



## Welcome to the IFIC March Newsletter!

Greetings from the Board of IFIC and **welcome** to the IFIC Newsletter!

This date, March 11, 2025, marked the **5th** anniversary since the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a global pandemic. This is the perfect time to re-evaluate your pandemic plans.



As infection preventionists, we all have essential roles to play in disaster planning, response, and recovery. Having a successful disaster plan requires for example, adequate planning prior to the disaster, and positions internal and external procedures to be in place.

The work that **we do in infection prevention and control (IPC)** is essential to **safe healthcare delivery**. Many organizations have a better respect and **awareness** for IPC professionals and have an **appreciation** for our roles and responsibilities – thank you COVID-19 pandemic and mpox!

IPC can be both challenging and rewarding and it requires IPC professionals to have **expertise** (knowledge, skills, and competencies) in many diverse areas. While we move forward, considerations are needed on how one continues **to manage obstacles and/or challenges** and yet **strive** for health **quality improvements**. It is time to examine collaborations and partnerships to **seek opportunities** and to **share resources** that would **better prepare** us for such future events.

Test out a COVID-19 Simulation Exercise that can be found [here](#). There is a vaccine drill, supply chain and communication strategies to name a few.

Don't leave yourself and your organization vulnerable for the next pandemic.

Being prepared is an essential consideration and we all have a role as a personal commitment, community and global efforts.

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## **Join IFIC or Become a Member**

Join IFIC today! Get full membership for Societies, or Individual Membership or an Affiliate Membership.

Join [here](#)

### **IFIC Membership Benefits include:**

- Connect with a respected unified global IPC voice
- Individual membership offers an opportunity to better clinical practice by sharing challenges and successes with professionals of similar backgrounds, and remain updated on what is going-on worldwide in IP&C.
- Membership facilitates possibilities to associate and exchange ideas with internationally renowned medical specialists and scientists both in high and low resource settings.
- Provides support for less experienced professionals to access ideas, write publications, apply for scholarships etc.
- Get access to experts in IPC
- Novice infection control professionals can utilize contact opportunities to obtain help from more established colleagues internationally. In turn, established specialists can genuinely make a concrete difference to improve IPC worldwide
- Support colleagues with less experience in IPC
- Being an Individual Member also gives you the opportunity to support the work of IFIC in spreading knowledge and expertise to colleagues across borders.
- Enjoy benefits that make a difference
- Presentations from IFIC Conferences
- Access to the International Journal of Infection Control
- Access to our Newsletter

Do you have any **upcoming special events**? Can we advertise them for you in the newsletter and on the IFIC website? Send any information you like included

to [admin@theific.org](mailto:admin@theific.org)

Best wishes from the IFIC Board,

Barbara Catt

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## Call Out for Peer Reviewers

Please contact us via [admin@theific.org](mailto:admin@theific.org) for more information

Do you have experience of reviewing and/or publishing in peer reviewed journals? Can you help in the **mission of IJIC to support the open access, peer reviewed publication of research and practice globally, with a focus on lower and middle income countries?**

If you are willing to support us, please contact us via [admin@theific.org](mailto:admin@theific.org) for more information. The editor will limit the number of requests for reviews to each individual so the burden on you will not be high.

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### Non-IFIC Events and Upcoming Conferences:

- World Tuberculosis Day – March 24, 2025 - Click [here](#) for more information.
- Webinar April 8, 2025 called *Warming Up for WHHD global webinar*, @ 13:00 CET - Click [here](#) to register
- World Hand Hygiene Day (WHHD 2025) – May 5 whose theme is “It might be gloves. It’s always hand hygiene.” More information can be found [here](#)

A complimentary resource and guideline is called “Glove Usage Guideline: From The Joint Commission, CDC, and World Health Organization” found [here](#)

What I like about this resource is “Test your glove usage skills”

- IPAC Canada 2025 Hybrid National Education Conference June 1 - 4, 2025 [here](#)
  - Also - **conference organizers** have made it **possible for Webber Training Members** in lower resource regions to **register for virtual access** to all of the general sessions at **no cost to you**.
  - [Use this link to register for free virtual access.](#)

- The Discount Code is already loaded in the link so you just need to enter your e-mail address and then follow the directions. **It's a simple process**, but if you need support, please contact [admin@ipac-canada.org](mailto:admin@ipac-canada.org).
- **Your access is funded by IPAC Canada, Webber Training and our fabulous Patron Sponsors**

Thanks for your support of **Teleclass Education**.

Paul Webber @ paul@webbertraining.com

- APIC Annual Conference and Exposition Future Dates June 16 – 18 , 2025. Click [here](#)
  - ACIPC International Conference November 16-19, 2025. Click [here](#)
  - Webber Training – weekly events – access the schedule. Click [here](#)
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**Here is what your IFIC Board Members have been doing:**

**1. Carol McLay – Board Trustee from Region B, USA** One of our more recent Board members, Carol McLay was elected to the 2024 APIC Board of Directors, and is the **current** President.

**2. Ramona Marincas – Board Trustee from Region C, Romania**

Nurses Society for the Prevention and Control of Health care related infections is a part of Croatia Nurses organization HUMS from Croatia. In cooperation with the Croatian Chamber of Nurses, the College of North Varaždin and the General Hospital of Varaždin, the third course 1st categories and the second international course "Fundamentals of prevention and control of healthcare-associated infections" was held at the College of the North, College Center Varaždin, from February 27 to 28, 2025.

The course was held under the auspices of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Croatia and Varaždin County. 130 nurses from Croatian hospitals participated in the course.

This course brings together top experts and enthusiasts in the field of infection prevention and control with a clear goal - to improve knowledge, share best practices and empower healthcare professionals to fight healthcare-associated infections. The two days of the course were full of dynamic presentations, discussions and concrete examples from the field. The multidisciplinary approach and exchange of experiences provided valuable insights and confirmed once again how crucial teamwork is for successful infection prevention and control.

IFIC was represented at this event by Ramona Marincas, who presented "Decontamination and reprocessing of reusable medical devices". See pictured below.



### 3. Professor and Dr. Gehan Fahmy – Board Trustee from Region G, Egypt

Prof. Dr. Gehan Fahmy and her team were **honored for excellence**. We are delighted to announce a significant achievement for Ain Shams University Hospital. At the recent annual summit on infection control, our hospital was recognized as the best among 99 university hospitals in implementing effective infection control practices. This **prestigious honor** is a testament to the **dedication and hard work** of Professor Dr. Gehan Fahmy and **her exceptional team**.

#### **WASH Summit and Prof. Dr. Gehan Fahmy's Contribution**

The summit, held on February 26th, focused on Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) practices. During the event, Prof. Dr. Gehan Fahmy delivered a thought-provoking lecture on "Assessing the Effectiveness of WASH Interventions through Environmental Validation." Her insights highlighted the importance of robust evaluation methods to ensure the success of WASH initiatives.

#### **A Well-Deserved Recognition**

The High Supreme Council honored Prof. Dr. Gehan Fahmy and her team for their outstanding contributions to infection prevention and control. This recognition underscores the significant impact of their work in safeguarding patient safety and promoting a culture of hygiene within our institution. See pictured below Prof. Dr. Gehan Fahmy and her team.



**4. Dr. Andrea Grisold, Board Trustee from Region A, Austria** In a recent publication, Dr. Grisold participated in a study, using the World Health Organization's framework on infection prevention and control practices. Further insight and findings from the study can be found [here](#).

**5. Dr. Birgitta Lytsy, Board Trustee from Region A, Sweden** Dr. Birgitta has been appointed as an "observer" by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) in the development of an EU IPC guideline.

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### **Meet & greet - networking - your "burning" questions**

We would like to invite our members to a meet & greet with our board at 8am ET on April 23rd.

If you would like to join please email [admin@theific.org](mailto:admin@theific.org) to request the calendar invitation.

#### **Agenda:**

- 1 Introductions
- 2 What QI initiatives are happening in your area?
3. Questions that you have and cannot find a solution or resolution.

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### **IFIC on Social Media**

Follow us! We are now on Facebook, Instagram, Threads, LinkedIn and now Bluesky

Member societies and members, follow us, send us a message and we'll follow

you back. Tag us in your events and we'll RT them.

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/theific>

Blusky <https://bsky.app/profile/theific.bsky.social>

Linkedin [The International Federation of Infection Control - IFIC](#)

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