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A successful 2007 CHICA Education Conference was held at the Shaw Conference Centre in Edmonton. This was the first year that the Conference Scientific Committee had a National Chair and national representation to work with the Conference Planner. Future conferences will be structured similarly with a scientific chair serving two terms to provide continuity. There will also be members on the planning committee representing all sectors of CHICA's membership.

During the opening ceremonies and awards numerous members/chapters received recognition. CHICA Northeastern Ontario received their charter as the newest CHICA Chapter from CHICA President, Joanne Laalo. Clare Barry was awarded CHICA – Canada Honourary Membership. Clare shared highlights from her career as well as a view to the future of the profession. The 2007 winner of the Ecolab poster was Laurie Boyer of North Bay, Ontario whose concept for the theme: "Infection Prevention and Control: Practice and Participate" was chosen by judges from CHICA-Canada, CHICA Northern Alberta (2007 host chapter), and Ecolab Healthcare. An Honourable Mention was awarded to Esther Giesbrecht of Calgary, Alberta. The First Time Best Abstract Winner was Melody Cordoviz of Edmonton, Alberta who co-authored the abstract: "*Welcome To The Big Top: Piloting Infection Control Guidelines In A Mobile Triage Centre*"

The 3 M Chapter Achievement Award went to CHICA Chapter Southwestern Ontario Professionals in Infection Control (SOPIC). The winning chapter for the CBIC Chapter Achievement Award went to the Toronto Professionals in Infection Control (TPIC). The 2007 3M Research Award was given to Anne Bialachowski for a study on *Long-Term Care Professionals Perceived Barriers and Facilitators to Implementing Infection Control Best Practice Guidelines*. The 2007 Best Oral Presentation award went to JoAnne Burt, Oshawa, Ontario for her presentation: *The Development Of An Electronic Tool, Using Microsoft Excel, To Simplify Costing Of Clusters, Outbreaks And Other Applications For The Infection Control Practitioner(ICP) In Acute And Long Term Care*. The 2007 Best Poster Presentation award went to Kathryn Bush, Calgary, Alberta, for her presentation: *Educating Medical Students About Infection Control: There And Back Again*. Virox Technologies and its Partners (Deb Canada, Johnson Diversey, Steris Corporation and Webber Training) presented 10 Scholarships to deserving members to enable them to attend the national education conference.

Another highlight of the opening ceremony was the launching of the national *Hand Hygiene Campaign* by Philip Hassen, CEO, Canadian Patient Safety Institute. The presentation was an accumulation of the work that CHICA and the Safety Institute achieved through partnership regarding hand hygiene.

In 2007 CHICA Membership reached an all time high of over 1400 members. Chapter memberships have seen significant increases. Two Chapters achieved over 100% increase in membership – COPIC and CHICA Vancouver Island). The NB/PEI Chapter increased by 73%. The Annual General Meeting in Edmonton had 150 members in attendance. Hopefully this comes as recognition of the increasing importance of the infection prevention and control professional in the health care field.

Mary E LeBlanc RN BN CIC
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