



International Federation of Infection Control

# IFIC e-News

<http://www.theifc.org/>

## Chair Update



Judith Richards  
Chair, 2011  
IFIC Board

It gives me enormous pleasure to address all our readers as the incoming Chair of the Federation at the start of the New Year. Looking back on our achievements of the past year, we thank once again our out-going Chair, Dr Michael Borg, for his efforts and hard work on behalf of the Federation.

IFIC is now a recognised leader in the field, as evidenced by our growing collaborations with the WHO, and our participation at important educational events such as the APIC, CHICA and HIS conferences in the course of the year.

The joint IFIC-IPCAN conference was also a highly positive event, where the quality of the programme and speakers, the beautiful venue, and the opportunities for networking combined to create a meeting full of "buzz"!

We would like to use this opportunity to express a very special thanks to our Strategic Partners. Those in industry know how difficult things are, but they have been unstinting in their support. As usual, maybe too numerous to mention. However our special

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## Eleventh Congress of the International Federation of Infection Control

The International Federation of Infection Control (IFIC), a world-wide umbrella organisation of Societies and individuals working in the field of infection prevention and control, is - true to its goal of providing leadership in education and networking - proud to be associated with the Società Italiana Multidisciplinare per la Prevenzione delle Infezioni nelle Organizzazioni Sanitarie (SIMPIOS) in the organization of its 11th International Conference, to be held in the beautiful city of Venice.

The challenges of infection prevention and control are the same worldwide, what varies are the resources available to deal with them. This Conference will not only bring state of the art, evidence based information to inform strategies, but also allow opportunities to explore how to move forward when faced with low resource settings, as well as enable practitioners to network in a convivial, supporting environment.

Key note presentations from internationally renowned speakers will be supplemented by workshops, debates on key issues, and industry symposia. We strongly encourage the submission of free papers, and will support delegates' attendance through a number of scholarships (see page 7).



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## Chair Update continued *(Continued from page 1)*

gratitude to those who have helped us to move forward with a number of projects, such as the Covidien award for Safe Childbirth, and the scholarship awards to enable colleagues to attend the August Conference. And a very special welcome to those new Strategic Partners who have just joined us in the course of the last few months!

In the course of the past year, the Board of Trustees has also been busy with an extensive and in-depth review of our aims and objectives, leading to major revisions of our bylaws and ways of operating. A taster was presented at the 2010 AGM. As these developments progress, we hope all our members will feel able to support and approve these changes which are geared to extending even further the representation and participation of all those in the fields of infection prevention and control across the world.

There is no doubt that we "live in interesting times". It is our hope that the next year will help us to bring even more improvements to those dealing with the difficulties and challenges in the areas of infection control.

We very much look forward to seeing you at our International Conference in Italy in October.

A peaceful, safe and successful 2011 to all our readers.

Thank you.

### **A few words from Dr Michael Borg, outgoing Chairperson**



Life sometimes has a habit of turning a full circle. Nowhere was I more aware of this than whilst chairing the recent Annual General Meeting during the joint IFIC/IPCAN conference in Cape Town, South Africa. For my first involvement in IFIC started 12 years ago - in the same country - during the 2<sup>nd</sup> IFIC conference in George when I presented Malta's application to host the 2003 congress. Then it was again in South Africa, four years ago, that I was nominated by the Board of Trustees to the chairship that was being vacated by the outgoing Patricia Lynch.

These eight years, and especially the last four, have been one outstanding experience. I have been privileged to meet and learn from some exceptional people, play a part in several exciting projects and participate in memorable educational events. These experiences have enriched me and will remain forever as highlights of my career. In return, I hope I have reciprocated by presiding over a period of exciting and fruitful change for the Federation.

Our association has continued to expand not only in its traditional membership base of infection control societies, but also in other membership categories that were remodelled in these past four years. Our individual associate membership grows by the month, especially in limited resource regions where it is primarily targeted. In addition, the Strategic Partnership that was introduced in 2007 has fostered new links with industry that have strengthened IFIC and also enabled us to work in collaboration with our partners in several exiting projects and initiatives, especially in limited resource regions. The annual conference has continued to improve its reputation as an educational event of the highest quality and value for money. Our switch to electronic dissemination of information has been equally a great success. IFIC e-News and the International Journal of Infection Control, together with the upgraded website, are now essential means of outreach to our members as well as to the infection control community in general. Above all, possibly even more exciting, are the plans in the pipework which are starting to reach fruition. These include an updated corporate strategy, closer formal collaboration with the World Health Organisation, and provision of even more effective tools to facilitate global infection control networking.

These initiatives could not have taken place without the hard work and dedication of all the IFIC board members of the past 4 years as well as a core team of outstanding volunteers. To all, I would like to express my thanks and gratitude for their help in making my work that much easier. Once again thank you for the fantastic ride.

Finally I would also wish to express my best wishes to the incoming Chair, Judith Richards, and thank her for accepting her nomination as the new Chair. She will undoubtedly serve IFIC brilliantly and guide it to even more exciting changes in the coming years.

## Eleventh Congress of the International Federation of Infection Control

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The Congress will run from Wednesday 12 October 2011 until Saturday 15 October 2011. The official language of the congress will be English; however simultaneous translation to Italian will also be available in selected sessions. Further information on the congress can be accessed from the website:

[www.ific2011.com](http://www.ific2011.com)

Congress Venue

NH Laguna Palace Hotel

Viale Ancona, 2; Mestre 30172; Venice; Italy

Website: [www.nh-hotels.com/nh/en/hotels/italy/venice-mestre/nh-laguna-palace.html](http://www.nh-hotels.com/nh/en/hotels/italy/venice-mestre/nh-laguna-palace.html)

Conference Coordinator

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### Registration

Early bird reduced fees will be applicable until 31 August 2011. Registration can be performed online or by downloading the registration form from the Congress website and mailing or faxing to the organisers. All applications should be accompanied by payment of the full registration fee, either using credit card or bank transfer.

#### Registration fees

	Until 31 August 2011	After 31 August 2011	On site registration
Developing countries	€300	€350	€500
IFIC Associate members	€350	€400	€500
Other delegates	€400	€450	€500
Accompanying persons	€100	€125	€150

### Accommodation

A range of hotel accommodation will be available in various categories and price ranges. Hotel bookings will be possible from the congress website. An interesting social programme, including half and full day tours and excursions, will also be available.



SHEA 2011 ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING  
APRIL 1-4 DALLAS, TEXAS

## SHEA 2011 Annual Scientific Meeting

The Annual Scientific Meeting of SHEA is the junction of current research, evidence, and cutting-edge advances in healthcare epidemiology and infection prevention. A forum for the healthcare professionals involved in prevention of healthcare-associated infections and other adverse events, SHEA 2011 is built around providing depth of understanding, application of evidence, and opportunity for new insight in the science of infection prevention.

## International Journal of Infection Control

Prof. Smilja Kalenic from Croatia is the current Journal Editor. She is supported by Elizabeth Scilcuna as Journal Administrator and an excellent Board of Assistant Editors (Ulrika Ransjö, Steve Barrett, and Bill Newsom).

Thank you to all those who submitted their papers to IJIC and please keep them coming!

<http://www.ijic.info/>

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### Book Review

['Understanding Infection Prevention and Control'](#) by Shaheen Mehtar

Review by: *Bill Newsom*

IFIC Patron Members



## World Health Organization



World Health  
Organization

**SAVE LIVES:**  
Clean **Your** Hands

### **5 MAY 2011 - come together & lend a hand**

#### **Invitation to Participate - 5 May 2011**

WHO **Clean Care is Safer Care** programme is again promoting its global annual hand hygiene campaign

If you want to improve and sustain hand hygiene and help save lives by reducing health care-associated infection while working in your health-care facility, **register with WHO now if you haven't already**

<http://www.who.int/gpsc/5may/en/index.html>



#### **Action for sustained hand hygiene!**

**Tracking your progress, planning your actions and aiming for hand hygiene sustainability** are the goals for **SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands** 5 May 2011.

Using the WHO Hand Hygiene Self Assessment Framework can help you do this - knowing where your health-care facility stands on hand hygiene promotion and sustainability is an essential part of a successful programme or campaign.

You can be part of this growing global movement by:

- Acting on WHO messages and information [www.who.int/gpsc](http://www.who.int/gpsc)
- Planning your own 5 May activities, including undertaking self-assessments
- Highlighting 5 May 2011 actions in your area, e.g. create dedicated web pages or notice boards to share activities and successes
- Joining WHO's 2011 teleclass series which has a focus on hand hygiene on 5 May 2011 by Professor Didier Pittet
- Encouraging others to register and take action to improve and sustain hand hygiene.

**Help spread the hand hygiene message**  
Register your commitment and take action **NOW**

**All information can be found at:**

<http://www.who.int/gpsc/5may/en/index.html>

A WHO Patient Safety Initiative

**International  
Conference on  
Prevention & In-  
fection Control  
(ICPIC),  
Geneva Switzer-  
land.  
June 29-July 2,  
2011.**

Under the patronage of the World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Patient Safety and Prof Didier Pittet, Chair of the ICPIC.

<http://www.icpic.eu/ICPIC2011/Welcome.html>

## CHICA-Canada 2011 National Education Conference



In the decade since CHICA-Canada last held a national education conference in Toronto, the Infection Prevention and Control profession has seen monumental change. Emerging organisms presented new obstacles; re-emerging organisms returned as a concern. With these challenges a national awareness has emerged regarding the value of infection prevention and control and the dedication of its professional practitioners.

The development of new healthcare and communication technologies have continued to influence clinical practice. Education became even more important to keep Infection Prevention and Control Professionals (ICPs) at the highest level of competence. In addition to these challenges, ICPs are expected to be leaders. They are expected to use innovation to develop programs, educate and communicate. They are expected to influence and inspire their colleagues, other healthcare workers and the public in the prevention and control of infections. They are expected to be Leaders in Action.

### The objectives for the 2011 conference are:

1. To provide an educational forum to share ideas and practice techniques, and discuss problem scenarios and resolutions with peers;
2. To encourage and support both novice and more experienced ICPs;
3. To provide tools to assist ICPs to elevate the standard of practice;
4. To provide ICPs with enhanced knowledge to educate, lead, inspire, mentor, champion and collaborate within their healthcare setting;
5. To showcase CHICA-Canada as a preeminent source of Infection Prevention and Control expertise in Canada.

The language of the conference is English. For more information go to <http://www.chica.org>

*We would like to acknowledge and thank our corporate Strategic Partners for their support and assistance in the fulfillment of our projects and initiatives*



**3M Worldwide**



**Baxter**





## IFIC SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

IFIC invites applications for scholarships to the Eleventh Congress of the International Federation of Infection Control (IFIC2011).

- At least one scholarship will be granted, consisting of:
  - ✦ free registration to the conference
  - ✦ travel expenses (based on the cheapest economy itinerary)
  - ✦ accommodation on bed and breakfast basis to cover the full duration of the conference.
- In addition a number of smaller bursaries will also be awarded, covering:
  - ✦ free conference registration
  - ✦ accommodation on bed and breakfast basis to cover the full duration of the conference.
- All scholarship and bursary recipients will also be invited to submit a write-up of their paper/poster (at least 1500 words in English) by the end of 31 July 2011. If it is deemed to be satisfactory for publication in the International Journal of Infection Control ([www.ijic.info](http://www.ijic.info)), an additional award of €200 will be made at the conference.

Abstracts will be assessed on the following criteria:

1. Is the subject directly related to infection prevention & control (IPC) rather than infectious diseases / therapeutics / diagnostic microbiology?
2. Is the topic equally applicable to low resource backgrounds / developing countries?
3. How innovative are the aims?
4. Are the methods / interventions clearly stated and reproducible?
5. Are the results presented accurately?
6. Are the correct conclusions reached?
7. Does the abstract present information that other delegates will find useful to improve their own IPC practice?

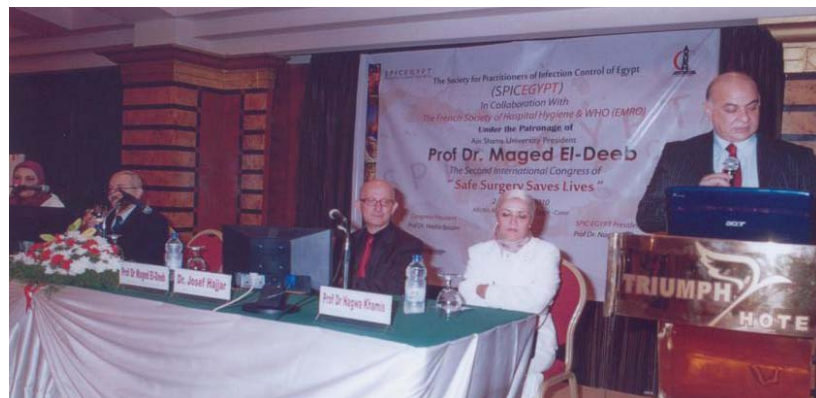
**CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSION IS 15 APRIL 2011.**

Submissions after this date will not be accepted. Only online submissions will be accepted; the application form can be accessed at [www.theifc.org/scholarship2011.asp](http://www.theifc.org/scholarship2011.asp)

## Society for Practitioners of Infection Control of Egypt (SPICEGYPT) 2010

The year 2010 was very fruitful for SPICEGYPT activities; over the year we had a busy agenda.

- On March 2010 the hand book, “Hospital Guide for Disinfectants and Antiseptics”, was published and distributed to many university, public and private hospitals in Egypt. The book was on view at the IFIC booth during the IFIC-IPCAN congress in Cape Town last August. More than 6000 copies reached the hands of infection control professionals all over the world.
- In July, SPICEGYPT, in partnership with Pfizer®, prepared an educational course for nurses focusing on infection control in the NICU. It covered both academic information and practical activities. This course was provided in Egypt and Syria and was repeated in November.
- In August, SPICEGYPT was represented at the IFIC-IPCAN congress by two members who presented oral abstracts. They were partially sponsored for congress attendance.
- In October, the SPICEGYPT congress, “Safe Surgery Saves Lives”, was held at Ain Shams University Specialized Hospital under the patronage of Ain Shams University President, Pr Dr Maged El-Deeb, who provided support for the society and congress. The congress was attended by about 500 delegates with ten invited foreign speakers. An entire session was shared with the French society of hospital hygiene “SFHH” and presented by six French speakers.
- In November, a partnership between SPICEGYPT and “SFHH” was approved by both partners. The cooperation of the two societies will include exchange of activities and experts in 2011.





**tid·bit** (tid'bit') *noun* a choice morsel, a piece of information, an item of news about an individual who made a mark in the world of infections.

Wade Hampton Frost was born March 3, 1880 in the USA state of Virginia. He received both this BA and MD from the University of Virginia. He was the first resident lecturer at the John Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health and later was professor of epidemiology. From 1931 – 1934, he served as dean of the school at Johns Hopkins. His work focused on the last yellow fever outbreak in the US, poliomyelitis, influenza, diphtheria, and tuberculosis (2 of his 7 siblings developed polio and Frost himself was treated for TB).



Among Dr Frost's accomplishments: he prepared the groundwork for the worldwide campaign against poliomyelitis; the first to understand the cyclical nature of influenza and the first to notice an unusual mortality pattern (the 1918 influenza pandemic did not kill mainly infants and senior citizens, but primarily young adults); the first to develop the historical cohort approach and undertake longitudinal cohort analyses; and the first to design life tables for expressing data in person-years. Further, he was the first to theorize that, as an infection spreads and increases in a population, its progress is slowed not only by the resulting decrease in susceptible persons due to immunizations but also by deaths in the host population. And, in 1933, he came up with the concept of the "index case." Frost's thorough and detailed investigations of infectious disease outbreaks and environmental factors are model examples of exemplar "shoe leather epidemiology."

Although he was a legendary figure in public health, according to a recent biography, Up to the Mountain by Thomas Daniel, MD, he was a terrible lecturer. "This pioneering epidemiologist would hold a cigarette in one hand while lecturing in the classroom, a piece of chalk in the other (almost never writing anything on the board), and speak so softly that students had to strain to hear." He had an interesting sense of humor and was known to serve rubber hot dogs to new epidemiology students coming to his home for dinner.

Dr Frost died in 1938, one day after receiving the Sedgewick Medal, a recognition by colleagues of outstanding accomplishments in the field of public health. It is awarded by the American Public Health Association for distinguished service and advancement of public health knowledge and practice. Frost published many important original articles and was responsible for several innovative epidemiological and statistical methods. His papers were collected and published in a widely consulted monograph in 1941 after his death.

## APIC 2011



The 2011 APIC Educational Conference & International Meeting will focus on the theme "**Translating Science--Sustainable Solutions**" and will be held in the beautiful city of Baltimore, MD. It will feature its largest-ever exhibit hall, showcasing the latest in innovative products and services from more than 200 companies.

Each year, thousands of healthcare professionals from all over the world come together for three days of outstanding educational sessions, renowned speakers, special seminars, and valuable networking events.

<http://conference.apic.org>

## Teleclass Lecture Series

Webber Training Inc. Teleclass Education is a telephone-based, internet-supported lecture series, run entirely by volunteers around the world. The registration fee is \$40 per teleclass per site - some teleclasses have free registration, including each marked as "WHO Teleclass". **Participants from developing nations are entitled to full access without charge.** For more information on registration, refer to [www.webbertraining.com](http://www.webbertraining.com) or [info@webbertraining.com](mailto:info@webbertraining.com).

You require access to a telephone and access to e-mail, or a computer with internet access and speakers. Teleclasses take place over the telephone so you can join wherever there is a phone. The presenter's slides and hand-out notes, and the number of the Bridge Line and PIN code are e-mailed to all registrants at least 48 hours in advance of the teleclass so access to e-mail is necessary. A data projector could be employed to project the speaker's slides. Teleclass recordings are posted to the web site, usually within 2 days, for unlimited access.

Teleclasses depend on telephone technology called Bridge Lines. A Bridge Line is a special telephone line that allows audio conferencing. The Bridge Line phone number and PIN code number are sent out to all registrants two days before the teleclass date. At the scheduled time, all registered sites dial the number, punch in the PIN code number when requested, and are automatically entered into the conference.

**Professionals from developing nations are provided with unlimited access to teleclass materials, including slides, handouts, and on-line recordings.**

### SCHEDULE

#### February

- 1 – WHO Teleclass - *Quality Improvement and Infection Prevention and Control*, Donald Goldman, USA
- 10 – *Why Don't People Use PPE?*, David Dejoy, USA
- 17 – *Controlling C. difficile Outbreaks: Going Beyond the Guidelines*, Michael Gardam, Canada
- 18 – *The Future of Infection Control: Challenges and Opportunities*, Ling Moi Lin, Singapore
- 22 – *Writing for Publication and Conference Presentation - First Steps to Disseminating Your Research and Improvement Projects*, Heather Loveday, UK
- 23 – *Public Health Lessons Learnt From the 2010 New Zealand Earthquake*, Ramon Pink, New Zealand

#### March

- 3 – *What to Ask For and Look For When Evaluating Cleaning/Disinfecting Products*, Jason Tetro, Canada
- 10 – *Introduction to Mold Remediation for Buildings, Including Basic Infection Prevention Strategies for Mold Control*, Lynne Schulster, USA
- 15 – *The Importance of Nurse Empowerment in Preventing Healthcare-Associated Infection*, Julie Storr, UK
- 31 – *The Role of Microbial Biofilms in Chronic Bacterial Infections*, William Costerton, USA

#### April

- 6 – WHO Teleclass - *Hand Hygiene Education and Monitoring: Returning to the WHO "My Five Moments" Concept*, Hugo Sax, Switzerland
- 7 – *The 'Outbreak Database' - A Tool for Hospital Epidemiologists*, Ralf-Peter Vonberg
- 13 – *Prevention of Surgical Site Infections*, Matthias Maiwald, Singapore
- 14 – *Healthcare-Associated Infection Prevention Bundles: Preventing the Preventable*, Bill Jarvis, USA
- 28 – *The Spaulding Classification, Disinfection and Sterilization: Is It Time to Reconsider?*, Gerry McDonnell, UK