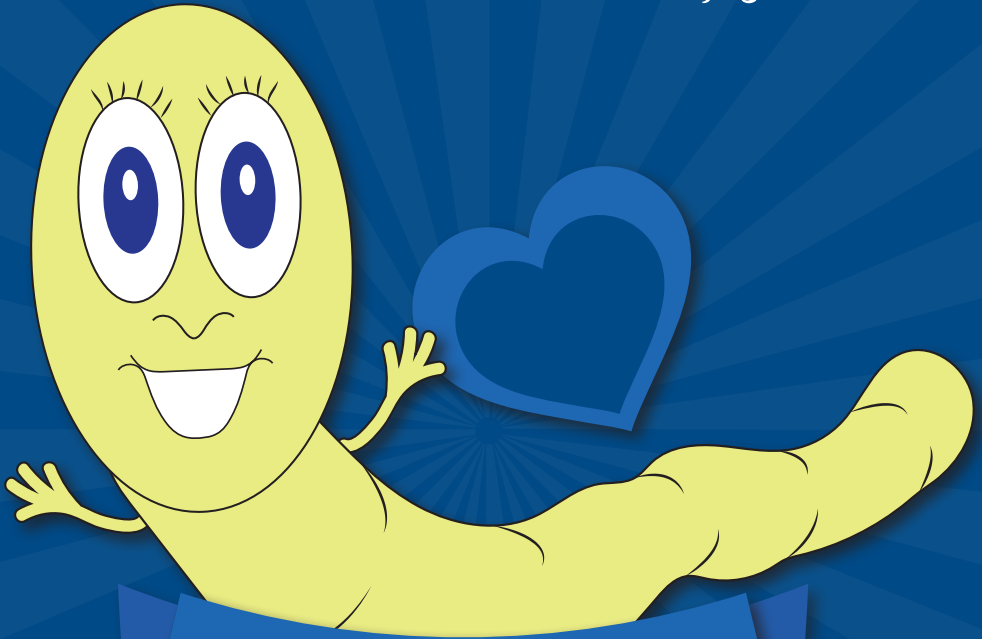




Swansea University
Prifysgol Abertawe



• LOVE A •
MAGGOT!

#loveamaggot

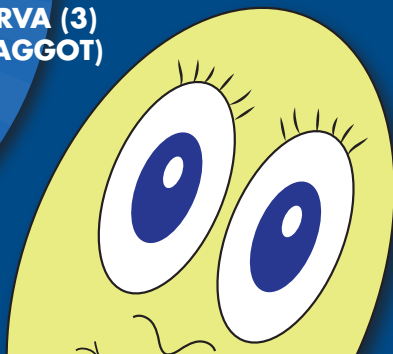
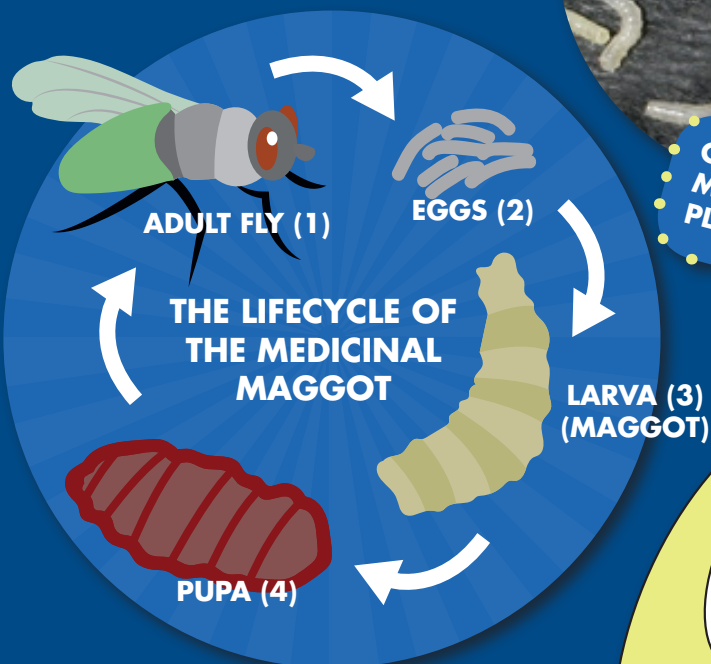
The Swansea University Love a Maggot campaign has been launched to raise awareness of the use of living maggots as a clinical treatment to help clear and heal chronic wounds.

Many people are at risk of developing non-healing wounds, including people who suffer from diabetes, or those who may have vascular problems.

Medicinal maggots are the baby stage of the beautiful green-bottle fly (life cycle below). The maggots that are put onto wounds are the newly emerged tiny babies.



ONLY TINY, BABY MAGGOTS, ARE PLACED ON A WOUND.



MARVELLOUS MAGGOT FACTS:

- As soon as the eggs hatch, the little baby maggots are packed into small sealed bags to be sent all over the UK and beyond, for doctors and nurses to apply to wounds.
- The maggots used to help heal wounds are Welsh! They are specially reared under strict, clean conditions in laboratories in Bridgend, South Wales.
- The baby maggots are clinically excellent, they will clear away the dead and infected tissue within a few days!
- After the maggots have done their job, the bag is then removed from the wound.
- Maggots have saved countless limbs from amputation!
- The use of maggots on wounds dates back centuries to biblical times, and traverses numerous ancient tribes and cultures, including the Central American Mayan Indians and the Aborigines of New South Wales.

WHAT DOES THE SCIENCE TELL US?

- The results of independent clinical trials involving hundreds of patients who were given maggot therapy, shows that maggots work really well and are actually **MORE** effective than other control treatments in removing dead and infected wound debris.
- In the last decade, scientists from all over the world have been busy in their laboratories investigating exactly **WHAT** maggots do in a wound – **and** **HOW** they actually do it!
- Our own laboratory research findings at Swansea University have discovered that maggots are actually very clever little creatures, who produce their own anti-bacterial agents, that are secreted into the wound, helping to kill off the dangerous and troublesome microbes that may be lurking there. Our research is even exploring whether one of these agents in maggot secretions may become a new and marvellous antibiotic in the future, for us to use to treat other infections, not just wounds!
- In addition, our research has found that maggots may be able to help other good wound cells to come together; cells that are really key to wound healing, for example **fibroblasts**, cells that can make new healthy tissue for the healing wound or **blood vessel cells**, which can make tiny new blood vessels so that the newly formed tissue can be fed.
- Maggots help all these things happen...so we think maggot therapy is amazing!

A POEM ABOUT THE MEDICINAL MAGGOT

Lucilia Sericata

Call the woman with old knowledge
as the Mayans did, give her
your pain to take within,
making hot flesh cool.

Call the ageless nurse
who will lay on your soft wound,
taking your tears for her bride
throughout the dreamtime.

She will arrive and leave,
arrive and leave,
if you call her.

By Kate North

**CHECK OUT OUR LOVE A MAGGOT CAMPAIGN USING
THE LINKS BELOW, AND FEEL FREE TO CONTACT US
ABOUT ANYTHING MAGGOTY!**

 /loveamaggot

 @loveamaggot

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#loveamaggot

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