

ARCHIVIST

The 2008 conjoint education conference was co-hosted by the l'Association des infirmières en prévention des infections (AIPI) au Québec and CHICA – Canada in Montreal from May 29 – June 5. This conference lived up to its theme. There was truly a “*Mosaic*” of culture, with representatives attending from eight countries. Registrants numbered over 725 which in itself is a great CHICA conference accomplishment. A wide variety of disciplines attended, across the continuum of care, with a great range of expertise. This made the networking opportunities very rich in enhancing infection prevention and control knowledge.

In addition to the conference registrants, over 100 exhibiting companies along with several not-for-profit organizations made visiting 110 booths a marathon. There were 24 oral and 58 posters, displaying that evidence-based practice is alive and well in Canada and other countries. It's this commitment to sharing that encourages us to preserve in our practice and attend our national education conferences.

On the topic of networking, an inaugural meeting took place called the “*Network of Networks*” where invited provincial representatives met with representatives from existing provincial networks to discuss similarities and differences in reaching the common goals of infection prevention and control programs. The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) representatives attended and spoke of surveillance initiatives across the country.

The chapter presidents met with various CHICA Board Members to be appraised of board activities. The presidents shared the highlights from each of their chapter's yearly activities. In addition, numerous interest groups met to network, share experiences, hear education presentations and build relationships. A new group met for the first time, the Applied Surveillance and Epidemiology Interest Group. This year the conference planning allowed for the majority of interest group meetings to be held before the main education sessions began. This format provided more time for collaboration within special IP&C practice areas.

Numerous members were acknowledged for their achievements over the past year. The Best First Time Abstract Winner was Julia Carboneau, Ste Anne-de-Bellevue, Quebec for her abstract *Le triage informatise: une approche proactive d'endiguement d'une eventuelle pandémie*. Solumed sponsored two oral presentations and the winners were: Melody Cordiviz, Edmonton, AB on her presentation: *Lights, Camera, Action: Being an Infection Control Paparazzo (ICP)* and Lina Moisan, Laval, Quebec on her presentation “*Do you know what's on your hands and pagers? Or; how to sensitize Healthcare Workers to the importance of Hand Hygiene*”. The 2008 Ecolab sponsored Infection Control Week Poster Contest was won by Ellen Otterbein, Waterloo, ON. Jennifer Grant, from Vancouver and Johanne Gagne, from Montreal were both winners for their poster presentations. The 2007 Editorial Award went to Larry Chambers, Anne Mc Carthy, Annette O'Connor, Frank Knoefel, Jane Sutherland, Donna Pierrynowski, Donna Baker, Joanne Villeneuve, Paula Arnold, for their article on: *Development and evaluation of a decision aid about influenza prevention for healthcare workers* (CJIC Vol.22, No.4, Winter, 2007). The Toronto Professionals in Infection Control were winners at the 2008 conference, winning the 3M Chapter Achievement Award. Numerous CHICA members were recognized as being the recipient of Virox Technology Partnership Scholarships.

The third annual Run for IFIC was held in beautiful Old Montreal on Monday, June 2, 2008. Despite an early morning mist, 26 hardy 5K runners and 2.5K walkers laced up to raise funds for the scholarship program of the International Federation of Infection Control. A donation of \$3300.00 from pledges and \$2500.00 from the Board of CHICA-Canada has been sent to IFIC. Thanks to Frederica Gaspard and CHICA-Montreal chapter for their assistance in coordinating the 2008 Run for IFIC.

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