

CHICA-SOUTHERN ALBERTA

Executive 2008

President: Kathryn Bush MSc MLT
President-elect: Debbie Lam-Li BSc CIC
Secretary: Heather MacLaurin RN BScN OHNC
Treasurer: Eileen Stamp RN BSc

Executive 2009

President: Debbie Lam-Li BSc ART CIC
President-elect: Deb Doe RN CIC
Secretary: Heather MacLaurin RN BScN OHNC
Treasurer: Eileen Stamp RN BSc

Number of Members: 56

Geographic Area Served:

Southern Alberta, this includes all areas from Red Deer south to the US border, west to the BC border and east to the Saskatchewan border.

Membership

CHICA Southern Alberta is comprised of members with varied backgrounds representing several sectors in health care including acute care (adult and pediatric), continuing care, home care, community, public health, industry and education.

Meetings

The chapter meetings are held in Calgary, on the first Wednesday of the month. There are eight meetings annually (no meetings in July, August or December). Next year the chapter will be investigating the use of technology to facilitate meeting attendance for out of town chapter members.

Our new chapter meeting format trial is over to great success – last year we decided to re-format our chapter meetings to offer different areas of focus at each meeting.

- Two meetings are devoted to annual chapter business.
- Three meetings focus on education with an invited guest speaker. Education offerings this year included a presentation on C.difficile from Canadian expert (and CHICA-SA member) Dr. Tom Louie.
- Two meetings that we call “Networking” where we focus on chapter projects. This year, those projects included seminar planning; website development, including plans for a CHICA-SA archive section (for members’ stories and pictures of past chapter events). Another meeting was a focus group format to provide feedback on future CHICA-Canada conference planning and education needs.
- The June meeting is a social event with a catered lunch and CHICA-Canada Conference debriefing for members. It’s a great social time and members bring along any posters they presented at the conference for the rest of group to view. This year, Dr. Sandy Black from the Calgary Zoo spoke to membership about Infection Prevention and Control in that venue, to the delight of the membership.

Highlights

Several of our chapter members have contributed much of their time to committee work. Some of this work is highlighted below:

- Nancy Alfieri represents CHICA-SA as a Co-chair of the Alberta Infection Prevention and Control Advisory Committee.
- Karen Hope continued to serve on CHICA-Canada as the co-chair for the 2008 Conjoint CHICA and AIPI conference in Montreal. In addition, she effectively participated in lobbying for the development of the National Infection Disease Strategy.

- Dr. Elizabeth Henderson has been actively involved with the CHEC and CNISP programs as Chair of the Data Quality Sub Committee and SSI Point Prevalence committee. She also serves as co-chair of the newly formed Epidemiology Interest Group for CHICA-Canada
- Wendy Runge served as national faculty member for the Canadian Patient Safety Institute campaign, 'Safer Health Care Now!' (ARO initiative). Wendy is also a member of the Alberta Expert Review Panel for Blood Borne Infections in Health Care Workers and the Calgary Health Region IPC representative on the Provincial 'Delivery of Healthcare Services in Correctional Facilities' working group.
- Eileen Stamp will lead a chapter working group to create a 5-year budget plan for the chapter.
- Several of our chapter members are actively involved in CHICA interest groups and sub committees and several members presented at the Montreal CHICA-Canada conference.

In March, CHICA-Canada and BD-Canada presented the Calgary stop of the MRSA Roadshow. Speakers included Calgary experts: Dr. Marie Louie, Dr. Tom Louie and Nancy Alfieri (Calgary Health Region IPC Director). Bernice Heinrichs from Alberta Health and Wellness gave some insights on new provincial IPC standards and guidelines, and Dr. David Tison from Tacoma Washington offered an American perspective. The chapter thanks CHICA-Canada and Becton Dickinson for sponsoring the event and Gwyneth Meyers for her role as local coordinator.

Strong ties exist between the Alberta chapters, CHICA-SA and CHICA-NA. For example, the David Thompson Health Region straddles the borders of the two Chapters so IPC professionals from that region can belong to either chapter. There is a provincial networking meeting with CHICA-SA and CHICA-NA every September in Red Deer, halfway between Calgary and Edmonton. The chapters also collaborated on a letter to the Alberta Minister of Health on the potential role of CHICA chapters in IPC education in the province. This collaboration highlights the provincial cooperation that already exists with IPC professionals in the province and the future for provincial networking appears bright. Since the joint meeting in September, CHICA-NA and CHICA-SA members interested in exploring the future of IPC under AHS, have formed an Interest Group (lead by Denise Sorel, CHICA-NA). The meetings are by teleconference every second Friday morning.

Education:

This year, the CHICA-SA education seminar took place on September 11 and 12, right after the joint Alberta Chapters meeting. "Under the Microscope: Improving Infection Control Practices" was a timely offering following the Alberta Health and Wellness release of new provincial IPC Standards, and was a tremendous success. Alison Devine and her seminar planning team afforded the 187 participants (front line health care providers or managers from Acute Care, Continuing Care, Emergency Services, Public Health, Community Care, Medical Clinics, Rural Health Care, Mental Health, Infection Prevention and Control, and the Medical Industry) insights into infection prevention and control in acute care, community care and EMS. Conference participants also included the Medical Officer of Health for Alberta Health Services: DTHR, the Vice President of Public Health & Infection Control Executive for the David Thompson Health Region of Alberta Health Services. Representatives from provincial groups were present, such as Alberta College of Paramedics and Alberta Health and Wellness.

On the final seminar day the participants were divided into workgroups based on the health care service area in which they practice. The groups included Emergency Medical Services, Home Care and Community Clinics, Acute Care, Continuing Care, Rural Health Facilities, and Infection Prevention and Control. Discussions were facilitated and summarized by each of these groups regarding the practices of infection control in their sector of care. The conference served as a beginning of a networking structure: the EMS participants have now established a provincial communication group for EMS to continue these discussions. As well, the participants from Home Care and Medical Clinics from across the province have now established their own email network to continue their discussions.

I would like to thank all the people I have worked with this year as Chapter President. It has been a great learning experience and a pleasure to serve this chapter; 2009 promises to be another exciting year.

*Kathryn Bush MSc
Chapter President*