



International Federation of Infection Control

IFIC e-News

Chair Update

This is the first edition of IFIC e-News: a newsletter to keep you up-to-date on IFIC and member society activities. Please submit information for inclusion in IFIC e-News to candacef@umich.edu.

Dear IFIC members,

Welcome to the new IFIC publication!

At midyear, 2006, just after the outstanding IFIC/Western Cape Infection Forum Conference in S Africa, I'd really like to celebrate with you. The conferences get better all the time, publications are improving and the concepts of infection prevention are reaching more people. I would also like to take this opportunity on behalf of the IFIC Board and all our member societies and observers to thank you for your support.



Patricia Lynch,
RN, MBA
Chair, IFIC Board

Global infection prevention

Nothing improves infection prevention in health care facilities like a strong, active, local IC society. There are approximately 192 countries in the world and fewer than 75 have national infection control societies. Threats to world health include fast traveling diseases like influenza but also hospital acquired infections which occur 3-5 times more frequently in low-resource facilities. In some regions, a large proportion of HIV and hepatitis are acquired through improper reuse of injection equipment. Local infection control societies are a critical element to reduce risk from all these situations.

IFIC welcomes new member societies from Korea Association of Infection Control and the Hong

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IFIC Conferences

<p>The NETHERLANDS 15-18 October 2006 HIS Sixth International Conference of the Hospital Infection Society <i>IFIC Annual General Members Meeting 2006 will be held during this conference on Monday 16 October at 17.30 hrs</i> RAI Congress Centre, Amsterdam Contact: www.his2006.co.uk</p>	<p>MALAYSIA. 8-11 July 2007 APSIC 3rd International Congress of the Asia Pacific Society of Infection Control <i>"Infection Control in a Global Village"</i> Kuala Lumpur, IFIC will collaborate with the APSIC on this conference Contact: www.APSIC2007.com</p>
<p>HUNGARY 18-23 October 2007 IFIC 8th Annual Conference Budapest</p>	<p>CHILE 7-10 October 2008 IFIC 9th Annual Conference Santiago</p>

Chair Update continued

Send conference accounts to Sergey Eremin, IFIC web master, at sergey@theIFIC.org.

Delegates from several member societies expressed an interest in forming special interest groups and working together with members from other societies.

Kong Infection Control Nurses Association.

Education, Certification for individuals and Accreditation of IC programs

The combination of education, certification and accreditation of IC programs in hospitals provides a potent force for improvement. Education materials and conferences are tools that infection prevention organizations use frequently. IFIC, in partnership with the member societies, has begun working on long-term plans to develop a global infection prevention practice analysis; the practice analysis, when completed, will provide a basis for constructing education materials and a valid certification examination.

Member societies work together at IFIC conferences.

Delegates from several member societies expressed an interest in forming special interest groups and working together with members from other societies. IFIC provided meeting space at the South Africa conference and will do so again in Amsterdam. Check the web site www.theIFIC.org for the time and location.

Global Calendar for Infection Control Conferences

Many IFIC member societies are posting their conferences on the Global Conference Calendar: see "calendar" on the IFIC home page. This will make conference planning much easier, now that there are so many IC societies holding national and regional events. Send your conference announcements to Sergey Eremin, IFIC web master, well in advance: sergey@theIFIC.org

Thanks again for your support,

Patricia Lynch, RN, MBA
Chair, IFIC Board

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of IFIC will take place at the RAI Conference Centre in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, in conjunction with the Hospital Infection Society conference, on Monday, 16 October at 1730 hours.

Annual General Meeting

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The official election of new board members takes place at the AGM. Member societies are invited to send in their preliminary votes if your delegate or deputy delegate is unable to attend the AGM, The board now requires three new members. The following persons have been nominated.

Carol Goldman RN BScN CIC, Infection Control Consultant, Toronto Ontario, Canada
Jane Murphy, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Infection Control, Dublin Ireland
Walter Popp, Prof. Dr. Med. University Medical Center, Essen Germany

Eastern Mediterranean Regional Network for Infection Control (EMRNIC)

EMRNIC is a regional, multi-disciplinary, voluntary network of [Infection Control Professionals](#) in the EMR committed to improving infection control practices by promoting excellence in the practice of infection prevention and control. EMRNIC provides the essential technical advice, educational materials and communications that support strengthening of existing Infection Control activities and foster development of Infection Control programmes where they are needed. The EMRNIC board includes a member from each country (Focal Point) in the EMR designated by the respective Ministry of Health.

EMRNIC Activities:

1. Providing technical assistance through:
 - a. EMRNIC web site: provides information about EMRNIC activities and is a forum for networking with organizations, agencies and access to publications in infection control.
 - b. Bulletin/newsletter that provides another forum to share information and activities.
 - c. Organizing basic infection control training activities and other training materials.
 - d. Organizing periodic conferences.
 - e. Promoting establishment of governmental and / or non-governmental national infection control bodies in all Member States; encouraging establishment of infection control units at health care facilities and encouraging development of appropriate relevant health regulations.
 - f. Encouraging research activities in different aspects of infection control.
2. Serving as a resource for coordinating infection control strategies in the Member states
3. Identifying additional means and resources to mobilize funds for the implementation of effective infection control activities
4. Contributing in setting guidelines for long-term epidemic preparedness and capacity building.

DIRECTOR: Professor Ossama Rasslan, Head of Medical Microbiology, Immunology and Infection Control Department, Faculty of Medicine, Ain Shams University, Cairo, Egypt; and IFIC Board Member (orasslan@myway.com)

EMRNIC Congress Report and Recommendations

The First Mediterranean Regional Infection Control Congress and the 14th Annual Conference of the Egyptian Society of Infection, in collaboration with IFIC, the World Health Organization (WHO) Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office (EMRO), the United States Naval Army Medical Research Unit # 3, Cairo, and the Ministry of Health and Population, Egypt held a joint conference in Cairo, Egypt, 14-17 November 2005. The conference made the following recommendations:

1. To launch Eastern Mediterranean Regional Network for Infection Control (EMRNIC)
2. To identify Focal Points for infection control activities in all Member States.
3. To promote exchange of information expertise in infection control practices among Member States.
4. To hold biennial scientific meetings
5. To establish a website for EMRNIC with kind support from WHO/EMRO that accommodates educational material, technical guidelines, links to other appropriate resources and a forum for discussion groups on technical issues.

*DIRECTOR: Professor
Ossama Rasslan, Head of
Medical Microbiology,
Immunology and Infection
Control Department,
Faculty of Medicine, Ain
Shams University, Cairo,
Egypt; and IFIC Board
Member
(orasslan@myway.com)*

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

On behalf of the Local Organizing Committee we invite you to the Eighth Congress of the International Federation of Infection Control which will be held between October 18th and October 21st in Budapest. Budapest, birth place of Ignác Semmelweis and the Semmelweis Museum is a dynamic and vibrant city offering a large scale of cultural and natural beauty. It is the only capital in the world where more than 100 hot thermal springs feed a wide range of baths.

You will have fond memories of the conference dinner: cruising on the Danube and admiring the magnificent panorama of the two banks of the river, the quarter around the Buda Castle and the beautiful bridges lit up at night. The conference will provide a forum for delegates to learn together, share experiences, strengthen links and explore collaborative approaches in the field of infection control.

Karolina Böröcz, MD
Chair, Local Organizing Committee
President, Hungarian Society of Infection Control Practitioners



Working with the membership of IFIC

The new Articles and Memorandum of Association that were passed at the AGM have been sent to the UK Charity Commission, who suggested a few minor changes. After these changes, the AGM has to vote upon them again.

The Rules now include three Member categories:

1. "Member": societies, associations, organisations and companies comprising people which provide or who are concerned with the provision of healthcare in premises anywhere in the world and which have a concern about Infection Control, and have a formal constitution
2. "Patron" : persons, firms or companies which, whilst they have an interest in or concern about Infection Control, are commercial organizations
3. "Associate members" : individuals with an interest in Infection Control and working in an area where there is no local member, or organizations without a constitution.

Associate members pay only a nominal fee and cannot vote, however they have access to all the materials and media that IFIC produces. This category has been introduced to accommodate all those who are interested in joining and supporting IFIC but are working in countries where Infection Control is still very young.

An e-mail list of members of all three categories is maintained by our executive secretary, Ms Pamela Allen, Ireland. This list is for IFIC purposes only and cannot be used otherwise.

At the 7th IFIC conference in July, an informal meeting was held with about 40 participants from member organizations. Several problems and challenges were brought up, ranging from deep surgical site infections to the availability of microbiological typing.

At the initiative of participants from Egypt, an interest group was formed, focusing on hand hygiene in the community as well as in medical care. It was decided that this sort of meeting was very fruitful and should, if possible, be developed further in future IFIC conferences. In between meetings, communications will be maintained within the interest groups via e-mail and the IFIC forum. All the participants had access to Internet communication and agreed that this was also the best way to distribute IFIC materials.

We're on the web!
www.theIFIC.org



IFIC at CHICA Canada

The 2006 CHICA conference in London, Ontario started with a charity 5 km run/ 2.5 km walk in support of the IFIC Scholarship fund, organised by Alice Newman and Wendy Reason with a great crew. Twenty-five runners and walkers participated. The runners started out on a bright Sunday morning with frost still on the ground, and all arrived safely at the goal, to be presented with a CHICA Run for IFIC t-shirt as you can see in the picture. The net proceeds were \$3,132. The Board of CHICA-Canada authorized an additional donation of \$1,500. A cheque for \$4632 will be forwarded to the Treasurer of IFIC with a letter acknowledging the work of its chapter, the Southwestern Ontario Professionals in Infection Control, in organizing this successful event.