

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

It was a pleasure and honor to represent CHICA-Canada during my term as president. I wish to thank the staff of CHICA-Canada and the Board of Directors for their enduring support and friendship. CHICA-Canada's Executive Director was an amazing guide on the journey during this very busy year.

### **Strategic Plan**

In 2010 the main activity of the board was to develop an operational plan from the strategic plan developed in 2009. The strategic plan will continue to be reviewed at board meetings every 6 months. There are 5 Goals in the Strategic Plan:

Goal One: Raise the profile of the Organization and its activities

Goal Two: Enhance the mix of products and services

Goal Three: Expand the Association's education initiatives

Goal Four: Expand and develop membership base

Goal Five: Provide national and international leadership

My activities as president during 2010 focused on each of the goals and usually involved collaborative work with Board members and our various Committees, Chapters and Interest Groups.

### **1. Goal One and Five -To raise the profile of the association and its activities and to increase CHICA-Canada's influence and profile nationally and internationally.**

#### **a. Liaison to the Certification Board of Infection Control and Epidemiology**

As president I attended the CBIC board meeting in San Antonio, Texas in February, New Orleans in July and Vancouver in September. I also participated in several conference calls with the CBIC president and several representatives from APIC. Presentations on the activities of CHICA-Canada were presented at each board meeting. The president of CHICA-BC was invited to provide an update on certification in her chapter and identify any concerns

Discussions at the meeting included review of the strategic plan and development of an operational plan. The policy manual was discussed and it underwent major revisions over the year. The SARE practice exam became fully automated in 2010. Several groups from APIC requested that CBIC move to using CEUs instead of requiring those re-certifying to write an exam again. Several presentations were made by the CBIC board memberships on the rationale for exam based recertification. Information on all CIC certificants is now available on the CBIC website under the directory. CHICA now receives quarterly updates on CIC certificants and currently ~33% of our membership has their CIC.

Two Canadians, Dr. Kathy Suh and Kathy McGhie, continue to sit on the board and subcommittee to provide valuable input related to exam content and ensure that concerns of Canadian members are addressed.

#### **b. Canadian Patient Safety Institute**

CHICA continued to build a collaborative working relationship with CPSI and we participated in a number of initiatives.

**CPSI forum 2010-** I moderated a number of infection prevention and control sessions during the national forum. The abstract section highlighted excellent work being done by ICPs across the country. I also joined Hugh Macleod (CPSI) and Wendy Nicklin (Accreditation Canada) to launch World Hand Hygiene Day on May 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Launch World Hand Hygiene Day-** I attended the press conference at North York General and provided a short presentation on behalf of CHICA-Canada On May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010

**CPSI Roundtable on Patient Safety in Primary Care Settings-** I participated in this roundtable May 10th, 2010 in Toronto.

**CPSI Annual General Meeting-** Attended AGM in Halifax NS in November 2010. Meet with CPSI staff to discuss on-going collaboration efforts

**CPSI Document review-**provided input on several knowledge products developed by CPSI

**c. Public Health Agency of Canada**

We contacted PHAC to request an update on when the surveillance definitions for MRSA and C-difficile from the collaboration led by CPSI would be finalized, and a conference call was scheduled with PHAC and CPSI representatives. The definitions had been tabled at the PHN level and comments from the group were being collated. CHICA's executive director and I met with PHAC in Ottawa 18 August 2010 to discuss current projects and on-going collaboration and a number of action items came out of this meeting. They included:

1. PHAC would set up a meeting with the Network of Network interest group chairs to discuss work with provincial IPAC representatives.
2. PHAC would explore renewal of the MOU between CHICA, CPSI, Accreditation Canada and PHAC.
3. PHAC would provide regular updates to CHICA members via articles in CJIC
4. CHICA would circulate guidelines for feed-back and collate feed-back.

**d. Canadian Standards Association**

I attended the CSA steering Committee in September 2010 and provided a presentation on CHICA-Canada activities and our current relationship. We have numerous CHICA members who have been valued participants on CSA committees. Subsequent to this meeting a formal request was received for a CHICA board member to sit on the CSA Steering Committee. Dr J. Grant will be CHICA-Canada's representative.

**e. Canadian Foundation of Infectious Diseases**

I am member of the board for CFID participated in strategic planning in March, 2010 and subsequent Board meetings via teleconference. This group has been struggling and in March 2011 a new interim chair was elected and the on-going viability of this organization will be assessed.

**f. Other IPAC Organizations**

(i) **APIC-** As president I represented CHICA at the APIC national conference in New Orleans, Louisiana. The board meeting format was changed and CHICA was not invited to present on CHICA activities this year. I did attend the APIC board dinner, leadership reception and President's Breakfast and was warmly received by APIC leadership.

(ii) **IFIC-** I represented CHICA at the IFIC conference in Stellenbosch, South Africa. This conference was a collaboration between IFIC and IPCAN and many of the participants came from the African continent. I presented on routine practices with Carol Goldman and Gail Bennett and requests for the presentation were received from a number of the delegates after the conference.

A breakfast meeting was held with the presidents from IFIC, APIC and IPS to discuss a shared initiative for IPAC week. A spot for this work would be placed on the IFIC website and the other organizations would provide content.

I attended the IFIC board meeting and was able to see how the donations from CHICA are used to support scholarships to delegates from low resourced countries as well as some of the other great work that they are doing.

(iii) **IPS-** This was CHICA's second year having a representative at the IPS conference. This meeting provided an opportunity to interact with the UK infection control community and learn from their

experiences dealing with public reporting and other issues. I was asked to moderate one of their sessions and also attended their gala dinner.

Work with our international partners was very rewarding and the sharing of ideas between the leadership of these organizations should continue to be fostered at every opportunity.

## **2. Goal Two and Three- Enhance the mix of products and services and expand the associations' education initiatives**

### **a. National Education Conference**

The national education conference was held in Vancouver, BC. There were over 500 delegates in attendance including representatives from a number of international locations. A new chapter, CHICA-Peel, was inducted into CHICA and the inaugural Champion of Infection Control award was presented to Dr. Mary Vearncombe. Dr Dick Zoutman was awarded an honorary membership for his long service and incredible body of work while a CHICA board member.

### **b. Virox scholarships**

In February the executive reviewed the Virox scholarships for the 2010 and provided input for the selection of candidates. The scholarship application was revised and three categories of applicants were created to ensure that new practitioners could have an opportunity to qualify. Seventeen Scholarships were awarded to practitioners from across Canada who may not have had an opportunity to attend the conference without the funding.

### **c. 3M Champions of Infection Control**

The executive met with 3M representatives to develop this award and then to select a winner. The first award was presented at the Champions Breakfast in Vancouver. This award will continue to be presented annually at the national conference.

### **d. CHICA Audit toolkit**

I continued to participate in the audit toolkit group meetings and audit development and we launched the toolkit and interactive CDs at the conference. Three articles were written and published in CJIC. The Executive director and I met with an IT company in the UK to discuss the possibility of partnering on the development of fully interactive audit tools.

## **3. Goal Four- Expand and Develop the membership base**

**a. CHICA teleclasses-** Chaired several teleclasses to provide updates to the membership about board activities

**b. Chapter Presentations-** provided a presentation to Peel and HANDIC chapters on CHICA and activities of the president. Assisted with the review of the Personal Protective System (PPS) submitted by representatives from CHICA-Peel. Provided a videoconference presentation to CHICA Alberta chapters.

**c. IPAC delegates-** Drafted a letter to be presented to Ontario Chiefs of Police by one of our members encouraging them to support CHICA-membership for their members in designated officer roles

**d. Member queries-** Assisted membership office to answer queries from members and non-members

## **National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI)**

*Submitted by Suzanne Pelletier, RN BScN CIC, liaison member to the Committee.*

NACI is a scientific advisory committee for the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), Immunization and Respiratory Infections Division. NACI meets three times per year (February, June and October).

For 2010, NACI published 8 Advisory Committee Statements. These include:

- Update on the Use of Conjugate Pneumococcal Vaccines in Childhood
- Statement on Measles-Mumps-Rubella-Varicella Vaccine
- Varicella Vaccination Two-Dose Recommendations.
- Updated Recommendations For The Use Of Varicella And MMR Vaccines In HIV-infected Individuals
- Statement on Seasonal Trivalent Inactivated Influenza Vaccine (TIV) for 2010-2011
- Updated Statement on the use of Rotavirus Vaccines
- Update on Pediatric Invasive Pneumococcal Disease and Recommended Use of Conjugate Pneumococcal Vaccines
- Statement on the Recommended Use of Herpes Zoster Vaccine

In 2010, NACI also began revisions for the 8<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Canadian Immunization Guide (CIG). The new guide will be produced in a web-based “evergreen” format which will be posted on the PHAC website. Regular updates will be added to the online CIG as new statements are published. Launch of the CIG is scheduled for 2011.

## **Infection Control Ontario**

*The following report is submitted by Inez Landry, Chair, and Infection Control Ontario 2010*

Infection Control Ontario (ICO) is an Allied Group Member of the Ontario Hospital Association (OHA).

### **Active Members 2010**

CHICA – Eastern Ontario

Kathleen Poole

CHICA – HANDIC

Mary –Catherine Orvidas

CHICA – Northwestern Ontario

Colleen Snelgrove

CHICA – Northeastern Ontario

Isabelle Langman/Suzanne Pelletier

CHICA – Ottawa Region

Inez Landry, Treasurer, Chair

CHICA-HUPIC

Nancy Brown

CHICA-SWO

Brenda Prouse/Natalie Goertz

TPIC

Sharon O’Grady

Infection Control Ontario Terms of Reference were reviewed and revised.

### **Activities and Accomplishments in 2010**

- Kathleen Poole is the ICO representative on the Joint OHA/OMA Communicable Diseases Surveillance Protocols Committee. Inez Landry continues on this committee as an official OHA rep. The OHA/OMA Communicable Diseases Surveillance Protocols are available at [www.oha.com](http://www.oha.com).
- On request, ICO continues to provide comments to Ministry of Health & LTC on the draft best practice documents.
- ICO continues to provide feedback on Hand Hygiene and other Public Reporting indicators through the OHA Patient Safety Liaison that participates at the ICO meetings.
- ICO members provide Infection Prevention and Control expertise in the hospital setting when asked to participate on OHA education Programs.
- ICO members recommended the 2010 OHA Health Achieve Infection Prevention and Control/ Occupational Health Nurse, conference program.
  - Nancy Brown and Inez Landry represented ICO on the planning committee. Inez Landry Co-Chaired the session and the Topic presented was:

#### Hand Hygiene Challenges for Health Care Workers

- Practices, Attitudes and Beliefs – Lessons Learned
- Let's Keep our Hands Safe as well as Clean
- Inez Landry reviewed and provided comments for the OHA Hand Hygiene/PPE Education Module.
- ICO members continue to lobby for more OHA educational programs to be made available for participation via video conferencing or web casting to allow more Infection Prevention & Control Professionals to participate in the distance education programs.

#### **RNFOO SARS Memorial Fund**

*The following update submitted by Seema Boodoosingh BSc MLT ART CIC*

The SARS Memorial Fund for Infection Control Practitioners is a tuition/certification/professional development reimbursement program funded by the Molson Canada SARS Concert (2003) and sponsored by the Ontario Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care. The fund provides grants for Infection Control Practitioners from any discipline to support continuing education, certification/re-certification and professional development for individual Infection Control Practitioners so that they can improve their knowledge and lead Infection Control Practices within their health care settings. In addition to this The Rolling Stones/CPI Awards are funded from a donation representing the proceeds from the sales of a DVD produced at the time of the Rolling Stones 2003 SARS Benefit Concert in Toronto. The objective of the program is to support the advancement of professional practice in Infection Control. As such, the fund provides awards and grants to practicing health professionals from any discipline to support continuing education, participation in, or coordination of, conferences, projects (e.g. educational) and conducting studies/research in Infection Control.

There are 10 members who are CHICA chapter representatives in Ontario that sit on the review panel for applicants for the funds available through RNFOO. The group met four times in 2010 and reviewed about 35 applications and 29 applicants were accepted, as they met the criteria for funding.

*Anne Bialachowski RN BN MS CIC  
President*