

## CHICA-MONTREAL

### 2009 Executive

President: Silvana Perna N Msc (A) CIC  
Vice President: Frederica Gaspard  
Treasurer/Membership: Connie Forget Falcicchio N MSc (A)  
Past President: Leila Ramman-Haddad BScN CIC  
Secretary: Andrée Larose N BScN

### 2010 Executive

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**Number of Members:** Our chapter is made up of 97 members. The majority of the members are nurses, namely infection prevention and control professionals.

**Geographic Area Served:** The majority of the members of CHICA Montreal are from the Greater Montreal area (island of Montreal, Laval and Longueuil).

The members of the executive have remained the same with the exception of two who have retired. Michele Stevens, our industry representative, and Andrée Larose, our secretary, left our executive in May and December respectively. We are currently searching for their replacements.

Unfortunately, due to the H1N1 pandemic, the education activities of our chapter have decreased compared to the previous years and our annual education day was postponed to the following year. Our new education chair, Guylaine Morin, and the education committee, organized two very successful education sessions. Both sessions included very hot topics: The Grey Zones and H1N1 influenza. Education sessions include a presentation on a selected topic given by an invited speaker followed by an exchange and update of information, projects, etc. for the members.

Recruitment continues to be a challenge for our chapter mainly due to the language barrier. Our membership remained the same from 2008. We are continuously searching for ways to improve this. Liaison with AIPI remains a strategy for overcoming this barrier to promote collaboration between the two associations and to increase educational opportunities for IP&C practitioners. Other strategies include soliciting different groups such as the long term care and community health (CLSC) groups. Another incentive that the executive has discussed is the possibility of offering non-members to attend the education sessions at no cost. We also explored different venues or forums for the education sessions such as having half day education sessions with 2-3 speakers and lunch provided.

The elaboration of a webpage is slowly progressing. This was put on hold for a while but will be resumed in 2010. The IT technician we have hired will be working closely with Fernanda Cordeiro, our webpage coordinator. One of our challenges is to translate all the contents of our webpage.

### Meetings

Again, due to H1N1 pandemic, the number of meetings also decreased. Last year our executive committee met four times (including teleconferences). Our goal is to have executive meetings (in person or by teleconference) prior to the educational sessions and at an ad hoc basis. A suggestion to have longer, less frequent meetings will be implemented in 2010. The executive also communicates regularly by email when specific questions need to be addressed.

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

Date (2008)	Speaker	Topic	Comments
February 19	<i>Therese Bigras, N. MSc. Coordinator of IPC Hopital Sacre Coeur</i>	<i>Les Zones Grises (The Grey Zones)</i>	Very good turnout. Hot topic.
October 21	Dr. André Dascal, MD Microbiologist, Infectious Diseases		Standing room only!!! This presentation was also open to all Jewish General Hospital staff.

### Highlights

Although seven scholarships at \$600.00 each to attend the conference in St. John's were offered to our members, only four applied. This may in part be due to the language barrier as the CHICA Canada conference is given in English. The other reason may be that some members may not receive any funding at all from their employers and hence a scholarship of 600.00 would not be helpful.

Our chapter participated in the CHICA/PHAC pilot project for the Routine Practices and Additional Precautions Educational/Risk tools.

### Objectives for 2010

1. Find replacements for the two vacant positions: Industry Representative and Secretary
2. Increase the membership of our chapter and the attendance at the monthly education sessions through increased promotional activities.
  - Conduct a survey with the members on topics and speakers of interest for educational events
  - Organize education sessions with key speakers on "hot" topics in IP&C and schedule ahead of time for the upcoming year
  - Include some education sessions that are "free" for non-members as an incentive to join the chapter
  - Include two education half days with lunch included. Solicit industry sponsors to support this event.
  - Organize teleconferences to be available to other professionals/groups who may become potential chapter members
  - Organize an annual education day
  - Lobby with other groups such as l'AMMIQ (Association des médecins microbiologistes du Québec) and the LTC and CLSC groups to become members of CHICA
3. Change the manner in which the scholarship funds are distributed. Rather than setting a fixed amount per scholarship, determine a total amount allocated for scholarship and award to members according to financial need and number of applicants. Provide funding for other educational events as well.
4. Develop a liaison with AIPI
5. Continue to work on our webpage

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