

## **CHICA-Montreal**

### **Executive 2007**

President: Silvana Perna N, Msc (A), CIC  
Vice President: Frederica Gaspard  
Treasurer and Membership: Connie Forget Falcicchio N, MSc (A)  
Secretary: André Larose N BScN

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### **Number of Members**

Our chapter is made up of 67 members including 13 industry members and four physicians. The majority of the members are nurses, namely infection prevention and control professionals. We are identifying strategies to increase our membership.

### **Geographic Area Served**

The members of CHICA-Montreal are from the Greater Montreal area (island of Montreal, Laval and Longueuil) with the exception of five members that are from nearby cities in Quebec.

Two new roles have been added: those of AIPI liaison (Lyne St-Martin) and Industry Consultant (Michele Stevens). We have two associations in Infection Prevention and Control in Quebec, where one is geared towards the francophone population. The language barrier has been a challenge for CHICA-Montreal, especially in recruiting new members. For this reason we have created the role of a liaison where the goal is to promote collaboration between AIPI and CHICA Montreal and to increase educational opportunities for IP&C practitioners. We also added an Industry Consultant on the executive in order to facilitate our partnership with industries.

One of our objectives this year is to create and elaborate a web page for our chapter. We have begun, however, this requires a big time commitment and we are searching for someone who can take on this role.

Once again this year we organized an Educational Day event. A lot of hard work was done by the organizing committee, which included members from the Executive as well as other chapter members. The title of the event was: "From Bed Pans to Sterilizers...Issues in Housekeeping, Sterilization and Infection Control. Let's Clean up our Act!" The day was a big success. We had excellent attendance and received positive feedback. We had two expert speakers on the topics: Dr. Michele Alfa and Dr. G. Pichette.

Due to the nature of the topic, we had representation from other associations as well e.g. Hygiene et salubrité, sterilization, OR nurses, etc. This event allowed us to raise money that we will reinvest in education and in encouraging members who do not get subsidies from their employers, to attend the CHICA national conference in 2008 that will take place in Montreal. .

### **Meetings**

In May 2007 our members voted to change our chapter name to CHICA- Montreal. In general, our Executive meets on a monthly basis prior to the educational sessions and on an ad hoc basis. Teleconferences are sometimes held to discuss issues. Educational sessions include a presentation on a selected topic and given by an invited speaker followed by an exchange and update of information, projects, etc for the members.

Below are the dates and topics of the education sessions that occurred during the year:

February 2007 Mesures intérimaires en hygiène et salubrité

May 2007 L'aérobiologie de l'influenza

June 2007 - CHICA annual conference in Edmonton

October 12, 2007 CHICA-Montreal education day

October 18, 2007 Links with CPSI and Infection Prevention and Control - How can infection prevention and control professionals become involved in the safety initiatives?

November 15, 2007 Research study presented at the 47th Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy (Chicago, Sept. 2007) - *Alcohol Rub and Antiseptic Wipes are Inferior to Soap and Water for Removal of Clostridium difficile by Handwashing*

### **Highlights**

Our chapter is very pleased to be hosting the annual CHICA conference in 2008. Three members of our executive (Ramona Rodrigues, Lyne St-Martin and Frédérica Gaspard) are on the scientific committee.

*Silvana Perna N., Msc (A), CIC  
Chapter President*