharić Z. Hyperbaric oxygen therapy in treating post-ischemic pain caused by polycythemia vera complications: a case report. *Undersea Hyperb Med*. 2015;42(6):607–11..

Žulec M.. Initial Knowledge of Nursing Students about Wounds. *Acta medica Croatica*. 2015;69(Suplement 1):63-66.

Žulec M. Transcutaneous oximetry—between theory and practice. *Acta medica Croatica*. 2014;68(Suplement 1):59-61.

**Organisational**

Initiator and president of the Wound Care Association – Croatian Initiative.

Chair of the Organizing and Scientific Committee of international congresses

- 1st Symposium of the Association for Wounds – Croatian Initiative, December 2022, Zagreb
- 2nd Symposium of the Association for Wounds – Croatian Initiative, December 2023, Zagreb
- 3rd Symposium of the Association for Wounds – Croatian Initiative, October 4–5, 2024, Zagreb

Organizer of national campaigns such as Pressure Ulcer Prevention Day.

Experience managing multidisciplinary teams, national events, and private healthcare practice

Educational

- actively involved in academic teaching since 2010, educating undergraduate and graduate nursing students.
- developed the full curriculum for a master's degree program in wound care and palliative care at the University of applied health sciences in Ivanić-grad.
- authored the complete proposal for the introduction of formal specialization programs in wound management within the Croatian healthcare system.
- regularly teaches, supervises, and mentors students in both clinical and academic settings.
- mentored more than 50 final thesis projects in nursing, guiding students through clinical and research topics with a strong focus on evidence-based practice and patient-centered care.

Strengths not utilised

Potential for greater international collaboration and research leadership in pressure ulcer data standardization and cross-border training initiatives.

Membership of other organisations

- Wound Care Association- Croatian Initiative (President 2022- date)
- Croatian Nursing Chamber (Ethical Committee Member)
- EWMA – European Wound Management Association
- EPUAP – European Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel
- Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing

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