

CHICA-SOUTHERN ALBERTA

2010 Executive

President: Wendy Runge RN BScN CIC
President-elect: Pamela Armstrong RN OHNC BN
Secretary: Heather MacLaurin RN
Treasurer: Sue Crittenden RN
Education Coordinator: Roberta McCombie MSc
Seminar Coordinator: Marlene Montgomery RN

2011 Executive

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Secretary: Heather MacLaurin RN
Treasurer: Sue Crittenden RN
Education Coordinator: Roberta McCombie MSc
Seminar Coordinator: *currently vacant*

Number of Members: 70

Geographic Area Served:

Southern and South/Central Alberta, extending from Red Deer south to the US border, east to the Saskatchewan border and west to the BC border.

Membership

CHICA-Southern Alberta membership consists of:

- Infection Prevention and Control professionals from acute care hospital sites, assisted/supportive living sites, urban and rural community sites and pre-hospital care.
- Representatives from industry, environmental services, educational institutions, private consultants, dental offices and individuals with an interest in CHICA-Canada.

Meetings

Nine meetings were held during 2010:

- One joint meeting with the CHICA-Northern Alberta chapter via Telehealth (video format) in September
- Eight local meetings with teleconferencing options for members unable to travel (October, November, January, February, March, April, May and June).
- Educational sessions at meetings included:
February: The Mphastso Pure Water Story: Fulfilling an ICP's Dream
March: Southern Alberta Institute of Technology – Infection Prevention and Control Course
April: Atlanta Decennial Conference Highlights
October: New Glove Technology
November: Donna Wiens: CHICA-Canada Update and Open Dialogue

Initiatives Related to the CHICA-Canada 2010-2015 Strategic Plan

1. *Goal One: Raise the profile of the association and its activities.*
 - Senior Alberta Health Services (AHS) administration invited to open educational seminar
 - Dialogue with AHS administration to support the networking and educational opportunities available to professionals at the local and national levels of the CHICA organization.
2. *Goal Two: Enhance the mix of products and services.*
 - No activities
3. *Goal Three: Expand the association's education initiatives.*
 - Educational seminar presented (see 'Highlights')
 - Decision by membership to include education at every local meeting

4. *Goal Four: Expand and develop the membership base.*
 - Increased education for local members
 - Invitation to environmental service providers to join CHICA
5. *Goal Five: Provide national and international leadership.*
 - Membership is represented on all CHICA interest groups. Many working on documents for publication or on position statements.
 - Representation on Standards and Guidelines audit tool working group
 - Members partnering with Safer Healthcare Now! for projects and presentations.

Highlights

- A one-day seminar was held in September 2010. The seminar was entitled ‘Shake It Off and Shake It Up’, with the objectives being to review the lessons learned during the H1N1 Pandemic and to re-energize attending healthcare professionals. Overall, the attendees gave us very positive feedback. Many of the attendees stated an appreciation for the one-day format as it was easier to secure time and funding to attend this educational opportunity. The chapter made a very small profit.
- The Terms of Reference were revised. The term of President will now be a 2-year term. The President-Elect and Past President will each continue to serve 1-year terms and each will assume the same duties. In any given year there will be either a President-Elect or a Past President, but not both.
- In the process of updating the chapter website. New homepage and logo launched in December. Speaker presentations from the September 2010 seminar remain posted and can be downloaded from the Educational Events page.
- Donna Wiens came as a special guest to our November meeting. This was embraced as an excellent opportunity for the membership to connect with the CHICA-Canada organization and to have the opportunity to have an open discussion forum with one of the executive. The members were very pleased and grateful for the opportunity.
- A membership survey was conducted in the fall. Decision made by the membership to decrease the amount of business and increase education and networking/discussion forums at all chapter meetings. This format will be started in 2011.
- Accomplishments and educational conferences attended by chapter members during 2010:
 - Alison Devine and Alicia Cortright co-published an article on hand hygiene in the October 2010 edition of *Canadian Nurse*. Alicia also presented an abstract on a hand hygiene project at the Red Deer College Interprofessional Research Day.
 - Marlene Montgomery presented a poster at the CHICA-Canada conference. She also did a national teleconference presentation for Safer Healthcare Now! on prevention of surgical site infections in cardiac surgery.
 - As part of the Dialysis Interest Group, Debbie Lam-Li coauthored an article on MRSA and VRE screening in hemodialysis settings in the Summer 2010 *Canadian Journal of Infection Control*.
 - Debbie Lam-Li, Janice Stoesz and Wendy Runge successfully re-certified for CIC this year.
 - Several members attended CSA educational workshops on ‘Sterilization and Disinfection’ and ‘Maintenance and Construction’ standards.
 - Several members presented at the chapter’s September seminar. Members present to colleagues at the chapter meetings, sharing their interests, knowledge and expertise.

*Wendy Runge RN BScN CIC
Chapter President*