

## **PRESIDENT**

It has been my pleasure to represent CHICA-Canada during my term as president. I wish to offer my sincere thanks to the Board of Directors and staff of CHICA-Canada for the support and friendship during this past year. Without their help, this role would have been very difficult.

### **1. To expand member services to meet the needs of the CHICA-Canada membership:**

#### **a. Strategic Planning**

In 2009, strategic planning was a main activity of the board in order to plan the direction of CHICA-Canada for the next five years as well as to ensure that the needs of the membership were addressed. A two-day Strategic Planning Session was held at the 2009 conference in St. John's. The result was the 2010-2015 Strategic Plan containing new Vision, Mission and Values Statements, and objectives for 2010-2015.

## **VISION**

CHICA-Canada will be a major national and international leader and the recognized resource in Canada for the promotion of best practice in infection prevention and control.

## **MISSION**

CHICA-Canada is a national, multidisciplinary association committed to the wellness and safety of Canadians by promoting best practice in infection prevention and control through education, standards, advocacy and consumer awareness.

## **VALUES**

CHICA-Canada ascribes to the following values:

Professional Integrity – To be principled, forthright and ethical, upholding the highest standards in all of our activities.

Critical Thinking – To employ critical thinking in our decision making to do the right thing for the right reasons.

Accessibility – To be accessible to our members and stakeholders.

Responsiveness – To be responsive and creative in meeting the membership's needs.

Innovation – To be resourceful and inventive in advancing infection prevention and control knowledge and practice.

Diversity – To respect and embrace national and international social and cultural differences.

Advocacy – To advance practices that protect consumers.

Excellence – To pursue excellence in all our endeavors.

## **2010-2015 GOALS**

GOAL ONE: Raise the profile of the association and its activities

GOAL TWO: Enhance the mix of products and services

GOAL THREE: Expand the association's education initiatives

GOAL FOUR: Expand and develop the membership base

GOAL FIVE: Provide national and international leadership

#### **b. National Education Conference**

The national education conference in 2009 was held in beautiful St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador. Despite the threat of reduced attendance due to the pandemic, the conference was a success. Over 400 delegates were in attendance, including representatives from a number of international areas, and 65 exhibiting companies. All enjoyed an educational program that addressed up to the minute issues including the H1N1 pandemic.

#### **c. Road Shows**

In November, I participated in the MRSA road show in Victoria, BC with a number of other board members. The group was very appreciative of the information shared. Thank you to BD Canada for making this event possible.

**d. Virox Scholarships:**

In February, the executive reviewed the Virox scholarship applicants for the 2009 educational conference and provided input for the selection of the candidates. Of 36 applicants, 14 scholarships were awarded to practitioners all across Canada.

The executive then reviewed the Virox scholarship application for the 2010 educational conference. A number of changes were suggested in order to allow more novice ICP's to apply.

**e. Voices of CHICA and Chapter presidents Teleclass:**

I participated in the Webber teleclass to update Chapter Presidents and members on Board activities and CHICA initiatives in the spring and fall of 2009.

**2. To increase CHICA-Canada's influence and profile nationally and internationally, as a leader in infection prevention and control.**

**a. Liaison to the Certification Board of Infection Control and Epidemiology**

As president, I attended the CBIC Board meeting in Austin, Texas in January, Fort Lauderdale, Florida in June and in Phoenix, Arizona in October. Two new Canadians were welcomed to the of CBIC, Dr. Kathy Suh, and Kathy McGhie.

Discussions at the meetings included strategic planning, the practice analysis survey which was sent out to APIC and CHICA-Canada members during the month of April, incorporation of a novice ICP on to the board, and individuals falsely representing themselves as a CIC.

2009 marks a major change in the requirements for certification with CBIC. No longer is a minimum 2 years practice required for first time writers. CBIC will no longer provide a CIC Award to the Canadian practitioners. This has always been a great way to recognize the work of the ICPs in accomplishing this certification. CHICA-Canada now presents its own acknowledgement to CIC Chapter Achievement. At the 2009 conference, CHICA-Canada present an award recognizing a chapter's CIC achievements to CHICA-BC.

At the meetings I continue to communicate the frustrations many Canadians were having over the testing process in Canada. CBIC is continuing to monitor this situation.

**b. Canadian Patient Safety Institute**

We were approached by CPSI to put forward a couple of names for the public representative on the CPSI board. CHICA put forward two very good candidates. Neither candidate was elected into this position.

I also began planning for the CPSI forum 2010 as co-chair of the infection control stream along with Gerry Hansen. Several good abstracts have been submitted by our membership for presentation at this event. These are currently under review for placement into the program.

**c. National Patient Safety Round Table**

I attended the national patient safety round table meeting in Ottawa May 26<sup>th</sup>, and December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009. This forum provides an opportunity to influence patient safety through collaborative actions. Several Action Items came out of this discussion:

Client and family education/awareness about patient safety  
Education and Curriculum  
Patient Safety Framework

CHICA volunteered to sit on the education and curriculum group. One teleconference has been held to redefine the role of the group and how to get patient safety as a part of all educational curriculums for health care workers.

Infection Prevention and Control continues to be a focus for the many safety initiatives from the varying groups around the table. Accreditation focus and quality councils continue to have programs that include prevention measures such as hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, and access to personal protective equipment for all health care workers.

**d. CCAR**

The Canadian Committee on Antibiotic Resistance (CCAR) and the Public Health Agency of Canada had organized a series of consultations on antimicrobial resistance (AMR). CHICA-Canada was involved in many of these consultative processes. The final report has been drafted and can be found on the CCAR website <http://www.ccar-ccra.com/english/home-e.shtml>.

CHICA Canada has been invited to sit on a group focusing on the next evolution in Antimicrobial Resistance in Canada. A consultation is being hosted by the National Collaborating Centre for Infectious Diseases (NCCID) on *Community Acquired Antimicrobial Resistance (caAMR)*. The consultation will focus on population-level interventions to reduce the development of antimicrobial resistance and the spread of antimicrobial-resistant bacteria in community settings.

The primary anticipated outcomes of the consultation will be to:

- Expand understanding of the Canadian situation with respect to caAMR, including its epidemiology and interventions to reduce risk/transmission
- Identify strategies and priorities for addressing caAMR
- Clarify NCCID's role in contributing to the reduction of caAMR in Canada
- Provide opportunities for meaningful collaboration between human, animal, and environmental health experts

**e. International Federation of Infection Control**

During the presidents luncheon at the CHICA conference in St. John's, it was proposed that through IFIC, member societies get together and take on a joint project. Further discussions on this occurred at the APIC, IPS and IFIC conferences. Suggested group initiatives include the e-linking of member societies' websites to IFIC's website, and a worldwide initiative through member societies around global hand hygiene day May 5<sup>th</sup>.

As president, I represented CHICA at the IFIC conference in Vilnius, Lithuania in October. The event saw representation from countries around the world representing resourced, under resourced and developing countries and programs. Much sharing of ideas occurred. Along with two other CHICA members (Carol Goldman and Donna Moralejo), we presented a well received presentation of making routine practices routine in Canada. Follow up request for articles on this topic have been received both nationally and internationally.

**f. Other Conferences**

As president I was able to represent CHICA-Canada at two other international conferences, APIC and IPS.

The APIC conference was held in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, where a formal presentation was given to their board of directors and a chance to network with those facing similar issues as we face in Canada with Infection Prevention and Control.

In September, as president, I was invited to attend the Infection Prevention Society's annual convention in Harrogate, UK. This was the first time a sitting president was able to attend this meeting. This meeting

gave a valuable opportunity to interact with the European Infection control community and to learn from their experiences of dealing with similar issues such as ARO's and pandemic planning.

**g. Infectious Disease and Emergency Preparedness Branch PHAC**

I was invited to participated in teleconferences with Dr. Danielle Grondin and other agencies across Canada on H1N1 vaccine briefings representing CHICA-Canada and providing feedback of issues from our membership. Links to guidelines and related materials placed on the website.

**3. To develop an enhanced infrastructure required to support the strategic directions:**

As CHICA-Canada continues to grow, so too does the workload by members of the Board. Need to evaluate the Board position descriptions with our strategic priorities in mind as well as the roles of our support staff.

Along with the board, the following changes have been made to the staff of CHICA-Canada:

- The executive administrator's role now changed to that of executive director.
- Administrative support position to be made full time.
- Other support services to be brought on as needed.
- Investigate into a communication firm to work with CHICA.

**National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI)**

*Submitted by Suzanne Pelletier, RN BScN CIC, liaison member to the Committee.*

NACI is a scientific advisory committee for the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), Immunization and Respiratory Infections Division. NACI meets three times per year (February, June and October).

For 2009, NACI published four Advisory Committee Statements, including:

- Evidence-based Recommendations for Immunizations – Methods of the National Advisory Committee on Immunization
- Update on the Invasive Meningococcal Disease and Meningococcal Vaccine Conjugate
- Recommendations Statement on Seasonal Trivalent Inactivated Influenza Vaccine (TIV) for 2009-10
- Recommendations Regarding the Management of Bat Exposures to Prevent Human Rabies

The committee will begin the revisions for the 8<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Canadian Immunization Guide during the 2010 meeting schedule.

## **INFECTION CONTROL ONTARIO**

*The following report is submitted by Inez Landry, Chair, and Infection Control Ontario 2009*

Infection Control Ontario (ICO) is an Allied Group Member of the Ontario Hospital Association (OHA).

### **Active Members 2009**

CHICA – Eastern Ontario	Kathleen Poole
CHICA – HANDIC	Mary –Catherine Orvidas
CHICA – Northwestern Ontario	Nancy Robertson
CHICA – Northeastern Ontario	Isabelle Langman
CHICA – Ottawa Region	Inez Landry, Treasurer, Chair
	Nancy Brown
CHICA-HUPIC	
CHICA-SWO	Brenda Prouse
TPIC	Sharon O’Grady

Infection Control Ontario Terms of Reference were reviewed and revised.

### **Activities and Accomplishments in 2009**

- Kathleen Poole was the new ICO representative on the Joint OHA/OMA Communicable Diseases Surveillance Protocols Committee in 2009. Inez Landry continues on this committee as an official OHA rep on this committee. The OHA/OMA Communicable Diseases Surveillance Protocols are available at [www.oha.com](http://www.oha.com).
- ICO continues to provide comments to Ministry of Health & LTC on draft best practice as documents on request.
- Inez Landry and Nancy Brown were on planning committee for OHA Public Reporting education day, Patient Safety Indicators: A Year in Review and Opportunities for the Future, September 23, 2009. Inez Landry chaired this one-day conference; Dr. Michael Baker, Provincial Lead, Patient Safety, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and Physician-in-Chief, University Health Network, reviewed the current Ontario government initiative and discussed future directions. The conference also highlighted the impact public reporting has made in other jurisdictions, provided updates about each of the indicators and shared examples of successful public, front-line staff and senior management engagement. Concurrent sessions facilitated in-depth discussion on provincial guidelines, best practices and improvement tools for CLI / VAP and SSI-Prevention. Participants also had the opportunity to discuss with colleagues strategies as to how these reporting requirements have been incorporated into existing quality, safety and risk management frameworks.
- ICO members planned the program for the Infection Prevention and Control/ Occupational Health and Safety session for the 2009 OHA Health Achieve conference. Inez Landry co-chaired the session and the topics presented were: Pandemic Planning – Lessons Learned and Best Practices; Panel Discussion, Public Health Agency Perspective; The Pregnant Health Care Worker Perspective; and The Front-line Health Care Worker Perspective.
- Inez Landry reviewed and provided comments for the draft OHA Hand Hygiene Education Module.
- Brenda Prouse and Mary-Catherine Orvidas were welcomed as new ICO members in 2009.

## **APIC TEXT COMMITTEE REPORT**

*Submitted by: Linda Adam RN BScN CIC*

The Third Edition (2009) APIC text was completed in the spring. This consists of 2 volumes: essential elements, and scientific and practice elements. The text was launched at the 2009 APIC conference in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. The second edition included the text on a CD. Purchasers of this edition will receive on-line access to an electronic copy of the text. The committee is exploring a move to an all- electronic version of the text in the future. All text authors received a complimentary copy of the text. The text will be available for sale at the CHICA – Canada annual conference in May.

## **CANADIAN COALITION FOR PUBLIC HEALTH IN THE 21st CENTURY**

*Submitted by: Colleen Nisbet RN MHSc CIC, CHICA-Canada Representative to CCPH21*

My first meeting in attendance at Canadian Coalition for Public Health in the 21st Century (CCPH21) occurred on September 16, 2009 via teleconference. Three primary issues were tabled at this meeting:

- 1) Review and discussion of the CCPH21 draft action plan. With CPHA taking the lead on this initiative, the plan was developed through the collaboration of Jill Skinner, Doug McCall, Pamela Fralick, John Tucker, Debra Lynkowski, and Jim Chauvin. Specifics of discussion included:
  - a. Strategic priorities on guaranteed funding, Public Health human resources and Public Health leadership
  - b. Duration of Action Items required
  - c. Operational Priorities.
- 2) 2010 Fees – For the first time CCPH21 members will be charged a fee of \$1,000 per member. There is a proviso in the policy however, for organizations that have very limited financial resources. Those organizations may make a request in writing, to the CCPH21 Secretariat requesting a reduced fee.
- 3) Canadian Public Health Association 2010 Conference – discussion took place regarding the possibility of a face to face meeting of CCPH21 at the conference.

Further to September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009, documents circulated via e-mail included:

- 1) Healthy Futures for BC Families- September 15<sup>th</sup>
- 2) CPHA submission to the Standing Committee on Finance. – September 17<sup>th</sup>
- 3) Let our CCPH21 partners know that CPHA will launch soon a Canadian H1N1 Information Clearinghouse – October 9
- 4) Pandemic H1N1: Fast Facts for Frontline Clinicians - Oct 30

## **ACCREDITATION CANADA**

*The following report submitted by Dick Zoutman MD FRCPC, CHICA-Canada Representative to Accreditation Canada*

Accreditation Canada continues to work closely with CHICA-Canada in developing its standards.

1. The current Infection Control standards for accreditation in QMentum are being used across the country.
2. Accreditation Canada updated its MRSA definition to match the Public Health Agency of Canada/ CHICA-Canada harmonized definition. There was some initial concern that the Accreditation Canada MRSA definition was somehow different from the harmonized national definition, but this was clarified. The definitions are matched. Accreditation Canada does ask that hospitals also collect MRSA colonization rate data as well.
3. The Accreditation Canada C difficile Infection definition is in the process of being updated to match the national harmonized definition.
4. Accreditation Canada intends to add antimicrobial stewardship as a new requirement under infection prevention and control. This is a welcome addition to the standard.

CHICA-Canada and Accreditation Canada enjoy a strong working relationship.

*Cathy Munford RN CIC  
President 2009*

## **PRESIDENT-ELECT**

The past year has been an interesting and challenging one in my role as president-elect. A special thank you to Cathy Munford, Gerry Hansen, and other members of the board of directors for all of their support during the past year. At the May National Education Conference I participated in a two-day strategic planning workshop and worked with the board to review, revise and approve the final plan. The following report summarizes my activities as president elect as they relate to our strategic goals.

### **GOAL ONE: Raise the profile of the association and its activities**

- Attended CCAR consultation meeting in Ottawa, May 2009 on behalf of the president. Participated in discussions about antibiotic resistance and how all of the organizations present could support the work of CCAR when it ceased operations in September 2009.
- Attended Ontario Antimicrobial Stewardship Consensus conference as a CHICA and RICN representative. Final report developed from the conference outlined priority interventions for Ontario Hospitals. Support to attend the conference provided by the Central South Infection Control Network.
- Attended CSA annual board meeting in Toronto, October 2009 and provided a presentation on CHICA. Request received to have on-going CHICA representative on the CSA board. Chair of Standards and Guidelines Committee chosen to represent CHICA.
- Voices of CHICA teleconference
- provided an update on the audit toolkit project to CHICA members
- Attended the APIC Infection Prevention Week launch and was part of the audience for the webcast for the inaugural Health Care Administrators Award. ORNAC and CHICA-Canada representatives were generously sponsored by 3M Canada. This was an excellent opportunity for discussions with our ORNAC counterparts and US colleagues.

### **GOAL TWO: Enhance the mix of products and services**

CHICA Audit toolkit- Met weekly as working group co-lead to develop IPAC audit tools. Initial series of audit tools released on the website during Infection Control Week 2009.

### **GOAL THREE: Expand the association's education initiatives**

- Met with Peel Police representative about their Personal Protection Strategy model to provide feedback on their request for CHICA-Canada endorsement.
- Participated in the Virox Scholarship selection committee
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### **GOAL FOUR: Expand and develop the membership base**

#### Interest Groups

- ✓ Attended interest group meetings at the national conference including an exploratory Interest group for Public Health and the Network of Networks. Suggestion made that PH meet within the Community interest group and form a work group within that interest group.
- ✓ Worked with Bruce Gamage as he prepared the submission to have a new interest group approved. The Network of Networks interest group was approved with recommended changes to the terms of reference at the November Board meeting. This group met in 2007 and 2008 at the national conference as part of invitation only workshops. Interest in this group has continued. There has been on-going dialog since the conference with excellent sharing of information particularly as it related to H1N1.
- ✓ Responded to questions from interest group members as they arose throughout the year

## CHICA Chapter-

New CHICA Chapter, *CHICA-Peel* endorsed by the board at the November meeting. Worked closely with Alexis Silverman as she prepared the submission for approval of a new Chapter.

### **GOAL FIVE: Provide national and international leadership**

- Chapter Presidents teleclasses
  - ✓ Chaired two teleclasses
- National ARO Prevalence Study
  - ✓ Assisted President and Executive Director to respond to a request for CHICA to endorse and market an ARO prevalence study to our membership.
  - ✓ Presented the prevalence study to Surveillance and Epidemiology group meeting at the annual conference and provided an opportunity for feed-back and questions related to the study.
  - ✓ Met with one of the principal investigators, President and Executive director via teleconference to ask additional questions and provide feed-back.
  - ✓ Drafted response letter to principal investigators on behalf of the President.
  - ✓ Reviewed study protocol with Education Director and provided feed-back to study principles
  - ✓ participated in selection of CHICA representatives on study team

### **Other Activities**

- Acted as MC at the roast to honor Dr Dick Zoutman for 12 years of service on the board

*Anne Bialachowski RN BN MS CIC*  
*President Elect*

## PAST PRESIDENT

This is a brief summary of the activities I have been involved in as the past president of CHICA-Canada.

- Attended the CHICA Canada Voices of CHICA Teleconference in September 2009
  - Presented an overview of the 2010 conference for members
- Member on the 2009 Scientific Committee
  - Participated in the review and revisions to Virox scholarship application
  - Attended the Scientific Committee meeting in Vancouver in October 2009
- Represented CHICA-Canada at the CPSI Strategic Planning meeting in September. The objective of the meeting were:
  - To receive feedback from participants on CPSI's 2008-2013 Strategic Plan activities to date.
  - Gain input from participants on any emerging issues that might impact the strategic plan.
  - CHICA-Canada should maintain its involvement with CPSI since one of our prime concerns is with patient safety
- Collaboration with the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA) to explore the feasibility of CNA certification for infection control practitioners in Canada
  - Two information sharing teleconferences were held with Ms. Leslie Patry, Manager, Certification Program with CNA. Members present: Gerry Hansen, Donna Moralejo & Marion Yetman
  - At present ICPs in Canada complete the CBIC American exam with three members of CHICA-Canada providing the Canadian input
    - This exam is not available in French so many of our colleagues in Quebec cannot participate in this opportunity for certification
  - CNA has expertise in developing certification exams as they presently have exams in nineteen specialty areas of nursing
  - As noted by Ms. Patry the preliminary considerations are:
    - Reciprocity/recognition by CNA for the current multi-disciplinary US based infection control certification
    - Development by CNA of a Canadian RN only certification examination
    - Development by CNA of a Canadian multidisciplinary certification examination
    - Status quo, Canadian nurses write the US certification examination (there is no formal recognition by CNA)
  - This item is for discussion with the Board Members
- Appointed as the CHICA-Canada representative on the Canadian Coalition for Immunization Awareness & Promotion
  - Meetings monthly via teleconference with CCIAP
  - Updates on immunization practices posted to CHICA-Canada web site
  - CHICA-Canada has committed to promoting immunization awareness by continuing to offer sessions at the annual conference on aspects of immunization
- Recruitment of Board Members
  - Helped with the selection of new Board members
  - Congratulations to our new members:
    - Ms. Donna Wiens RN BN CIC – President-Elect
    - Dr. Jennifer Grant, Medical Microbiologist at Vancouver General Hospital as Director of Standards & Guidelines
  - Special thanks to Karen Clinker for agreeing to additional 3 year term as Director of Programs and Projects
  - Special thanks to Bonnie Henry for her commitment to the organization

Thank you all for your support during my three year term with CHICA-Canada. It has been a fabulous experience.

*Marion Yetman RN BN MN CIC  
Past President*

## **SECRETARY/MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR**

### **General Membership:**

It is my pleasure to report that once again membership to CHICA-Canada has increased over previous years. As of November 1, 2009, there were 1595 members to CHICA-Canada. Please refer to the attached graphs for information regarding membership by province, institution and discipline.

### **Institutional Membership:**

There are currently 876 members holding Institutional Membership in 219 facilities.

### **Corporate Members (formerly ‘Industry Members’)**

On behalf of the Board of Directors of CHICA-Canada I would acknowledge the continued support of our Corporate Members:

- 3M Canada
- Abbott Laboratories
- ArjoHuntleigh
- Baxter Canada
- BD Canada
- Covidien
- Deb Canada
- Ecolab HealthCare
- Ethicon (A Division of Johnson & Johnson)
- GOJO Industries
- Laura Line Skin Care
- Maxill Inc.
- MedLine Canada
- Pharmax Limited
- Professional Disposables International
- Rubbermaid Canada
- SciCan
- Smith & Nephew
- Les entreprises Solumed, A 3M Canada Company
- STERIS Corporation
- The Stevens Company
- VernaCare
- Virox Technologies Inc
- Webber Training Inc.
- Wood Wyant

### **3M Chapter Achievement Award.**

Congratulations to CHICA HANDIC, winner of the 3M Chapter Achievement Award for 2009. Thank-you to 3M for their continual interest and support in the educational needs of our members.

### **3M Research Grant**

After discussion with the Board of Directors and 3M representatives, it has been decided to discontinue the 3M Research Grant. The funds will be put towards a new award, the Champions of Infection Prevention and Control.

### **Chapter Challenge Award:**

Three Chapters with the greatest increase in membership were rewarded again this year. Congratulations to CHICA-Northern Ontario (53% increase); CHICA-Renfrew County (45% increase); and CHICA – HUPIC (37.5% increase).

### **Virox Technologies National Conference Scholarship Fund:**

In 2009 Virox Technologies granted scholarships in the amount of \$15,000 to 14 CHICA-Canada members to assist with the costs of attending the CHICA-Canada National Conference held in beautiful St John's, Newfoundland. Virox has committed to increasing the award to \$20,000 in 2010. Many thanks to Virox Technologies for their continued support in continuing education for Infection Prevention and Control Professionals in CHICA-Canada.

### **Chapter of the Year Award (Previously awarded by CBIC)**

This award has historically been provided by CBIC and will now be awarded by CHICA-Canada to chapters with the largest increase in CIC holders. This award was granted to CHICA British Columbia in 2009.

### **2009 Ecolab Poster Contest**

The winner of the 2009 Ecolab Poster Contest is Kim Baker of Brampton, Ontario. An Honorary Mention was awarded to Andrea Groff of Whitby, Ontario. The theme for 2010 is "Infection Control – It's Simple." The host chapter is CHICA Newfoundland Labrador.

### **Honourary Membership**

Dr. Elizabeth Henderson was presented with an honorary membership to CHICA-Canada at the conference in St John's. Congratulations again and many thanks for all of her hard work and dedication for the many years she has been with Infection Control.

### **Strategic Plan Revisited**

The Strategic Plan of CHICA-Canada was revisited and updated in 2009. The 2010-2015 Membership Committee objectives are listed under Goal Four: Expand and develop the membership base;

Increase CHICA Canada membership in targeted areas

- Continue focus on current target groups
- identify and address new target groups
- produce appropriate resource

Develop a mentorship program for new ICPs

- Scan mentoring programs already in use
- Develop a CHICA-Canada specific Program
- Recruit mentors and support training, project management and association activities

Increase retention of retirees

- Promote associate membership for retirees
- Engage retirees in succession planning, project management and association activities

Promote membership opportunities and involvement

- Increase communication between chapter executives and the Board
- Prepare information packages for senior management
- Promote CHICA-Canada at conferences and events

**Bug-a-Doc Campaign:**

The Bug-a-Doc Campaign successfully continued into 2009. At the end of November, 2009 15 new physicians had joined CHICA Canada, for a total of 76.

**Membership Core Committee:**

- Membership Core Committee met face to face in St John's and via teleconferencing in 2009.
- Based upon input from the CHICA-Canada Board in Membership Meeting in Montreal in 2008, the Membership Core Committee has identified Infection Control Designates / Occupational Health and Safety / Environmental Services has target groups and have investigated methods reach these groups.
- Definitions for each group has been researched by members of the Core Committee and sent to Membership Office to assist in building brochures specific to each discipline.

**On-Line Registration:**

On-line registration is up and running for both members registering for membership and the annual conference.

*Bern Hankinson RN BN CIC  
Secretary /Membership Director*

## **DIRECTOR OF FINANCE**

The year 2009 was both exciting and challenging for infection prevention and control professionals as the promised pandemic arrived. It was also challenging personally as I transitioned into the role of Finance Director.

In 2009 CHICA–Canada successfully launched on-line membership registration allowing chapters to maintain current membership lists and receive payment of chapter fees on a monthly basis. CHICA–Canada memberships once again increased this year.

Recognizing the many responsibilities of our volunteers, in 2009 the Board of Directors agreed to provide funding to support updates and additions to the Audit Toolkit. The toolkit is yet another example of the numerous free resources available on-line to our membership.

CHICA–Canada continues to provide funding to allow members to represent the association on many organizations and committees at local, national and international levels. The *Journal* continues to return a profit under the direction of Pat Piaskowski. The CHICA–Canada website is continually updated and is well utilized by members and non-members many of whom are from outside Canada.

This was the seventh year Virox Scholarship funding allowed a number of our members to attend the annual CHICA – Canada conference. Thank you to Virox Technologies for their continued educational support.

My personal thanks to Cindy Plante-Jenkins, the finance director for the previous six years; her hard work, planning and support have made this transition much easier. I would also like to thank the CHICA–Canada Board of Directors, chapter treasurers and Gerry Hansen for their patience, understanding and support.

*Judi Linden, RN BN COHN(C) CIC  
Director of Finance*

**PHYSICIAN DIRECTOR**  
**Government and Public Affairs Committee**  
**Corporate Relations Committee**

My first year as Physician Director was unfortunately interrupted by the H1N1 pandemic. As a result, I was not able to attend the 2009 conference. Likewise, all CHICA members were affected in some way by the pandemic, and we should all be proud of the role we played, despite difficult - and frankly, confusing - circumstances.

The Government and Public Affairs Committee has been disbanded; however it has been recognized that CHICA-Canada needs assistance working with government and the media, both in terms of reacting to current events, and in developing proactive messages to forward CHICA-Canada's mission. Discussions are being held with a communications firm to assist in this regard.

The Corporate Relations Committee (formerly Industry Relations Committee) met November 19<sup>th</sup> in Toronto. Prior plans for a teleconference earlier in the year were not possible because of many members being busy with H1N1 related activities. Plans were made for a teleconference early in the new year to discuss the direction of the group.

*Michael Gardam MSc MD CM FRCPC*  
*Physician Director*

## **DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION**

### **CHICA-Sponsored Basic Education IP&C Course**

The Distance Education Coordinator, Karen Dobbin-Williams, who began work in early 2008, completed an extensive evaluation of the CHICA Basic IP&C Control Course. A blueprint for revisions was developed and discussed with the original course authors. Issues to be addressed in rolling out the course to other sites have been identified. The goal for 2010 is to complete revisions and have the revised course offered in fall 2010.

### **CHICA Endorsement of Education Courses**

The criteria for endorsing courses and the process for receiving endorsement was approved by the Board in May 2009, and publicized on the CHICA website. Letters were also sent to representatives of the courses currently endorsed, advising them of the new criteria and that their endorsement would lapse after three (3) years if not renewed as per the new conditions. Five committee members were recruited and appointed. Their terms are varied to allow staggering of new appointments. The first round of application of the new policy and procedure took place in fall 2009. The committee recommended, and the Board approved, one new course being endorsed.

### **CHICA Education Project: RPAP Tools Pilot Test**

In spring 2009, the Board voted to support involvement of chapters in pilot-testing the Routine Practices and Additional Precautions Assessment and Educational Tools that have been developed by PHAC, specifically by a working group led by D. Moralejo and involving a number of CHICA members. In May, a subcommittee of the Education Committee volunteered to participate in a pilot test. A proposal for collaborative pilot-testing was written over the summer and approved by CHICA and PHAC, with a budget of \$9600 from PHAC and \$5765 from CHICA.

The pilot test took place in September-October 2009. Seven participants, consisting of six ICPs and one staff development educator from six provinces, were brought to Ottawa for a workshop September 10<sup>th</sup>. They then went back to their organizations to conduct two to three sessions each, with colleagues and healthcare workers, and obtain feedback on the tools. Each tool was evaluated by at least two groups, and many tools were evaluated by multiple groups. Preliminary data analysis was conducted in late 2009, but was delayed by influenza-related activities. In general, the feedback was positive, and revisions are not expected to be extensive.

Data analysis and revisions will be completed in early 2010, with work to be done by Donna Moralejo, PHAC representatives, the Tools Development Working Group and with the Pilot Test Working Group. We will then be ready to discuss dissemination.

### **National Conference Planning**

The conference planning has been going well for the 2010 Vancouver conference. The committee appointed for the 2011 conference met for the first time in November 2009. Overall, the national planning strategies, including continuity of members, summaries of topics, and a “parking lot”, are working and should continue.

### **Education Committee**

Representatives from a number of chapters met at the Education Committee meeting in St John’s in May. Some members for a core group were identified and three possible topics identified: Novice Day curriculum, an inventory of educational resource materials, and Routine Practices pilot test. The pilot test has been successfully completed; the other projects, and further items related to CHICA’s strategic plan, will be reviewed again in 2010.

**IFIC presentation**

IFIC invited societies to present a one-hour session at the Lithuania IFIC conference in 2009. Carol Goldman, Cathy Munford and Donna Moralejo each presented a talk in a 90-minute session on “Six Things to Make Routine Practices Routine”. The presentation was well received and provided an opportunity to increase visibility of CHICA and Canadian activities in IP&C. Future support for CHICA members to attend IFIC is encouraged.

*Donna Moralejo, PhD*  
*Director of Education*

## **DIRECTOR OF STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES**

### **1. Activities of the Core Committee**

The Standards and Guidelines core committee was relatively quiet in 2009 primarily due to competing priorities of the pandemic H1N1 and for the chair, the intensity of planning for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The focus of the committee was to review the newly developed audit tools. This activity was competently led by Clare Barry and enabled the tools kit to be ready for launch at the 2009 CHICA conference. All minutes and products of the meetings are posted on the CHICA website in the Standards & Guidelines section.

### **2. Position statements:**

A number of position statements were reviewed and a list of priority issues for position statements was added to. The Dialysis Interest Group continues work on a position statement and the Core Committee published their hand hygiene statement.

### **3. Additional Activities**

The chair and committee members provided advice to media, responded to member queries, and assisted the CHICA Board in their work with Safer Health Care Now! and other national infection prevention and control activities. In addition the committee was a forum for discussion of various provincial initiatives including the Ontario Hand Hygiene campaign and the BC CDAD surveillance initiative as well as contributing through the Chair to the Public Health Agency of Canada, updating of the RPAP and hand hygiene guidelines.

The position of Director, Standards and Guidelines was turned over to Dr. Jennifer Grant in the summer of 2009.

## **Canadian Nosocomial Infection Surveillance Program**

*The following updated provided by Virginia Tirilis MLT CIC*

The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Canadian Nosocomial Infection Surveillance Program (CNISP) was held in Ottawa on November 16 & 17. The following is a summary of the CNISP ongoing core projects:

### **MRSA Surveillance project**

- An increase trend is seen for MRSA for rates collected from 1995 to 2008
- Infections: 17% for bloodstream infections (BSI) and 83% clinical infections
- Issues: data not submitted in time
- Changes to questionnaire to be ready by 2010 – follow colonized patients on the same admission to see if they become infected

### **VRE Surveillance project**

- A significant increase noted in the last year seen since 1999
- Infection rates for VRE are low: < 0.5/1000 pt. days
- VRE is predominantly reported from Central and Western Canada

### **Clostridium difficile-associated infection (CDI) Surveillance project**

- Slight increases reported in 2008 (7.0/10,000 pt days from 6.4/10,000 pt days in 2007)
- Subgroup to be formed to review questions and change forms to minimize confusion of form completion and to develop tool looking at causality of death and extension of surveillance to year round for serious outcomes

### **Central Venous Line – Bloodstream Infection (CVL-BSI) Surveillance project**

- Ongoing surveillance (began in 2006) and became core project in 2009
- Rates have remained consistent with the aim to have Canadian Network Public Health Intelligence (CNPHI) data entry by 2011

The following is a brief summary of some of the ‘optional surveillance projects’ which include:

Laboratory confirmed H1N1  
Pediatric FRI (name change to Pediatric Nosocomial Viral Respiratory Infections)  
Pediatric Cardiac Surgical Site Infections (SSI)  
CSF Shunt Associated Infections  
Point Prevalence Survey for Hospital Acquired Infections (HAI)  
Data quality audits

### **Point Prevalence Survey for HAIs**

First survey done in 2002, current survey completed February 2009 with 90% of CHEC hospital participation. Small increase in all HAIs and antibiotic use – rationale: higher acuity level of patients.

- Survey indicated that the most used antibiotics were: fluoroquinolones, metronidazole and 3<sup>rd</sup> generation cephalosporins
- Patients in isolation have doubled – ARO and CDI driven
- Most common HAIs were urinary tract infections (UTIs) and CDIs

### **Lab Confirmed Influenza Survey**

- New profile will be sent to participating sites with additional questions on testing algorithm
- Appendix B will be stopped – no need for admitting diagnosis and small modifications to Appendix A
- Weekly submission by Tuesday (end of day) of new admitted cases, deaths, outbreak reports and ICU admissions needed

### **Influenza Research Group**

- Timeline: 1 year
- Goal: to measure Transmission, Prevention and Impact on Healthcare setting

Prevention will cover: PPE resources used during H1N1 season and selection, use and removal; self reported compliance and use of PPE and vaccination; policy collection and comparison to PHAC guidelines; survey on satisfaction with guidelines; and environmental survey by ICPs of resources including floor plans of emergency depts. where possible

### **Update on Data Quality**

- 2008 VRE data audit proposal to determine common data entry errors and to enhance rules of CNPHI
- VRE audit to roll out in the spring of 2010
- Sites who have reported VRE cases will be asked to review approximately 25 cases (random sampling of colonization and infections reported)
- CNPHI – MRSA module using web base – by 2010 have everyone trained and engaged in its use
- Goal is to replace paper forms and faster reporting

### **Infection Control Practitioner Working Group Session**

The following initiatives were discussed:

- Quarterly discussion via teleconferences to discuss data collection issues, new protocols to be started and a discussion board on CNPHI website
- Emails will be sent to ICPs indicating any ‘new’ surveillance protocols being sent out to the CHEC member and to remind them when denominators are due
- Research money is available for an ICP project – possibly measuring workload issues

Lastly, we would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to Barbara Amihod for her contributions representing CHICA-Canada as the CNISP representative for the last several years.

### **CCIAP (CANADIAN COALITION FOR IMMUNIZATION AWARENESS & PROMOTION)**

*The following update provided by Marion Yetman RN BN MN CIC., CHICA-Canada representative to CCIAP*

The Canadian Coalition for Immunization Awareness and Promotion is a partnership of national non-governmental, professional, health, consumer, government and private sector organizations with a specific interest in promoting the understanding and use of vaccines recommended by the National Advisory Committee of Immunization.

The goal of CCIAP is to contribute to the control/elimination/eradication of vaccine-preventable diseases in Canada by increasing awareness of the benefits and risks of immunization for all ages. CCIAP aims to achieve this goal through education, promotion, media relations, and advocacy.

#### **National Immunization Awareness Week (NIAW) Activities - April 2009**

- Theme based on PAHO Vaccination Week in the Americas. Theme: "It's a Family Affair"
- Created NIAW posters from the winning Canadian Immunization Poster Contest 2008 designs created by grade 6 students across Canada
- Daily bulletins (pdfs) were circulated via email throughout NIAW and were then made available for download.

#### **Pneumococcal Immunization Awareness Campaign - September/October 2009**

- Resources were made available to order, including: posters, pocket guides and a fact sheet.
- A poster specific to First Nations was created in partnership with the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch of Health Canada
- Over 40,000 resources were distributed
- A media release highlighting the CCIAP campaign to promote pneumococcal immunization was distributed to key national and community media outlets

#### **Influenza Immunization Awareness Campaign - October 2009/January 2010**

- Six posters were designed, each targeting a specific part of the population, and indicating the differences between pandemic H1N1 and seasonal influenza
- Provided the public with a listing of provincial recommendations and programs
- Worked in partnership with the Canadian Pharmacists Association, to prepare a Pharmacists' Kit regarding influenza and pneumococcal immunization. The kit was sent to 8,200 pharmacists across Canada
- A media release highlighting the CCIAP campaign to promote influenza immunization was distributed to key national and community media outlets

#### **Education**

- CCIAP continued to create new resources, including a postcard for travelers, a brochure about the coalition, a pamphlet addressing common misconceptions about immunization, and downloadable web buttons.
- Existing CCIAP resources were updated to include the most up-to-date guidelines recommended by NACI.
- Continued improvement on the CCIAP web site, <http://immunize.ca>

*Bonnie Henry MD FRCPC*

*Director, Standards and Guidelines*

## DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS & PROJECTS

### 1. 2010 Ecolab Poster Contest

The 2010 Ecolab Poster Contest is being hosted by CHICA Newfoundland/Labrador. The poster theme proposed is “Infection Prevention – It’s Simple!”

### 2. Programs & Projects Working Committee

The working committee has continued to meet, however, in small numbers, (3-4 persons at each meeting), and therefore meeting notes in lieu of minutes have been taken and circulated to committee members.

### Current projects

#### a) CHICA audit toolkit

In spring 2009, it was apparent that this project was going to extend well beyond anticipated budgetary limits. Therefore it was decided by the board to have one person act as both writer and designer for the audit toolkit. This step was taken in order to streamline the review and feedback process between the CHICA audit toolkit working group, Standards and Guidelines Committee review, Stakeholder review, and to manage the project’s costs being paid by CHICA.

- As of October 31, 2009 the Audit Toolkit Writer position and the Audit Toolkit Graphic Designer positions were combined, with Shirley McDonald being appointed.
- The current Project Leads Anne Bialachowski (CHICA-HANDIC) and Karen Clinker (CHICA-NWO) provided a brief presentation on the toolkit at lunch on Tuesday May 12, 2009 at the national CHICA conference in St. John’s Newfoundland. It is anticipated that a brief presentation will be made again at the 2010 national CHICA conference in Vancouver. Current Audit Toolkit working committee members, in addition to Anne and Karen are Mary LeBlanc, Shirley McDonald and Mary Kristel.
- The audit toolkit working group along with Standards and Guidelines committee has been working hard on the audit tools. A completed launch package was finalized for the 2009 National Infection Control week (October 20, 2009). This package contained 10 approved audits and supporting auditing information (e.g. pre-audit preparation, guidelines for using the audit tools, closing the Loop – feedback, evaluation of toolkit, glossary, annexes, etc)
- The toolkit was launched also included a website headline and an email ‘blast’ and the toolkit website received 570 hits in the first 24 hours after the launch.
- The 17 approved audit tools currently published to the website as of January 31, 2010 include:
  - Hand Hygiene Readiness
  - Hand Hygiene Practice
  - Routine Practices
  - Additional Precautions
  - PPE
  - HD Equipment and Facility
  - Client/patient/residents service unit
  - Unit Kitchen
  - General Cleaning Practices
  - Housekeeping Supply Room
  - Routine Practices in Hemodialysis
  - Clinical Practices in Hemodialysis
  - Hemodialysis Practices to Prevent Transmission of Infection
  - OR Environment

- Routine Practices, Asepsis and Pre-op Care in the OR
  - OR – IPAC Practices/Asepsis
  - OR Patient Practices
- Shirley has also added a "feedback" button to all of the toolkit web pages, so users can send quick comments back about the toolkit. The comments that come to Shirley are collated and shared with the Audit Toolkit Committee/Programs and Projects committee/CHICA Board. Comments can be made anonymously.
  - Shirley will prepare a one-page file with live links to website tools to be added to a travel drive that will be available for CHICA members at the CHICA booth at the national conference.
  - Plans are to provide CHICA audit toolkit articles for the spring and summer editions of the Canadian Infection Control Journal (CJIC).
  - Thanks to all who participated in the review of audit tools, and acknowledgement have been given in the toolkit. Thanks also to the Standards and Guidelines Committee who have worked very hard to review the tools, as well as to other stakeholders who reviewed the tools.

#### **National IP&C Program Audit Tool**

- During the Strategic Planning session at the national conference in St. John's one of the deliverables considered was the development of a National IP&C Program Audit Tool.
- As this Tool will be a much broader document, from the individual audits contained in the CHICA Audit Toolkit, it is felt that this should be handled as a separate project. Therefore an initial proposed budget for this project was submitted for Board consideration in November 2009. Further planning work into 2010 is anticipated. .

#### **Revised Procedures for Board Review**

- New CHICA Project Form procedure, and an update to the position description for Director of Programs & Projects to include accountability for review/updates to the CHICA Audit Toolkit and other such "evergreen" documents under this portfolio was approved at the November 2009 Board meeting..

#### **Industry Partnerships**

A further full-day BD and CHICA 2009 Roadshow, the sixth in the Roadshow series was held Tuesday November 10, 2009 in Victoria B.C. Topics covered included:

- Flu Education
- State of the Nation – A cross Canada Update on H1N1
- *Clostridium difficile* – Prevention and Treatment Strategies
- CR-BSIs – Clinical Practice: Needleless Access
- UTIs – Treatment, Reading Lab Reports
- Positive Deviance

Further road shows and webinars will be considered upon a review of remaining budget for this project and review of an anticipated 2010-2011 proposal from BD.

This has been another busy and productive year!!

*Karen Clinker MEd BScN CCOHN CIC*  
*Director Programs & Projects*

## COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE INTEREST GROUP

- No co-chair as of Spring 2009
- Meetings:
  - Teleconference April 23 – seven attendees
  - Face to face meeting May 9<sup>th</sup> – 10 attendees
  - Public Health Professionals wish to establish their own CHICA-Canada Interest Group; however Anne Bialachowski recommended after the face-to-face meeting in St. John's that, for now, they could remain a part of the Community Health Interest Group; Public Health had no specific differences to justify separation from the CHICA-CHI group.
  - Verbal offer made to the Public Health Professionals in Ontario to have one of their members become our Co-Chair; no one stepped forward
  - Planned teleconference meeting October 29<sup>th</sup> cancelled due to H1N1
- Development of Position Statement Subcommittee
  - six meetings with numerous e-mail correspondence in between
  - seven members (four regular attendees)
  - Topic: Cleaning and Disinfection of Multi-Use Equipment in Community Settings
    - Topic was approved by Dr. Bonnie Henry (Director Standards and Guidelines)
    - Expect to send for external stakeholder review before the end of the year
    - Anticipated completion: Spring 2010
- Membership
  - 44 members on e-mail distribution list
- Mailers (inquiries, sharing of information) to e-mail distribution list –8

*Shelley Sing CIC, Chair*

*Risa Cashmore CIC, Secretary*

## DIALYSIS INTEREST GROUP

As of June 11, 2009 the group had 87 members, 20 who attended the meeting at the annual conference in St. John's, Newfoundland Labrador. The co-chairs of this group, Stephanie Trowbridge and Deb Hobbs were both unable attend, so the acting chair was Molly Blake and the recording secretary was Monique Liarakos. A twelve member working group developed a document, DIG Screening Recommendations for Routine Surveillance of Methicillin Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* and Vancomycin Resistant *Enterococci* in the Hemodialysis Setting. This was sent to the Director of Standards and Guidelines for feedback, which has been since been received and it is near completion.

The Dialysis Interest Group conducted a cross-country survey on PD practices related to infection prevention and control. The survey has been completed and will be posted on the DIG website.

*Deborah Hobbs RN BScN CIC*

*Chair*

## **HEALTHCARE FACILITY AND DESIGN INTEREST GROUP**

The Healthcare Facility and Design Interest Group met at the CHICA-Canada 2009 Education Conference held in St. John's, Newfoundland. The Terms of Reference were presented to the group and sent out via email. No changes were brought forth and thus the Terms of Reference have been formally accepted by the group. During the meeting there was good discussion on the design of pediatric facilities. The group brainstormed on areas that could be focused on in the future including;

- Audit Tools/Checklist for pre, during, and post construction to be circulated among members
- Develop a booklet from member input across Canada that would include Occupational Health and Safety, Infection Prevention and Control, and Fire Safety for all construction personnel entering our facilities to do construction and renovation.
- Implement use of CHICA discussion board for questions and assistance with issues related to either construction/renovation or design. Create a compendium list that includes experiences (to be used as a resource of ICP's).

### **New Business**

We would like to report that Karen Stockton has stepped down as co-chair of the interest group. We thank her for all of her time and expertise in her role with the interest group and hope that she will still play an active role. Our new co-chair is Maja McGuire from Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre in Toronto. Barb and Maja hope to start some new projects for 2010 and onwards.

### **Future Endeavors:**

The group is looking forward to meeting again at the 2010 Educational Conference in Vancouver. There are a number of new initiatives that will be brought forth to the group at the conference and via email correspondence. One item we hope to have instituted soon is a Frequently Asked Questions area on the CHICA interest group webpage. To facilitate this process, an email address was created for the group that the co-chairs will monitor and gather info to share. The email address is: [chicacdig@gmail.com](mailto:chicacdig@gmail.com)

*Barb Shea, Co-Chair*

## **LONG TERM CARE INTEREST GROUP**

**Report not available at time of publication.**

## **MENTAL HEALTH INTEREST GROUP (MHIG)**

The MHIG held their annual meeting at the CHICA conference in St. John's, Newfoundland in May. Discussion involved recommendations for design of mental health wards/hospitals and the decision was that each patient room should have at least one toilet and one sink, with a separate dedicated hand-washing sink available to staff at the room's exit and in the hallways. Minutes are available on the CHICA website.

The MHIG hosted a pre-conference educational half-day titled: *Infection Prevention and Control Issues related to Dementia and Other Mental Health Illnesses*. The four topics presented included:

- An overview of mental health illness
- Routine practices and additional precautions in mental health settings
- Admissions screening – what to do with the results
- Outbreaks on secure wards

The questionnaire on current IPAC practices in mental health services across Canada were sent out to MHIG members, and results were compiled and analyzed with the support of the Research Department at Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences. The findings were then presented by Rebecca Yu, co-chair of the MHIG at the CHICA-Canada conference. Her presentation: "CHICA-Mental Health Interest Group Report: Preliminary Findings on Current IPAC Practices" was then distributed to all members and is now available on the CHICA-MHIG website.

As indicated from the questionnaire findings, there is need to standardize infection prevention and control practices among mental health services. The first of three scheduled teleconferences was held in July 2009. Twenty-one members volunteered to work in a task group drafting a position statement/best practices to provide standardized practices. Once the draft from each areas of topics are reviewed by all task group members, the goal is to forward it to Dr. Jim Hutchinson to review.

The planning process for hosting a Webber Training education session has been completed and the date is May 13, 2010. Teleclass registration is complimentary and has been donated to the members of MHIG by Mr. Paul Webber.

Numerous IPAC-related questions and discussions were held among group members throughout 2009. Alexis Silverman and Rebecca Yu, the current co-chairs of the MHIG continue to correspond with group members via e-mail. This includes summarizing and posting responses to questions in the MHIG area of the CHICA-Canada website under Frequently Asked Questions. Members who don't mind sharing their answers are requested to use "Reply All" button for their email. Those that do not want their names on the web are asked to reply to the sender only.

Alexis Silverman and Rebecca Yu will be stepping down as co-chairs of the MHIG and will be looking to the membership for volunteers to take on this responsibility.

*Alexis Silverman RN BA BScN CIC*  
*Rebecca Yu RN BScN*  
*Co-Chairs, Mental Health Interest Group*

## **ONCOLOGY INTEREST GROUP**

The Oncology interest group met on May 9, 2009 at the CHICA national meeting in St John's Newfoundland. Terms of Reference were reviewed for function/purpose of the interest group and standardization to fit CHICA-Canada's template. Terms of Reference were reviewed for function/purpose of chair/co-chair

It was announced that the chair and co-chair will be resigning as of this meeting and new chair and co-chair will be required. Kay sent out a call to the group to encourage one of the members to take over these roles.

This group finds challenges as many members rarely attend the national meeting, and consistency in discussion is challenging. Communication occurs through the e-mail venue with good response when questions are raised.

Discussion occurred around the current pandemic with the H1N1 virus. The revised version of the Cancer Care pandemic plan was distributed to the membership. Most facilities are performing a combination of passive and active surveillance for febrile respiratory illness (FRI) screening. One of the facilities has developed an electronic admission screening tool for FRI. Inconsistency of messages from all levels of government has led to confusion about the pandemic. Shortages of supplies have been identified as a concern in most centers.

It was agreed that outpatient oncology clinics have the opportunity to review and update their pandemic plan and ensure it provides appropriate strategies and guidance to triage outpatients based on category of treatment.

*Kay Cranston RN CON(C) CCRP (Chair)*

*Cindy O'Neill ART (Co-chair)*

## **PEDIATRICS INTEREST GROUP**

**Report not available at time of publication**

## **PREHOSPITAL CARE INTEREST GROUP**

With the arrival of the H1N1 pandemic in early spring, 2009 proved to be a busy year for all involved in Infection Prevention and Control (IPC). The additional workload prevented the progress on some of our projects. However, the networking opportunities and implementation of our pandemic plans was invaluable. Now, as we regroup and review our pandemic plans, we will determine what worked well and what needs improvement and or revision.

During the Interest Group meeting at the CHICA Canada conference in St. John's, Grant Moir continued his term as co-chair, and there was a co-chair election in which Jennifer Amyotte was nominated and elected to replace Greg Bruce. The group expressed their appreciation for Greg's hard work and leadership since the commencement of the Pre-Hospital Care (PHC) Interest Group and his commitment as co-chair for two successive terms. Greg continues to provide his expertise and remains an integral and valued member.

The annual CHICA-Canada Conference in Newfoundland not only brought good times and great learning but also the opportunity to meet face-to-face to discuss and plan our future projects. Those who presented in the conference included Natalie Hiltz, who presented an oral presentation; Greg Bruce, who delivered a poster presentation; and Margaret MacKenzie with Barb Goulet, who delivered a second poster presentation. These provided a valuable opportunity to increase the awareness of the PHC interest group during the annual conference.

A highlight of the year for the PHC Interest Group was the CHICA-Canada review, and soon-to-be approval of the PHC Infection Prevention and Control Audit Tool. The development of this tool took many hours of work and we anxiously await the full launch and inclusion of the tool within the CHICA compendium toolkit. With stakeholder and front line provider consultation, the tool addresses some unique factors in the PHC environment.

Projects that are ongoing include:

- \* Building bridges with provincial and national partners that include possible consideration for a PHC road show to introduce the PHC audit tool,
- \* Developing a position statement for effective cleaning and disinfection of emergency response vehicles which will address fogging/misting techniques,
- \* Working with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) manufacturers to better understand the special needs of PHC personnel (such as gowns that do not fit over duty jackets/uniforms),
- \* Developing an academic resource manual and kit to provide national IPC educational competencies designed to meet the needs and challenges in the PHC environment, and
- \* Reviewing and editing the PHC presentation given at the annual CHICA Conference held in Montreal. It will then be shared with other CHICA chapters.

The following is a chronological listing of the interest group activities for 2009:

- \* May - PHC Working Group meeting at the Newfoundland CHICA Canada Conference
- \* May - PHC Interest Group meeting at Newfoundland CHICA-Canada Conference discussed and approved the joining of both the Working Group and Interest Group as there is much overlap in dialogue and membership.
- \* October - Inquiry into joining the Scientific Group for 2011 conference.
- \* June - PHC Interest Group worked with PHAC for stakeholder review of the Prehospital Guidance Document for H1N1
- \* December - 2009 Ontario PHC group review and provide feedback got the MOHLTC Guidance documents for management of ILI for PHC Settings during pH1N1 2009 released November 13, 2009

The group would like to express their sincere appreciation to everyone in the Programs and Projects Committee for their evaluation and valuable feedback on the Prehospital Care Audit Tool. We look forward to having it posted on the CHICA website in the near future. As we look forward to 2010, the group will continue to work on our ambitious project listed. The group plans on meeting by teleconference throughout the year to maintain momentum on our current projects. In Vancouver, we hope to create work plans, set priorities, and move our projects forward.

*Grant Moir EMT-P MEM CRSP  
Jennifer Amyotte ACP  
Co-Chairs*

## **SURVEILLANCE AND APPLIED EPIDEMIOLOGY INTEREST GROUP**

The group had a setback in activities during 2009 due to members' increased workloads in dealing with Pandemic H1N1. The group did meet at the 2009 National Education Conference. The group has begun work on a survey for CHICA-Canada infection control professionals, to determine their needs for surveillance tools and education. This should be completed by spring 2010. We are also in preliminary discussions for planning a surveillance and epidemiology day at the 2011 CHICA-Canada conference.

*Christine Weir RN MSc and Bronwen Edgar BSc MHSC  
Co-Chairs*

## WEB COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

### WEBSITE ACTIVITY

Website statistics for the period January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009 showed the following:

- Number of unique website visits for 2009: 121,625 (103,723 in 2008)
- Total number of website visits (including repeats) for 2009: 288,099 (259,332 in 2008)
- Average visits per day (including weekends) for 2009: 789 (710 in 2008)
- Number of first time visitors for 2009: 76,070 (62,128 in 2008)
- Posted 35 employment opportunities on the website

### INITIATIVES

#### A. New/Ongoing Initiatives

##### • **Members Area**

- Industrial Relations Committee (IRC) website area developed
- Partnership with the Public Health Agency of Canada to provide information for members from the Canadian Nosocomial Infections Surveillance Program (CNISP) – surveillance protocols, reports, recent publications
- Audit Toolkit – launched in September, 2009 with 10 audit tools; new tools added as they are completed; all audit tools are available to CHICA-Canada members free for download, or a hard copy/CD copy may be purchased for a small fee
- CHICA products added to Members area for free download

##### • **Main Website**

- Online conference registration initiated
- Online membership renewal initiated
- CHICA online survey completed
- Industry web pages updated to reflect new structure of industry membership
- Provided home page link to the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology, Inc. (APIC) materials for International Infection Control Week

##### • **Chapter Websites**

- CHICA-SASKPIC launched July, 2009

##### • **New Web Pages**

- Non-acute Care Resources
- H1N1 Influenza
- Online Conference Registration
- Online Membership Renewal
- Strategic Plan (members area)
- CNISP information

##### • **Other**

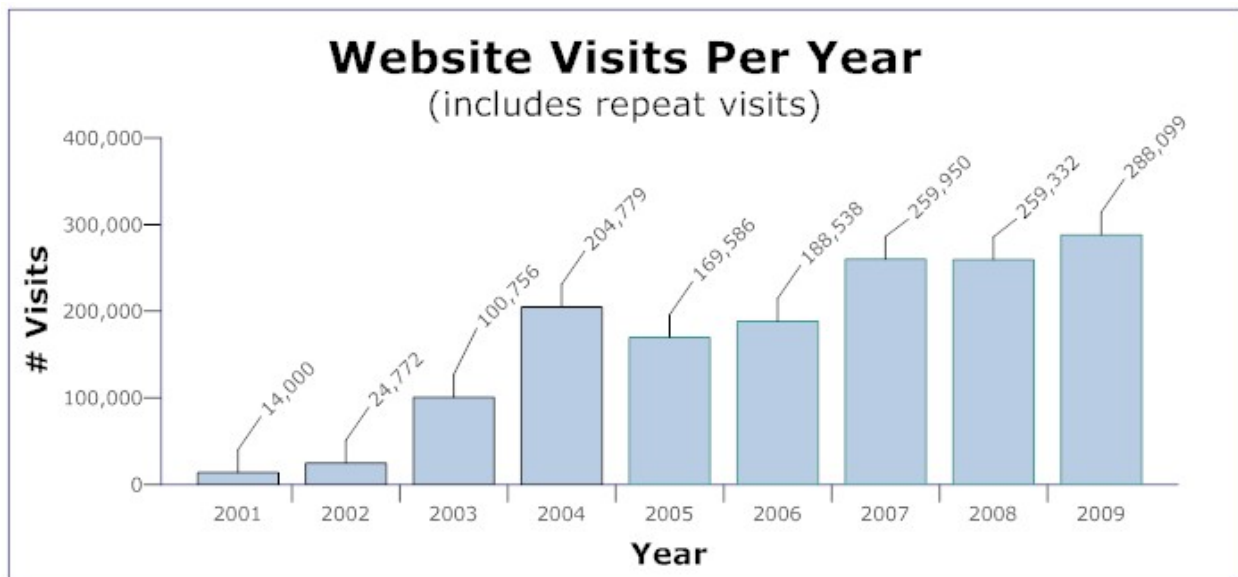
- First meeting of chapter website liaison members/chapter webmasters at the 2009 conference in St. John's; this will be continued as an annual event

#### B. Future Plans

- Website team to hold regular teleconference meetings over the fall/winter of 2009-2010 to redesign Members area, including CHICA Connections (discussion board)
- A second meeting of chapter website liaison members/chapter webmasters is planned for the 2010 conference, to allow networking and discussion of issues common to all chapter websites
- Continued growth of the audit toolkit with ongoing revision as required

*Shirley McDonald ART CIC*

*Web Communications Manager/CHICA-Canada Webmaster*



#### **WEB BOARD – CHICA Connections**

This area of the CHICA-Canada website is still under-utilized. Instruction on how to register for CHICA Connections were posted on the website, to hopefully facilitate members signing in. At the same time, Shirley McDonald, the Web Site Manager and I have asked if access to the Web Board could involve fewer passwords. We are still working with the web site designer and hope to have more information for members at the CHICA-Canada conference in Vancouver in June of 2010. If any member has suggestions for CHICA Connections, please contact me through the website.

*Jim Gauthier MLT CIC  
Web Board Manager*

## **CANADIAN JOURNAL OF INFECTION CONTROL (CJIC)**

We continue to attract a large number of high quality articles from Canadian and international authors. There are currently a number of articles in draft and final review form awaiting publication in CJIC.

The 2009 CJIC meeting held at the annual conference in St. Johns, Newfoundland Labrador provided more feedback and ideas from those in attendance.

Once again, following the conference a letter was sent to abstract presenters encouraging them to publish their findings in CJIC.

The CJIC Editorial Award was presented at the 2009 conference to the authors of “E-learning of Infection Control: It’s Contagious” by Elizabeth Bryce et al, with the award accepted by Bruce Gamage.

In July, a meeting took place between the editor in chief, Gerry Hansen, and Kelman and Associates to review CJIC and look at ways to improve and continue to move towards a truly scientific journal. The newsletter content has been moved to the back of the journal and a banner placed on the bottom of the cover page for this content. We now strive to have at least three scientific articles per issue. The colour and design of the 2009 issues was also changed.

Members and chapters are to be congratulated for continuing to promote and provide interesting and important content for CJIC.

*Pat Piaskowski RN HBScN CIC  
Editor in Chief*

## ARCHIVIST

What a year 2009 turned out to be with the occurrence and recurrence of the H1N1 Pandemic influenza virus. Infection prevention and control (IP&C) became paramount as the pandemic unfolded. The public started to believe the importance of hand hygiene at last! Never in the history of infection prevention and control have we seen hand hygiene appearing in so many public places! Other IP&C strategies such as respiratory hygiene became the norm. Let's hope as the H1N1 decreases in incidence that the messages of hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette continue to become the new norm.

The 2009 national education conference was held in St John's, NL May 9 – 14 with the theme *Solid Foundations...Shifting Horizons*. Although the attendance was good some ICPs were unable to attend because of the appearance of H1N1. The host Chapter of CHICA Newfoundland Labrador (NL) did not disappoint attendees with their warm hospitality. The social highlight was "Rally in the Alley" where we became *screached in* to become official Newfoundlanders by kissing the cod (or not)!

Following extensive interviews of internal and external stakeholders, Strategic Planning Facilitator Dr. David Sheridan join the CHICA-Canada Board of Directors, Chapter Presidents, and staff in a two-day Strategic Planning session in St. John's. As this replaced the usual two-day Board meeting and one-day Chapter Presidents meeting, the Chapter Presidents had met via teleconference prior to the conference to network and share their ideas with each other. In St. John's, Interest Groups and committees met to network, share experiences, and build relationships. Again 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.

A new strategic plan for CHICA covering the years 2010 – 2015 was unveiled by the Board and ratified by the Members at the AGM. Bylaw No.5 had undergone a rigorous review and was also approved. CHICA has come into the electronic age in many ways in its operation. Membership fees and conference registration can be paid on line. To ensure members are receiving timely communication from the Board and infection prevention updates CHICA E-News was launched in 2009. The CHICA Membership Directory & Source Guide is available on line. In addition, a free teleclass is held twice yearly, sponsored by Webber Training. This gives members another opportunity to be hearing of Board and other current IPC activities.

Numerous members were acknowledged for their achievements over the past year. The Best First Time Abstract Winner was Stefanie Ralph, Simcoe, ON for her abstract "*Outbreak Pep Rally – A Good Communication Tool*". The Best Oral Presentation, sponsored by Les enterprises Solumed – a 3M Company, went to Tim Cronsberry, St Mary's, ON, "*Lights, Camera Action!*" *Creating An Education Video About the Proper Use of Personal Protective equipment in Long Term Care*. The Best Poster Presentation went to Terri Murduff, Joanne Habib and Debbie Rivett, Whitby, ON "*Come Take a Walk With Me*". The Ecolab sponsored Infection Control Week Poster Contest was won by Catherine (Kim) Baker, Brampton, ON with the theme "*The Power of One*". The 2008 Editorial Award went to Elizabeth Bryce, Annalee Yasi, Deidre Maultsaid, Bruce Gamage, Margaret Landstrom, Justin LoChang and Chun-Yip Hon for their e-learning article '*infection control: its contagious*' (CJIC Vol.23, No.4, Winter 2008). The CHICA HANDIC Chapter won the 3M Chapter Achievement Award. CHICA British Columbia won the CHICA CIC Chapter Achievement Award. Numerous CHICA members were recognized as being the recipient of Virox Technology Partnership Scholarships.

Dr. Elizabeth Henderson became CHICA-Canada's newest Honourary Member. This prestigious award is acknowledgement of Dr. Henderson's dedication to the development of a distance education learning program in Basic Infection Prevention and Control. Through Dr. Henderson's efforts, the program now has a Distance Education Coordinator whose mandate is to facilitate delivery of the program through various educational institutions in Canada. Betty Ann was honoured during the Opening Ceremonies of the 2009 conference.

Another important accomplishment for CHICA during this past year was the launch of CHICA's own audit tool kit on line. Some audits from the previous tool kit were reworked and new ones added. Special thanks to the hard work of several CHICA members under the leadership of the Program & Project Chair, Karen Clinker. Ten were ready for the 2009 IC Week launch. Many more will be posted after rigorous refinement by CHICA Standards & Guidelines Committee and outside reviewers.

*Mary E LeBlanc RN BN CIC*  
*Archivist*

## **INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF INFECTION CONTROL (IFIC)**

### **BOARD ACTIVITIES:**

Objectives of 2008/9 that were accomplished to date:

- Revamping of website
- Special Interest Groups (announcement of the Safe Childbirth Project)
- Associate membership (on line applications)
- Networking opportunities
- Training slides for Basic Concepts

Yet to be achieved

- E-links with member websites
- Information on member societies on IFIC site
- IFIC web page with member society information

Two new board members were elected by acclamation to the board and will begin their tenure January 2010:

- Emese Szilagyi: Hungarian Society of Infection Control Practitioners
- Egil Linaas: Norwegian Forum of Infection Control

These positions became available with the retirement from the board of Nizam Damani and Smilja Kalenic who completed their 2 terms of office.

### **Committees:**

#### **A. The 2010 Executive:**

- Michael Borg: Chair
- Carol Goldman: Secretary
- Jane Murphy: Treasurer
- Judith Richards (chair-elect)

The IFIC Board recognised that better coordination and communication is needed with members and so approved the concept of regional coordinators. Board members will be appointed as regional coordinators to channel regional queries and to have that person a liaison between member societies in that region and the board. The membership secretary is the link and coordinator for these regional coordinators. The regional coordinators are as follows:

- North America - Gayle Gilmore
- Central / South America - Pola Brenner
- Western Europe - Walter Popp
- Eastern Europe - Smilja Kalenic (followed by Emese Szilagyi)
- EMRO region + Africa - Ossama Rasslan
- Asia/Pacific - Akeau

### **PUBLICATIONS:**

**Information Resources in Infection Control:** The sixth edition of a tremendous resource for infection prevention and control practitioners is available on the IFIC website at <http://www.theific.org/>

### **MEMBERSHIP:**

IFIC has **78** members from **60** countries. There are 122 Associate members from 33 countries joined in just 3 months since the Associate membership option began

**EDUCATIONAL ENDEAVOURS:**

The 10th IFIC Congress was a great success with 476 attendees from 46 countries and 12 scholarships were given

In the attempt to have more input and communication from our member societies there were a number of Member Society invited presentations (scheduled as symposia), of which CHICA-Canada was one. Cathy Munford, Donna Moralejo and Carol Goldman presented “Making Routine Practices Routine: 6 Things That Really Make a Difference”. This was a well received presentation and many delegates have since requested copies of the presentation. It is anticipated that a report will be submitted to CJIC for information to CHICA-Canada members. As these symposia were so well received it is hoped that they will become a standard during IFIC conferences.

**2010 IFIC Congress:**

Spier Estate, Western Cape, South Africa Aug 29-Sept 1— to be held in conjunction with IPCAN (as a regional conference)

**INITIATIVES:**

The second round table with CHICA/APIC/IPS/WHO Presidents’ Meeting was held in Vilnius and the discussion was productive with joint collaboration projects discussed, including web links and core competencies for HCWs. Collaboration will continue about these ideas.

*Carol Goldman RN BScN CIC*

## **MEMBERSHIP SERVICES OFFICE**

In 2009, assistance was provided to the Executive, Board and membership of CHICA-Canada in day-to-day administration as well as coordination of special projects. General activities included membership services, input into publication of the quarterly journal, *Canadian Journal of Infection Control*, publication of the 2009/2010 Member and Source Guide, publication of the 2008 Annual Report, 2009 and 2010 Poster Contests, and input into website formatting and content. Specific projects included:

### **Communication**

- Development of a monthly e-newsletter to relay association information to members.
- Discussion with the Clinical Editor and Publisher of the *Canadian Journal of Infection Control* to enhance the journal in content and format.
- With Webber Training, developed Voices of CHICA teleclasses in March and September
- Wrote a quarterly article for the journal, *From the Executive Desk*

### **Infection Prevention and Control Products**

- Developed marketing agreement with the Southwestern Ontario Regional Infection Control Network for distribution of the DVD “Grand Prix of PPE”
- Developed marketing agreement with the Erie St. Clair Infection Control Network for distribution of the DVD “Super Bugs – A Nightmare on Your Hands”
- With Programs and Project committee, created a USB of links and resources to distribute at the 2009 conference
- With Programs and Projects committee, collected songs and games from CHICA members to be added to a USB for the 2010 conference

### **Member Services**

- Launched online membership and conference registration system
- Finalized an agreement with APIC to provide products and services to CHICA members at APIC member rates
- Continued negotiation with Canadian Nurses Association for cross-recognition of CIC examination
- With sponsorship from 3M Canada, developed the first Champions of Infection Prevention and Control Awards to be presented in 2010.
- With sponsorship from BD Canada, assisted in the development of three CR-BSI webinars and three MRSA/*C. difficile* roadshows in Halifax, North Bay and Victoria

### **Association Governance**

- Revised by-laws received Ministerial approval in July 2009
- 2010-2015 Strategic Plan developed and ratified at St. John’s conference
- With President-elect Anne Bialachowski, appointed to Board of Directors of Canadian Foundation for Infectious Diseases
- Chaired Infection Control stream at 2009 Canadian Patient Safety Institute Patient Safety Forum, Toronto
- Attended the 2009 conference of the Canadian Society of Association Executives, Toronto
- Met with CHICA-Canada Corporate Members in St. John’s, May 2009, and in Toronto, November 2009
- With sponsorship from Webber Training, organized two Chapter Presidents teleclasses in 2009

I would like to express my thanks to the Board for its support during the past year and for providing a challenging and fulfilling work environment. I especially thank Kelli Wagner, Shirley McDonald, and Pamela Chalmers for their invaluable assistance in all projects during the year.

*Gerry Hansen BA*  
*Executive Director*

## **CONFERENCE PLANNER**

### **2009 NATIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE**

*Solid Foundations...Shifting Horizons*

Delta St. John's/St. John's Convention Centre, St. John's, Newfoundland Labrador

May 9-14, 2009

As expected, the St. John's conference was a successful and memorable event. Approximately 450 attendees and 72 exhibiting companies experienced the highest quality education and networking opportunities. What was unexpected was the impact of H1N1 on attendance with some losses in registration and guest room pick up. The Scientific Program Committee worked quickly to develop a question and answer session on H1N1 with guest speakers presenting by teleconference.

I would like to thank and commend the Scientific Program Committee for their dedication to offering a strong education opportunity. The committee was: Joanne Laalo, Conference Chair; Dr. Donna Moralejo, Scientific Program Chair; Jim Gauthier, Scientific Program Co-Chair; Molly Blake, Acute Care Representative; Lee Hanna, Long Term Care Representative; Marion Yetman, Community/Public Health Representative; Dr. Diane Roscoe, Microbiology/Infectious Diseases representative; and CHICA Newfoundland Labrador representatives Merlee Steele-Rodway and Penny Ralph. Thank you also to the members of CHICA Newfoundland Labrador who made the entire planning experience and the hospitality on-site a joy to experience.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Run for IFIC netted a donation of \$3,748 to the International Federation of Infection Control. Thank you to Marion Yetman and her colleagues at CHICA Newfoundland Labrador for organizing this fun and worthy event.

Sincerest appreciation to Kelli Wagner for her dedication and support in the management of the conference.

### **2010 NATIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE**

*Golden Opportunities – Soaring to New Heights*

Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre, Vancouver BC

May 29-June 3, 2010

The 2010 Scientific Program Committee is comprised of Marion Yetman (Conference Chair), Jim Gauthier (Scientific Program Chair), Zahir Hirji (Scientific Program Co-Chair), Molly Blake (Acute Care Representative), Lee Hanna (Long Term Care Representative), Amanda Knapp (Community/Public Health Representative), Dr. Pamela Kibsey (Microbiology/ID Representative), and Louise Holmes and Linda Kingsbury of CHICA British Columbia. Two in-person planning meetings and several conference calls were held to develop the Scientific Program.

### **2011 NATIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE**

*Innovation, Inspiration, Influence – Leadership in Action*

Sheraton Centre Toronto, Toronto, ON

May 28-June 2, 2011

The first meeting of the 2011 Scientific Program Committee took place in Toronto in November 2009. The Scientific Program Committee is comprised of: Cathy Munford (Conference Chair), Zahir Hirji (Scientific Program Chair), Molly Blake (Scientific Program Co-Chair), Colette Ouellet (Acute Care Representative), Marilyn Weinmaster (Long Term Care Representative), Amanda Knapp (Community/Public Health Representative), Dr. Pamela Kibsey (Microbiology/ID Representative), Victoria Williams (Toronto Professionals in Infection Control), and Susan Cooper (Member at large).

## **FUTURE CONFERENCES**

Site inspections were held throughout the year at various future conference locations. These events were usually sponsored by the local Tourism board whose assistance was greatly appreciated. The 2012 Conference will be held in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan; the 2013 Conference will be held in Ottawa, Ontario. Announcements of future conference dates and locations will be made as plans are finalized.

Members are reminded that the Scientific Program Committee is a nationally appointed working group. Calls for Applications for the 2012 and 2013 conference committee positions will be published in the journal, the e-newsletter and on the website.

Many thanks to the committees, chapter members, conference attendees, industry representatives and allied associations who work hard alongside the CHICA Conference Planning Office to ensure dynamic educational and networking opportunities. Thanks also to Kelli Wagner for her selfless dedication to the success of our conferences before, during and after the events.

*Gerry Hansen BA  
Conference Planner*

## **CHICA – VANCOUVER ISLAND**

### **Executive 2009**

President: Joanne Baines RN BSc(Hons)  
President-elect: Lisa Young RN BA  
Secretary: Kim Zbovovsky RN  
Treasurer: Susan Sinclair BSN

### **Executive 2010**

Co President: Gayle Lohr & Joanne Baines RN BSc(Hons)  
President-elect: To be filled  
Secretary: Kim Zboyovsky RN  
Treasurer: Susan Sinclair BSN

**Geographic Area Served:** Vancouver Island

### **Membership**

We continue to be a small group of practitioners but numbers are increasing. Our aim is to continue to working in supporting care providers in all settings. We continue to network with those in community care and other non-traditional areas who have a responsibility for infection prevention and control. Benefits of CHICA membership is encouraged at each meeting. Members were informed of the benefits of national positions within the association.

### **Meetings**

Meetings have been limited to one teleconference this year due to unforeseen circumstances. Corresponding members gave formal review of CHICA national activities and conference highlights. Members were encouraged to use the web-board section of the Members Only Area of the CHICA web site to ask questions and share issues.

### **Highlights**

Three members attended the 2009 National Education Conference in Newfoundland Labrador; the chapter will be supportive in attending Vancouver 2010. CHICA-VI was fortunate to host the CHICA Canada/BD Roadshow in Victoria this year. A number of our members were in attendance and feedback was positive.

### **Other Issues**

A number of other issues were discussed at each meeting: education for ICPs, and outbreak management in a variety of settings including the use of different precautions. Local issues were reviewed. All members were encouraged to share success stories, useful tools, and other initiatives with each other and the Canadian Journal of Infection Control. There was also discussion concerning getting new members into the chapter.

*Joanne Baines RN BSc(Hons)*  
*Chapter President 2009*

## **CHICA-BC**

### **Executive 2009**

President: Coleen Reiswig RN BSNCIC  
President-elect: Robyn Hunter RN BSN CIC  
Secretary: Jacquie Hlagi, RPN BPN CIPC  
Treasurer: Joy Pyett RN BSNCIC  
Membership: Joanne Tench RN BSN CIC

### **Executive 2010**

President: Robyn Hunter RN BSN  
President-elect: Pawan Sindhar RN BSN, MSc  
Secretary: Stephanie Cooke HBS Sc MSc CID  
Treasurer: Joy Pyett RN BSN CIC

**Number of Members:** 126

**Geographic Area Served:** All of BC, with exception of Vancouver Island where they have a separate chapter

**Membership** From across the continuum of care.

### **Meetings**

Executive meetings were held on January 14, March 11, June 10, September 30 and November 18<sup>th</sup> 2009. General Meetings were held January, March, June, October & November. These General meetings were held at Royal Columbia except for the one in October which was held in Kelowna at the Interior Health Corporate Office. All meetings were available via teleconference for any member not able to travel to attend. At the general meetings, the second hour of the meeting consisted of an education component.

January 28<sup>th</sup> meeting: a Virox rep spoke on Cleaning and Disinfection.

March 25<sup>th</sup> meeting: we had the PICIS Surveillance Program with the IT staff demonstrating via Live meeting to show all members the Surveillance system in place for Interior Health and discussing its application.

June 24<sup>th</sup> meeting: education was a roundtable to discuss presentations and lessons learned at the CHICA 2009 Conference in St John's.

October 15<sup>th</sup>: Education portion was the Education Day but was held on the following day, October 16<sup>th</sup>, in Kelowna

Nov 25<sup>th</sup>: a report on the MRSA Roadshow in Victoria November 10<sup>th</sup> and discussion on the presentations given, by Joy Pyett. As well, the findings from the St Paul's CDI (formerly C-Difficile) was given by Mary McNaughton.

### **Highlights**

- The Terms of Reference for CHICA-BC were revised and adopted
- We added a new position to our executive, that being the membership secretary
- CHICA-BC received the CIC Award for the most new CIC members and received \$750.00 for this at the CHICA 2009 Conference

A CHICA-BC Education Day was held on Oct 16<sup>th</sup> in Kelowna and 68 delegates attended. Speakers were: Laureen Sommerey RN BScN CETN(C) on Do Wound Bugs Need Drugs? Best Practice Recommendations for Wounds Infection

Dr. Edith Blondel-Hill, MD FRCP spoke on Bacteruria and Pyuria—Do they always need antibiotics?

Dr. Paul Hasselback, MD MSc FRCP spoke on TB or not TB? An Outbreak of TB Amongst Street Oriented Persons in the Central Okanagan

Bruce Gamage RN BSN BSc(Mich) CIC spoke on H1N1 Influenza—The do's and don't's of PPE

A Panel of speakers that included Bruce Gamage, Edith Blondel-Hill and Dr Paul Hasselback gave an update on H1N1 and answered questions from the group.

*Coleen Reiswig RN BSN CIC  
Chapter President*

## **CHICA-NORTHERN ALBERTA**

### **2009 Executive**

President: Samantha Woolsey RN BScN CIC  
President-elect: Denise Sorel RN BScN CIC (resigned August 2009)  
Secretary: Melody Cordoviz BSc RN BScN CIC  
Treasurer: Shelley Winton RN BScN

### **2010 Executive**

President: Alan Hope  
President-elect: Ralph Ennis-Davis RN BN  
Secretary: Mary Kristel RN CIC  
Treasurer: Marie Judd RN

**Number of Members:** 101

**Geographic Area Served:** Northern Alberta

### **Membership**

CHICA-Northern Alberta has representatives from all sectors, including acute care, continuing care, community, first responders, dental health, public health, rehab, industry, environmental health etc. Approximately one quarter of our membership hold CIC designation.

### **Meetings**

CHICA-NA meets ten times per year, once per month excluding July and August. We prefer to have a one hour education session followed by a one hour business meeting. Our December and June meetings are social events where a luncheon is held. Currently, we meet on the second Wednesday of the month from 1300 -1500. Attendance this year has been excellent with approximately 25 attendees at each meeting. Our 2009 Christmas luncheon was particularly well attended with 44 members present.

### **Highlights**

2009 was a very active year for CHICA-NA. In April, the healthcare structure in Alberta changed dramatically. We went from seven health regions to a single region under the umbrella of 'Alberta Health Services'. Many programs that were regionally organized or even site-based, were reorganized under a provincial banner. Many ICPs were affected as most of us work directly for Alberta Health Services. Our organizational structure changed, many leadership roles were changed or created, and funding issues have become a primary concern. We are still reorganizing and developing innovative ways of serving our patients and clients, and providing service to our sites and/or sectors.

CHICA-NA was very well represented at the 2009 CHICA Canada National Conference in St Johns, NL. We had members from across Northern Alberta in attendance and several of our chapter members made oral and poster presentations. We also had a member attend the conference as a Virox Scholarship winner. We all enjoyed the social activities and tours as well. Some of us even kissed a communal cod - infection control be damned!

CHICA-NA held a very successful two day education conference in September entitled 'Vision and Ventures: Infection Control in the Real World'. Our keynote speaker was Dr. Michael Gardam who spoke on positive deviance. Sessions on construction, sterile reprocessing, syringe reuse, and surveillance were presented and were very well attended. Our yearly conjoint meeting with CHICA-Southern Alberta that coincides with the education conference was held for the first time using the Telehealth system.

Of course, 2009 will be remembered as a pandemic year- it was a huge challenge that we faced while dealing with the complete restructuring of our healthcare system. Northern Alberta was hit hard with H1N1. Our ICUs were stretched to the limit and responded well to the sudden influx of critically ill patients. All sites and sectors faced challenges, from vaccine issues to bed management to PPE recommendations- it was an experience that most ICPs will remember for a long time to come! I am confident that we can handle what the future brings, be it 'the third wave', or which ever disease entity next makes an appearance (or reappearance!).

The future of healthcare delivery in Alberta is still somewhat unclear; however the role of Infection Prevention and Control will remain unchanged- Safer care for all.

*Samantha Woolsey RN BScN CIC  
Chapter President*

## **CHICA-SOUTHERN ALBERTA**

### **Executive 2009**

President:	Debbie Lam-Li BSc ART CIC
President-elect:	Debra Doe RN BScN
Past President:	Kathryn Bush MSc MLT
Secretary:	Heather MacLaurin RN BScN
Treasurer:	Eileen Stamp RN BSc
Education Coordinator:	Jennifer Ellison MSc
Seminar Coordinator:	Marlene Montgomery RN

### **Executive 2010**

President:	Wendy Runge RN BScN CIC
President-elect:	Pamela Jane Armstrong RN ONNC BN
Past President:	Debbie Lam-Li BSc ART CIC
Secretary:	Heather MacLaurin RN BScN
Treasurer:	Eileen Stamp RN BSc
Education Coordinator:	Roberta McCombie MSc
Seminar Coordinator:	Marlene Montgomery RN

**Number of Members:** 65

### **Geographic Area Served:**

Southern Alberta, this includes all areas from Red Deer south to the United States border, west to the British Columbia 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). Due to provincial healthcare reorganization and workload issues this year, the 2009 February, May and November meetings were cancelled. To facilitate meeting attendance for out of town chapter members, the chapter has started using teleconferences since the April meeting.

- January, March and October meetings were focused on Chapter business and networking, seminar 2010 planning and identifying chapter needs.
- The April meeting was focused on education. This year's education offering included a lecture on "Critical Appraisal - the process of systematically examining research evidence to assess its validity, results and relevance before using it to inform a decision" from professor of Hospital Epidemiology (and CHICA-Southern Alberta member) Dr. Betty-Ann Henderson.
- The June meeting was a social event with a catered lunch and CHICA-Canada Conference debriefing for members. It was a great social time and venue for members to network.
- The September meeting was jointly attended by CHICA-Northern Alberta and CHICA-Southern Alberta members via videoconferencing. Brenda Hannah, Vice President of Infection Prevention and Control from Alberta Health Services, presented the goals and vision of Infection Prevention and Control under Alberta Health Services.

**Highlights**

- The chapter has adopted a new logo. The new logo will be in use starting 2010.
- The chapter completed a learning needs survey for planning of future education sessions.
- Debra Doe represented the chapter to review College and Association of Registered Nurses of Alberta Blood Borne Virus Reporting requirements.
- The chapter had a joint meeting with CHICA-Northern Alberta using videoconference for the first time. Members provided positive feedback of using videoconference for future joint meetings and education opportunities.
- The chapter plans to reformat monthly meetings to include additional joint meetings and education sessions in 2010.

*Debbie Lam-Li BSc ART CIC*

*Chapter President*

## **CHICA-SASKPIC**

### **Executive 2009**

President: Donna Wiens RN BN CIC  
President-elect: Joy Kellen RN BN MSc  
Secretary: Ivy Scobie BScN  
Treasurer: Vi Burton RN BScN MN

### **Executive 2010**

President: Joy Kellen RN BN MSc  
President-elect: Dea Graessli RN BScN  
Secretary: Colleen Lambert MLT CIC  
Treasurer: Vi Burton, RN BScN MN

**Number of Members:** 64

**Geographic Area Served:** Saskatchewan

### **Membership**

Our membership is comprised of individuals from a wide range of health care specialties and industry and working across all sectors of care in the province; acute, continuing and community care, cancer care, corrections and government.

### **Meetings**

The chapter held two video-conference chapter meetings held in conjunction with an education session this year. BrendaLynn Ens, Saskatchewan Liaison Officer for the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health, spoke at the February meeting. At the June meeting several members shared highlights from the CHICA Newfoundland conference. The third chapter meeting was held in September at the time of our annual education conference.

### **Highlights**

An activity of note this year was a resolution submitted to the Saskatchewan Registered Nurses Association at their annual meeting that they, in conjunction with partner health discipline organizations, sign onto and promote the Canada Hand Hygiene Campaign. The resolution was passed and acted on by preparation of a poster distributed province wide, launch of the poster, and brief discussion at an interdisciplinary conference. SRNA has accepted two articles for publication in its newsletter related to hand hygiene from the President-elect of CHICA-SASKPIC.

The annual education conference was well attended despite preparations for pH1N1, and the interactive sessions were enjoyed by all. A long-time CHICA and SASKPIC member, Avis Hardy, was honoured at the meeting for her contribution to our professional group.

The chapter was able to support one member to attend the national conference and another to take a course to further their knowledge of infection prevention and control. Nine of our members were able to attend the national conference this year and two others attended the APIC conference.

Two members are known to have attained certification for the first time this year.

*Donna Wiens RN BN CIC*  
*Chapter President*

## CHICA-MANITOBA

### Executive 2009

President: Monique Liarakos RN BA BN  
President-elect: Nina Williams RN BN  
Secretary: Janice Briggs RN BA MSN  
Treasurer: Krista Maxwell RN BN

### Executive 2010

President: Nina Williams RN BN  
President-elect: Janice Briggs RN BA MSN  
Secretary: Ilana Warner RN BGS CIC  
Treasurer: Krista Maxwell RN BN

**Number of Members:** 63

**Geographic Area Served:** The province of Manitoba, excluding Churchill (due to lack of current membership in this region)

### Membership

Members include representatives from: industry, public health, acute care, long term care, community, educators, mental health, and personal care homes.

### Meetings

The chapter meets the second Tuesday of every month for the afternoon excluding May (in lieu of the National Conference), July, and August. At each meeting there is a 45-minute educational component followed by a 90-minute business meeting.

### Highlights

- Manitoba chapter members struck a sub-committee to host the annual poster contest; 45 submissions were reviewed, with “The Power of One” chosen as the winning entry.
- During National Infection Control Week (NICW), October 19<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Community and Hospital Infection Control Association (CHICA) Manitoba chapter, with the support of the Manitoba Institute for Patient Safety (MIPS) launched the annual provincial campaign to encourage all Manitobans to participate in achieving safer health care.
  - The campaign theme this year built on CHICA National’s theme of the “Power of One”; that one person can stop the spread of illness.
  - The campaign’s main messages included the 3 C’s: “Clean your hands”, “Cover your cough”, and “Consider others (stay home if you are sick)”.
  - An Infection Control Week campaign letter along with a media release, campaign poster, and tent cards were available through the CHICA-Manitoba website, were distributed to all members of CHICA-Manitoba, as well as local physician’s offices, medical/dental clinics, and schools.
  - The MB Chapter NICW toolkit that was established in 2008 was updated for 2009 with new school friendly activities.
  - The campaign enjoyed the most success in one of Winnipeg’s public school districts where the NICW committee members attended a classroom to share the campaign messages and the toolkit, this event was attended by local television stations including CBC (English and French), Shaw and CTV.
- The NICW committee chair also created and distributed an Infection Control Tips Fact Sheet for the Sports Medicine Council of Manitoba that was well received and is available on the Sport Manitoba website.
- Members of the chapter responded to several education requests by volunteering their time to conduct Routine Practices sessions for Manitoba Hydro, Manitoba Child and Family Services, nursing students at St. Boniface University, the health care aid programs at South Winnipeg Technical College and Herzing College, the dental assistants program at CDI college, and school children/educators in various local school districts.

- Five members were able to attend the National CHICA Conference “Solid Foundations, Shifting Horizons” in Newfoundland, and two members presented posters.
- The chapter reviewed its Strategic Plan that was originally written in 2007 to update it with new strategic directions in keeping with the revised national plan. We were pleased to discover that all our initiatives remained consistent with the national plan. Work on previously defined initiatives will continue as well as a new direction to look at retention and re-recruitment of some of our retired members.
- Job descriptions have been completed, approved, and posted on the member’s only section of the Manitoba chapter website for the chapter executive to provide clarity around the role expectations and tasks. The next steps to be completed in 2010 are to create Terms of Reference for each committee to outline the expectations of committee participation.
- The chapter participated in many of the Webber Teleclasses throughout the year making access available through the Riverview Health Centre.

**Educational Presentations at Monthly Meetings:**

<b>January 2009:</b>	Lieutenant Laura Sawkey presented on Infection Prevention & Control in the Military
<b>February 2009:</b>	Education session deferred due to Annual General Meeting (AGM)
<b>March 2009:</b>	Doris Sawatzky-Dickson presented on Assessing Publications
<b>April 2009:</b>	Tracy Lloyd presented on the New Public Health Act
<b>September 2009:</b>	Gale Shultz presented on Sterilization and Disinfection
<b>October 2009:</b>	No education session due to speaker cancellation
<b>November 2009:</b>	Marie Edwards presented on Ethical Decision Making in Infection Control
<b>December 2009:</b>	Dr. Heather Adam presented on Carbapenem Resistant Enterobacteriaceae

**Annual Chapter Conference**

The chapter’s annual one day education conference was held at the Victoria Inn on June 19, 2009. The conference was well attended by health care professionals from a wide array of settings across the province.

Speakers included:

Dr. Michael Gardam	Topic: Positive Deviance
Nancy Gates	Topic: Scabies, Lice and Bed Bugs
Dr. William Libich	Topic: Immigrant and Refugee Health
Nina Williams	Topic: GI Outbreak Management & Case Scenarios

*Monique Liarakos RN BA BN  
Chapter President*

## **CHICA- NWO (Northwestern Ontario)**

### **Executive 2009**

President: Nancy Robertson and Diana Gowanlock RN BScN MPH (as of June 2009)  
President-elect: Diana Gowanlock RN BScN MPH  
Secretary: Nicole Tittley MT CIC  
Treasurer: Lynne Mattila RN

### **Executive 2010**

President: Diana Gowanlock RN BScN MPH  
President-Elect: Kim Leach RN  
Secretary: Nicole Tittley MT CIC  
Treasurer: Lynne Mattila RN

**Number of Members:** CHICA-NWO has 55 members.

**Geographic Area Served:** Northwestern Ontario

### **Membership**

Background of CHICA-NWO members is varied. Representation is from areas such as public health (both public health nurses and public health inspectors), long-term care, rehabilitation, mental health, acute care, community nursing agencies, First Nations and Inuit Health, Regional Infection Control Networks as well as Colleges and Universities.

### **Meetings**

CHICA-NWO met four times over the course of 2009. Meetings were held in Thunder Bay but also available through teleconferencing for members that could not attend in person. Education sessions were held at a number of meetings and included such topics as: Invasive group A streptococcus, as well as a presentation from Ontario's acting chief medical officer of health, discussing the influenza pandemic. A number of our chapter members were able to attend the national conference in Newfoundland and brought back valuable information for the group.

### **Highlights**

This was a very active year for CHICA-NWO with the first influenza pandemic in 40 years. Members took the opportunity to discuss and network ideas and concerns related to the pandemic at chapter meetings as well as outside of the meeting format.

Despite the pandemic we were able to hold a 1 ½ day annual conference in June 2009 and it was well received. Speakers included Clare Barry and Dr. Greg Gamble.

*Diana Gowanlock RN BScN MPH  
Chapter President*

## **CHICA-HUPIC**

### **2009 EXECUTIVE:**

President: Jo-Anne McConnell RN CIC  
President elect: Bev Morgan MLT  
Secretary: Susan Shular,  
Treasurer: Brenda Tanner RN CIC

### **2010 EXECUTIVE:**

President: Bev Morgan MLT  
President-elect: Barb Schmidt RN BScN  
Secretary: Brenda Tanner RN CIC  
Treasurer: Nancy Brown MLT

**Geographical Area Served:** CHICA-HUPIC membership is available to those persons residing in the surrounding area of Huron, Bruce, Perth, Grey and surrounding counties.

**Number of Members:** CHICA-HUPIC Chapter has 24 members.

### **Membership**

Our membership consists of a variety of professionals with various backgrounds. The majority of members are employed by acute care hospitals, local health unit and long term care facilities. Our small chapter membership has the advantage of members with many facets of knowledge and practices of infection control. Our meetings have become a communication tool to inform each other of current community events. For those members who have limited institutional resources and dedicated time for infection control, our membership supports those persons with assistance in problem solving, education and the sharing of resources. Our membership is also strongly supported and attended by our Regional Infection Control Network Coordinator and educator (RICN-South West).

### **2009 Meetings/Highlights/ Education**

Meetings are held quarterly which are held alternately in two locations 50 km apart because of geographical area served. An additional full day dedicated to education is usually planned inviting guest speakers to discuss relevant infection control issues; however, the H1N1 Pandemic virus in our community forced our members to focus on this threat. Our meetings consists of news from CHICA, news from the Regional Infection Control Networks, current updates from the Grey Bruce Health Unit, HUPIC recruitment strategies, upcoming educational opportunities to discuss new "Best Practices" documents. Each meeting is ended by a round table discussion on individuals asking for support and information on particular situations. This past year's highlight in infection prevention and control, is our local health unit keeping us informed of the current situation of H1N1 in our community. Unfortunately the guest speakers for the December meeting cancelled because of this.

The HUPIC chapter supported our President Jo-Anne McConnell to attend the St. John's CHICA conference last June.

### **Date & Location of Meetings:**

March 4, 2009: Hanover & District Hospital, Hanover  
May 21, 2009: Grey Bruce Health Unit, Owen Sound  
September 18, 2009: Grey Bruce Health Unit, Owen Sound

*Bev Morgan MLT*  
*Chapter President*

## CHICA-HANDIC

### Executive 2009

President: Barbara Shea: MLT ART Microbiology, CIC  
President-Elect: Risa Cashmore RN BSc CIC CCHN(c)  
Secretary: Andrea Iacurti RN CIC  
Treasurer: Connie Gittens-Webber BSc MLT ART

### Executive 2010

President: Risa Cashmore RN BSc CIC CCHN(C)  
President-Elect: Mark Jefferson RN, BScN CIC  
Secretary: Andrea Iacurti RN CIC  
Treasurer: Connie Gittens-Webber BSc MLT ART

**Number of Members:** 138

**Geographic Area Served:** Hamilton and Neighbouring Districts (Hamilton, Halton, Burlington, Oakville, Mississauga, Cambridge, Fergus, Brantford, St. Catherine's, Niagara)

### Membership

The CHICA-HANDIC membership includes novice and experienced professionals from varying disciplines: nurses, public health inspectors, medical laboratory technologist and industry representatives of varying backgrounds. The majority of members hold positions and or responsibilities in or for infection prevention and control in acute care, long term care, community health, public health and Regional Infection Control Networks (RICNs).

### Meetings

Full day meetings are held the middle Fridays of February, April, July, September and December. Our morning is devoted to chapter business, updates and questions, followed by a networking lunch. Afternoon sessions have an educational component provided by an invited guest or chapter members. Standing agenda items for chapter business include: celebration of CIC and SARE successes, alerts and outbreak reports from members as well as reports from the President, Treasurer, interest groups, CHICA-Canada, Infection Control Ontario and the RICNs.

### Education

**February:** Infection Control Resource Teams, Liz Van Horne

**April:** Reviewed 2 videos: Super Bugs: A Nightmare on Your Hands MRSA and *C.difficile* in Long Term Care; and The Chain of Transmission

**September** How to work with the media to present your projects and stories in a positive light, by Robb Jay of the Hamilton Spectator

**November** Education replaced by Christmas Outreach program for LTC Homes: Creating tree decorations with an IPAC hand hygiene theme

### Highlights

CHICA-HANDIC Annual Education Day was held June 18th at a local convention centre. The theme for 2009 was "Keep Your Boat Afloat".

- Participants: 425
- Evaluations: Received from 196 of participants,
- Results were very positive.

Topics and speakers included:

"Wind in Your Sails": Using Social Marketing to Promote Infection Control - Francois Lagarde (a speaker sponsored by the local RICNs)

Pirates of the Bugs We're Sea'in": MRSA and C. difficile Speak Out! - Virginia Tirilis and Mark Jefferson (a skit by local chapter members)

"Changing Your Course": Antibiotic Stewardship – Donna Lowe (a pharmacist/invited speaker)

“The Lighthouse Keeper’s Beacon”: Integrating Quality Measurements in a Hospital Environmental Cleaning Program - Cindy O’Neill (local chapter member)  
“Yo-Ho-Ho & A Bottle Of Rum”: Lunch & Exhibits  
“Poop Decks and Port Holes”: Specimen Collection and How to Read a Micro Report - Susan Cooper  
“Ahoy Matey!” Community Associated MRSA in Action - Dr. Maureen Cividino  
“Getting Your Bearings”: Creating a B.E.T.T.E.R Infection Control Culture - Andrea Iacurci  
“Coming Ashore”: Closing Remarks Risa Cashmore, President Elect, CHICA-HANDIC

Funds were used to support members attending the 2009 National Conference

**National Infection Control Week Support:**

Financial assistance was provided to 11 organizations to promote awareness of Infection Prevention and Control during this week. Those receiving assistance were asked to submit documentation to show how the funds were used in their facilities

**Special Events:**

Christmas Outreach at Christmas to LTC Homes:

The membership used the educational component of the November meeting to make Christmas tree ornaments incorporating an Infection Prevention and Control theme which were then donated to long term care homes in the region to help celebrate the holiday season and promote hand hygiene.

**Awards:**

Ecolab Poster Contest Winner: Kim Baker  
3M Chapter Award

*Barb Shea MLT ART*  
*Chapter President*

## **CHICA PEEL CHAPTER**

### **2009 Executive**

President: Alexis Silverman RN BScN CIC  
President-elect: Natalie Hiltz BA Hons CRIM  
Secretary: Debbie Valickis RN BScN CIC  
Treasurer: Arlene Sterling RN BScN, MAEd, CIC

### **2010 Executive**

President: Alexis Silverman RN BScN CIC  
President-elect: Natalie Hiltz BAHons CRIM  
Secretary: Debbie Valickis RN BScN CIC  
Treasurer: Arlene Sterling RN BScN MAEd CIC

**Number of Members:** 15 members

**Geographic Area Served:** Region of Peel including Mississauga, Brampton, Caledon municipalities. Borders include Etobicoke Creek and 427 (east), #9 highway and Caledon/Garafrax Town Line (north) and Winston Churchill and Ninth Line (west)

### **Membership**

Chapter members work in long term care; public health; acute care; fire services; police service; paramedic service; industry (e.g. Virox, Wilshire Works Solutions); correctional services, community; regional infection control networks; Ontario Agency for Health Promotion and Protection.

### **Meetings**

Three chapter meetings were held in 2009:

- June 16, 2009: an exploratory meeting to see if a Peel Chapter was a viable option
- September 22, 2009: Guest Speaker – “Environmental Cleaning: What your mother didn’t teach you! by Lee Nesbitt, Virox Technologies
- November 5, 2009: Guest Speaker - “Positive Deviance – A New Approach to an old Problem” - by Leah Gitterman, Technical Specialist Infection Prevention and Control, University Health Network

2010 meeting plan: 8-10 meetings per year

Proposed Format:

- 9-10am administration
- 10-11am networking (issues, problems or topics for discussion with members)
- 11-12 pm connections (sharing of successes, job opportunities, new ideas etc.)
- 12-1 pm lunch
- 1-2 pm for education (internal/external speakers; hot topics or topics relevant or of interest to the group)
- 2-3 pm committee and executive meetings

### **Highlights**

Special events:

- Inaugural meeting June 16, 2009
- Ratified as the 21<sup>st</sup> Chapter of Peel, November 2009

Education Days:

- to be planned for 2010

Awards Received:

- Natalie Hiltz – Police Commendation Award 2009 for the Personal Protection Strategy model for situational risk assessment and response for IPAC. Educational rollout of model includes training, video

**Members' Special Accomplishments:**

- Certification in Infection Control: 4 persons
- Central West Infection Control Network (CWICN) partnered with two other RICNS (CRICN and TCICN), Toronto Public Health and other Community providers to provide an Education day for Community Partners (“The Bug Stops Here”)
- CWICN also took part in the Wellington-Dufferin Guelph “Infection Connection” Education day.
- CWICN has also provided two education days for new ICPs in LTC
- Peel Public Health with CWICN hosted the Peel LTC Infection Control Education Day. The Mississauga Halton Infection Control Network contributed by sponsoring a speaker.

*Alexis Silverman RN BScN CIC  
Chapter President*

## **TORONTO AND AREA PROFESSIONALS IN INFECTION CONTROL (TPIC)**

### **Executive 2009**

President: Victoria Williams BSc BASc CIC  
President-elect: Vydia Nankoosingh MLT CIC  
Secretary: Charmaine D'Souza RN CIC  
Treasurer: Joan Osbourne Townsend RN BScN MN CIC

### **Executive 2010**

President: Vydia Nankoosingh MLT CIC  
President-elect: Lillian Kariko-Braithwaite MLT BHA CIC  
Secretary: Charmaine D'Souza RN CIC  
Treasurer: Seema Boodoosingh BSc MLT ART CIC

**Geographic Area Served:** Greater Toronto Area (GTA) bounded by Mississauga (West), Barrie (North), and Oshawa (East).

### **Membership:**

TPIC continues to support and recruit ICP's as the membership has grown to 348 members as of December 31, 2009. The membership is comprised of individuals from diverse educational backgrounds and work experiences such as: acute care, long term care, complex continuing care and rehabilitation, community care, public health, corrections, government, the Regional Infection Control Networks, and industry. On average, 40 members attend the meetings.

### **Meetings:**

Seven meetings were held in 2009: January 13, February 10, April 14, June 16 (summer get together/barbecue), September 15, October 13 and December 15 (Holiday social). In order to improve access for members the meetings were held at different locations throughout the city.

Standard meeting format:

Committee Meetings 0900-1000 (Executive, Education, Marketing, Construction)

Business Meeting 1000-1100 (includes any CHICA committee members present)

Networking 1100-1200

Lunch (informal networking) 1200-1300

Education Session 1300-1600

Guest Speakers:

<b>January 13</b>	<b>Topic:</b> <i>Ethics in Infection Control in Pediatric Patients</i> <b>Presenters:</b> <i>Dr Anne Matlow and Richard Wray, the Hospital for Sick Children</i>
<b>February 10</b>	<b>Topic:</b> Challenges of Implementing Infection Control in the Mental Health Setting <b>Presenters:</b> Linda Fletcher, Jamie Keller Whitby Mental Health Obed Adore Centre for Addition and Mental Health
<b>April 14</b>	<b>Topic:</b> Control of Bacterial Growth on Devices Using Advanced Metallic Films <b>Presenters:</b> <i>Dr. Robert Burrell</i>
<b>June 16</b>	<b>B.B.Q</b> <b>Topic:</b> No Formal Presentation
<b>September 15</b>	<b>Topic:</b> Poster/Oral presentations from recent conferences <b>Presenters:</b> TPIC members
<b>October 13</b>	<b>Topic:</b> Environmental Cleaning – What your mother couldn't teach you. <b>Presenters:</b> Nicole Kenney, Virox Technologies
<b>December 15</b>	<b>Holiday Social</b> <b>Topic:</b> Balancing Life and Stress <b>Presenters:</b> CJ Calvert

## **2009 Highlights**

TPIC executive, chairs of TPIC committees and interests groups participated in strategic planning for the chapter based on the needs assessment performed in 2007-08. Identified areas included; focusing on topics relating to professional development for education sessions, improving member access and participation through an improved website and providing alternative ways to attend meetings, and providing services for new members including mentorship.

Chapter members have been actively involved in many facility, local, regional, provincial and national initiatives throughout 2009.

- Members continue to provide instruction and mentorship to the Centennial College Infection Prevention and Control course
- TPIC in conjunction with Toronto Public Health and the Regional Infection Control Networks held its annual Long Term Care Infection Control Education Day
- The University Health Network and the Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion co-hosted a 2 day seminar on healthcare design and infection prevention and control
- At the provincial level TPIC members continue to participate in the Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee (PIDAC) and work within the MOHLTC providing input on many best practice guidelines.
- TPIC members attended a number of national and international conferences where they were invited speakers and presented abstracts including; CHICA, APIC, IFIC, SHEA, IDSA, ISQUA, and CPSI
- TPIC members have also been involved in a number of scientific publications in 2009 appearing in CJIC, AJIC, and ICHE
- TPIC members continued to participate in CHICA Canada through committees and interest groups.

Plans for 2010 include collaborating with the Regional Infection Control Networks to videoconference meetings and to hold an education event in February.

*Victoria Williams BSc BASc CIC  
Chapter President 2009*

## **CHICA-SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO (CHICA-SWO)**

### **Executive 2009**

President	Laura Fraser BScN CIC
President Elect	Brenda Prouse RN CIC
Secretary	Amanda Proctor RN
Treasurer	Nancy Brown MLT BSc CHE

### **Executive 2010**

President	Laura Fraser BScN CIC
President Elect	Brenda Prouse RN CIC
Secretary	Amanda Proctor RN
Treasurer	Diane Merkle RN

**Number of members:** 165

**Geographical location** includes three LHIN regions Erie St Clair (Windsor, Sarnia and Chatham area), South Western Ontario (London area) and part of the Waterloo Wellington region.

### **Meetings and Education sessions**

There were four meetings held in 2009 and one conference.

February 20, 2009

The winter meeting is always held by videoconference due to the potential for winter weather inhibiting travel to the meeting.

- Meeting Highlights
- Upcoming CHICA conference: highlights
- Upcoming two day strategic planning day with David Sheridan in St John's
- Meeting with Shirley McDonald for chapter webmasters since our website is up and running now
- Went over the conference dates and deadlines

Application for Education Assistance

CHICA SWO was able to give four members \$500.00 in education assistance to attend the CHICA National Education Conference. Members selected to attend needed to meet certain criteria outlined in the application.

Education session was Dr. Allison McGeer speaking on Antibiotic Stewardship

April 3, 2009

The spring meeting was a face to face meeting at West Haven Golf course in London, Ontario

Meeting Highlights

- We conducted an education needs survey of the members using clickers
- Christine Moussa showed the members how to use the on line chat area
- (the website of CHICA SWO has a chat button you can click onto to pose questions to the membership)
- Discussed submitted abstracts to CHICA and members brought in samples of ones they had done
- Announced three winners of the CHICA SWO education assistance to attend CHICA fund. The winners received \$500.00 to attend the CHICA National Education Conference
- Upcoming CHICA SWO June conference was announced
- New CICs announced

## Education Sessions

Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion speaker Cathy Egan  
Highlights from SHEA speaker Laura Fraser

June 5, 2009

There is normally a June CHICA SWO meeting but this year we replaced it with a June 5<sup>th</sup> Conference. We wanted to increase our membership. In particular we wanted to bring more ICPs from long term care into our membership. We partnered with three of the RICNs from our region with this conference.

The Conference planning was done by a conference planning committee which consisted of CHICA SWO members, RICN representatives and ICPs from long term care. About 100 people attended the conference. The conference took place at the Four Points by Sheraton

### Speakers and Topics of the Conference

- Francois Lagarde - Topic : Communication
- Scott Weese - Topic: Pet Visitation
- Henrietta Vanhulle - Topic: Sharp Safety
- Dr. Marina Salvadori - Topic: MRSA and CA-MRSA What's the Difference?

We had nine exhibitors sponsor the conference including: The Stevens Company, Maxill, ArjoHuntleigh, 3M, Laura Line Skin Care, Rubbermaid, Medline, Surgo Surgical, and SciCan. Evaluations were positive.

September 11, 2009

This was a face to face meeting held at West Haven Golf Course in London, Ontario.

### Meeting Highlights

- Invited members to bring environmental cleaning managers to the talk (we had a large turn out)
- June conference evaluations were reviewed
- Terms of Reference was reviewed by the members
- Elections for new executive positions were held
- Member of APIC greater Detroit chapter attended
- New CICs announced

## Education Sessions

Routine Practices by Anne Bialachowski (president elect for CHICA)

Best Practices for Environmental Cleaning by Mary Lou Card (PIDAC committee member)

November 6, 2009

This was a face to face meeting held at West Haven Golf Course in London, Ontario. We also offered this meeting by teleconference to members as many were not able to leave their facilities due to the pH1N1.

### Meeting Highlights

- Tim Cronsberry (member of CHICA SWO and Coordinator for SWOICN) gave a presentation on how to do an abstract
- Betty Bannerman Award given to member that is outstanding (sponsored by 3M winner gets plaque and \$1000.00). This year's winner was Nancy Brown
- CHICA SWO maintains relationships with the US APIC greater Detroit chapter by attending their meetings, networking and inviting members to our sessions as guests and speakers.
- New CICs announced

Education Sessions

Leadership, by Clare Barry

Emergency Preparedness, by Doris Neumeyer (Doris is from the APIC-Greater Detroit chapter in the states).

Representatives from RICN and the Public Health Agency for Health Protection and Promotion given opportunity to speak at each meeting.

*Laura Fraser BScN CIC*

*Chapter President*

## CHICA-OTTAWA REGION

### 2009 Executive:

President:	Janice Banford RN
Past President-elect:	Donna Baker RN CIC
Secretary:	Nancy Todd-Giordano RN CIC
Treasurer/Membership:	Allyson Shephard RN MScN
Membership	Judy Dennis RRT

### 2010 Executive:

President:	Nancy Todd-Giordano RN CIC
Past President	Janice Banford RN
Secretary:	Katherine Defalco R.N.
Treasurer	(interim) Judy Dennis RRT
Membership:	Judy Dennis RRT

**Geographic Area Served:** Ottawa, Ottawa Valley and the Outaouais Region.

**Membership:** A total 96 members with representation from acute care, long term care, community, paramedics, industry, federal government, dialysis and RICNs.

### Meetings

The chapter meets five times throughout the year with round table discussion and education sessions following the business portion of the half-day meetings. An additional two meetings were held by the executive committee.

### Highlights

Educational components of CHICA-Ottawa Region meetings included:

- Presentation “Mould and Mould Remediation” presented to the chapter by J MacLeod IC Construction Coordinator at The Ottawa Hospital.
- Video conferencing / educational sessions are coordinated for meetings as available dependent on meeting site.
- Opportunity to attend excellent education seminar provided by the Champlain Infection Control Network in February 2009 - “The Sick Travelers” attended by several members
- An education session was held on “Critical Appraisal” for the members.
- Dr. Nadine Sicard presented “Clostridium difficile- The Quebec Experience
- Ms R. D’Amour RN MScN Nurse Consultant / Public Health Agency of Canada presented to the members “The ABC’s of CJD”
- The CHICA – Ottawa conference / working group committee organizes an education day every second year CHICA Ottawa will partner with CHICA Renfrew in providing a one day educational event in spring 2010.
- Members participated in the Ministry of Health & Long Term Care and other educational opportunities via videoconferencing via the Champlain Infection Control Network (CICN) or through individual institutional access through Ontario Telemedicine Network (OTN) .

Round table discussions are very popular and members enjoy sharing information and exchanging of ideas great opportunities to dialogue.

Approximately six members attended the 2009 CHICA-Canada conference in Newfoundland. Our chapter provided funding assistance for several of the members to attend the conference.

Our Champlain Infection Control Network has begun another CIC Study Group for members preparing for the CIC exam.

Members of CHICA-Ottawa Region remain very active on the Regional Champlain Infection Control Network Steering Committee and/or on the four subcommittees: Education, Surveillance, Outbreak Management and a Scientific Advisory Group.

*Janice Banford RN  
Chapter President 2009*

## **CHICA-CENTRAL ONTARIO**

### **2009 Executive:**

President: Sharon Connell RN CIC  
President Elect: Teri Murduff RN BScN CIC  
Secretary: Colleen Haley RN  
Treasurer: Margaret Jay RN CIC  
Past President: Cheryl Johnson MLT CIC  
Education Committee Chair: Kelly Burns, RN  
Education Committee Assistant: Joan.Rannie RN BScN

### **2010 Executive:**

President: Teri Murduff RN BScN CIC  
President Elect: Vacant, to be elected  
Secretary: Colleen Haley RN  
Treasurer: Margaret Jay RN CIC  
Past President: Sharon Connell RN CIC  
Education Committee Chair: Vacant, to be elected

**Number of Members:** 34 in total (an increase of 6 members from 2008)

**Geographic Area Served:** The southern region includes Northumberland, and Pine Ridge Districts, east to Peterborough, west to Durham Region and north as far as the Haliburton Highlands and all areas within. We also welcome all members of CHICA who are located outside of our geographic region, that wish to designate their membership or additional membership to our chapter.

### **Membership**

Infection Control Professionals actively involved with our chapter meetings include representation from: four acute care hospitals, several long term care homes, community/home care services such as local Community Care Access Centres, and two public health units. The wide variety of work experiences provides a well rounded body of knowledge to enhance networking opportunities during chapter meetings and events.

### **Meetings**

Four meetings were planned for 2009 as follows: February 11, May 28, September 24 and November 26. The morning meetings included a two hour general meeting coupled with a one hour educational session. The attendance ranged from 10 to 15 members per meeting. Announcements from CHICA Canada were highlighted along with news, resources and events from our Central East - Regional Infection Control Network.

### **Educational Sessions**

The education for the May meeting consisted of reports from the attendees of the National CHICA conference sharing highlights from the sessions they attended in Newfoundland. The September meeting welcomed guest speaker Greg Buchannon MLT ART Charge Technologist of the Laboratory of Medicine at Peterborough Regional Health Centre, sharing information on 'Specimen Collection and Interpretation of Culture Results', this was well received by attending members. The final meeting was cancelled due to several member regrets related to the H1N1 pandemic workload.

### **Highlights**

The focus of our first chapter meeting of 2009 was visioning for the future. Members clearly showed their support to keep a small chapter growing and meeting the needs of its varied members. Vacant executive positions were filled and members shared ideas on increasing involvement and attracting new members. In an attempt to increase attendance, meeting times were changed to mornings starting at nine a.m. and to be hosted in rotating locations throughout the geographic area served.

Highlights of decisions made during the meetings held in May and September were:

1. To retrieve various historical documents and download to one central USB memory stick to be passed on year after year to the newly elected executive.
2. Financial support to be provided to the chapter president to attend the annual CHICA Conference to cover up to \$1000 of expenses not usually covered by other scholarship grants such as transportation and hotel costs. Revised Terms of Reference defines parameters of funding.
3. Revised chapter brochure completed with input from members. Still discussing logo ideas.
4. Chapter members agreed that a website would be difficult to maintain at this time.

*Sharon Connell RN CIC*  
*Chapter President*

## **CHICA-RENFREW COUNTY**

### **2009 Executive**

President: Sheila Havey RN BScN CIC  
President-elect: Rita Montgomery RN  
Secretary: Connie Robinson RN  
Treasurer: Leona Veley-Dagenais RN

### **2010 Executive**

President: Sheila Havey RN BScN CIC  
President-elect: Rita Montgomery RN  
Secretary: Connie Robinson RN  
Treasurer: Leona Veley-Dagenais RN

### **Number of Members: 19**

**Geographic Area Served:** Renfrew County (Arnprior, Renfrew, Pembroke, Eganville, Barry's Bay, Petawawa, Deep River, Cobden)

### **Membership**

Several members of CHICA-Renfrew also belong to Ottawa chapter. Members are from community care, long term care, retirement homes, home health care, public health, hospice, and industry reps.

### **Meetings**

**The chapter holds quarterly meetings in March, June, September and December. An education session held at most meetings:**

June: Influenza Testing by, Suzanne Rowland

September: Infection Control in Pre-Hospital Care by Brian Leahy & Tom Dunn (paramedics)

December: Routine Practices & Additional Precautions in Long Term Care, by Suzanne Rowland

### **Highlights**

- Connie Robinson won free 2010 CHICA membership (chapter with increased 2009 membership)
- Working on planning joint 2010 spring conference with Ottawa chapter
- Two members attended CHICA national conference in Newfoundland
- Several members joined CIC study group led by CICN & will be writing certification exams in 2010

*Sheila Havey RN BScN CIC*

*Chapter President*

## **CHICA-NORTHEASTERN ONTARIO**

### **2009 Executive**

President: Suzanne Pelletier RN BScN CIC  
President-elect: Holly Browne B.A.Sc CPHI (C)  
Secretary: Laurie Boyer RN BSN CIC CNOR CPN(C)  
Treasurer: Vicky Willet RN CIC  
Membership Director: Isabelle Langman RN CIC  
Conference Coordinator: Rachelle Swayne RN

### **2010 Executive**

President: Suzanne Pelletier RN BScN CIC  
President-elect: Holly Browne B.A.Sc CPHI (C)  
Secretary: Laurie Boyer RN BSN CIC CNOR CPN(C)  
Treasurer: Vicky Willet RN CIC  
Membership Director: Isabelle Langman, RN CIC  
Conference Coordinator: Rachelle Swayne RN

### **Number of Members: 69**

### **Geographic Area Served:**

Northeastern Ontario is the second largest region in Ontario in terms of land area, spanning 31% of the provincial total. Four towns have populations greater than 40 000: Timmins, North Bay, Sudbury, and Sault Ste. Marie. These four make up less than half of the overall population, with the remainder based in smaller centres, most of which have populations less than 5 000 people. The total population is just under 600,000 with a population density just over 2 persons per square kilometer compared to over 100 in southern Ontario.

### **Membership**

Members of the NEO Chapter are from multiple sectors including acute care, long term care, public health, community care, emergency medical services, and company representatives. These include but are not limited to ICP, registered nurses, physiotherapists, lab technicians, public health inspectors, paramedics, administrators and physicians.

### **Meetings**

As the NEO region is vast, all meetings were offered via videoconference. We held four general meetings in 2009 and discussed a variety of topics such as public reporting of hand hygiene compliance, pandemic preparedness and control measures, PIDAC best practice manuals, CIC exam preparation, web page development, etc. Standing agenda items provide members with an opportunity to share challenges and successes as well as receive updates from the executive, CHICA-Canada and the Northeastern Ontario Infection Control (NEOICN). Partnership with the NEOICN is ongoing. The support of the network in terms of teleconference access, sharing of resources, educational tools, mailing lists, etc. is invaluable.

In June, several NEO Chapter members joined the SEO Chapter meeting to participate in a videoconference with guest speaker Dr. Syed Sattar who spoke on the topic of Cleaning, Disinfection and Sterilization.

During the 2010 meeting schedule, the NEO Chapter will continue working on webpage development and will seek membership feedback in an online interest survey.

### Highlights

In collaboration with the NEOICN, the NEO Chapter held a three-day conference “*IPAC Northeastern Ontario... On Our Way!*” June 2-4, 2009. Over 115 attendees enjoyed a high quality, dynamic education program and networking opportunities. Program highlights included the CHICA MRSA Road Show, the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) Construction Course and a CIC Preparation Day. Additionally, several speakers shared their expertise in the fields of environmental cleaning, reprocessing, pandemic planning, occupational health and team building. The keynote speaker was Dr. Alison McGeer.

The NEO Chapter was well represented at the CHICA-Canada 2009 National Education Conference in St. Johns, Newfoundland and Labrador.

*Suzanne Pelletier RN BScN CIC*  
*Chapter President*

## **CHICA- EASTERN ONTARIO (CHICA-EO)**

### **2009 Executive**

President: Bonnie Carter, RN  
Past President: Kathleen Poole MN CIC  
President Elect: Melanie Barbacsy PHI BSc CIC  
Treasurer/ Membership: Dana Anderson RN CIC  
Secretary: Shirley McDonald ART CIC

### **2010 Executive**

President: Melanie Barbacsy PHI BSc CIC  
Past President: Bonnie Carter RN  
President Elect: Sally McInnis  
Treasurer/ Membership: Dana Anderson RN CIC  
Secretary: Susan Cooper

**Geographic Area Served:** Eastern Ontario from Trenton to Brockville, Lake Ontario north to Bancroft

**Membership:** 2009 membership increased again to 77 members, plus four Honourary life members.

### **Meetings / Education:**

CHICA-EO meets five times annually, and this year sponsored a special summer social meeting. Most meetings are held at the Mental Health Site of Providence Care in Kingston in a room that enables members in remote areas to link via both videoconference and teleconference. All meetings consist of a business portion including round table discussion, as well as an education session organized by our education chair Paul Webber. Topics presented in 2009 included:

- February 19: The Cost and Control of Foodborne Illness, Keith Warriner
- April 22: Provision of Medical Care in Africa: Rewards and Challenges. Dr. Andrew Simor shared his expertise on this fascinating topic
- June 17: Current Issues in Disinfection of Environmental Surfaces in Healthcare Settings, Syed A. Sattar PhD. This meeting was jointly sponsored by CHICA EO and CIPP (Community Infection Prevention Partners) of the KFL&A Public Health. Additionally there were five other groups joining in via videoconferencing: Sudbury, Timmins, Sault Area, Services de santé de Chapleau and Temiskaming.
- July 17: The Summer Social was held at the home of Shirley MacDonald. Attendance was down and the chapter conducted a survey of members to identify the feasibility of continuing this annual event. Results were overwhelmingly to continue a social/educational event annually for the chapter.
- An education subcommittee was formed to prepare for a Trade Show in the spring of 2010
- September 15: Infection Control in the Personal Services Settings. Lindsay Nicholson from Kingston Frontenac Lennox & Addington Public Health presented a fresh and informative session on practices and what to look for at spas and piercing facilities.
- November 18: WHO recommendations on Infection Prevention and Control Measures in Healthcare for Pandemic Influenza (H1N1) 2009, A timely video education session by Carmem Lucia Pessoe-Silva, MD PhD, World Health Organization.

**Highlights:**

This was another very active year for our chapter. Some of the highlights include:

- As above, our chapter once again successfully co-hosted an infection education session with our area public health office, which invited a broader audience to come and learn.
- Policies updated in 2009 in the manual and on the CHICA-EO website include: job descriptions for all executive positions, the library and travel expenses.
- Dr. Dick Zoutman MD retired from the CHICA-Canada Board at the end of 2008 after completing four terms (12 years) as Physician Director. Dr. Zoutman received CHICA Canada Honorary Lifetime Membership in 2009 and CHICA - Eastern Ontario acknowledges our chapter members accomplishments.
- CHICA-Canada Conference Scientific Planning Committee: Jim Gauthier continues to serve, and will be chair for the 2010 CHICA annual conference in Vancouver. Amanda Knapp is appointed for a two-year term representing community/public health.
- Susan Cooper is the Member At Large for the 2011 National Conference in Toronto
- Despite the untimely arrival of H1N1, seven chapter members attended the 2009 CHICA conference in St. John's Newfoundland. The president and president elect were unable to attend, however did participate in the presidents' meeting held by teleconference.
- CHICA-EO members continued to participate actively on all CHICA interest groups
- Several chapter members were on the Regional Infection Control Network committees to design pocket guides for both acute and long term care on IPAC.
- Three more chapter members achieved CIC status, raising our total to 21.

*Bonnie Carter RN GNC(C) OHN  
Chapter President*

## 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

President: Silvana Perna N Msc (A) CIC  
Vice President: Frederica Gaspard  
Treasurer/Membership: Connie Forget Falcicchio N MSc (A)

**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*

## **CHICA-NEW BRUNSWICK/PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND**

### **2009 Executive**

President: Mary Woodworth RNBN  
President-elect: Stacey Linger RN BN CIC  
Secretary: Kellie McLean RN BN  
Treasurer: Bernadette DeMone MN

### **2010 Executive**

President: Mary Woodworth RN BN  
President-elect: Stacey Linger RN BN CIC  
Secretary: Kellie McLean RN BN  
Treasurer: Bernadette DeMone MN

**Number of Members:** 53

### **Geographic Area Served:**

The provinces of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island

### **Membership:**

The membership consists of representatives from acute care hospitals, long term care facilities, mental health, and Public Health settings. The chapter is pleased to have Mary LeBlanc Honorary CHICA-Canada member join our membership, she is a great asset to the chapter with her expertise and advice in infection control.

### **Meetings:**

The NB/PEI chapter holds two meetings per year, the format being chapter business; educational session; and round table discussions.

### **Highlights**

Due to the H1N1 pandemic many members were unable to attend the National CHICA conference in Newfoundland. Four members did attend and provided a summary review of the conference to chapter members at the June meeting.

Guest speaker Dr. Magdalena Kuhn, Clinical Microbiologist presented “What is New and Of Interest” focusing on Multi Drug Resistant Gram Negative Bacteria.

A work group was formed to plan a provincial one day educational workshop (postponed due to H1N1 pandemic).

*Mary Woodworth BN RN  
Chapter President*

## CHICA-NOVA SCOTIA

### 2009 Executive

President:	Faith Stoll BScN RN
President-elect:	Suzanne Rhodenizer Rose RN BScN CIC
Secretary:	Terry Charlebois RN
Treasurer:	Danielle Henri RN
Membership Director:	Patsy Rawding RN BScN CIC
Education Chair:	Elizabeth Watson RN BScN CIC

### 2010 Executive

President:	Faith Stoll BScN RN
President-elect:	Suzanne Rhodenizer Rose RN BScN CIC
Secretary:	Terry Charlebois RN
Treasurer:	Danielle Henri RN
Membership Director:	Patsy Rawding RN BScN CIC
Education Chair:	Elizabeth Watson RN BScN CIC

**Number of Members:** CHICA-NS consists of seventy-eight (78) members. The majority of members are from acute care or long term care settings. We are also fortunate to have members from home care, industry, and public health.

**Geographic Area Served:** The Province of Nova Scotia

### MEETINGS

The chapter met six times in 2009. Meetings are held on Friday afternoons in various healthcare sites near Halifax. Members travel from all areas of the province to attend and drive up to four hours, one way. Meeting format consists of committee meetings in the morning, then a networking lunch followed by a one hour business meeting and a two-hour Education Session. In 2009 these included:

**February:** MRSA Road Show in partnership with BD and CHICA Canada. Guest speakers included Dr. Michael Melvie, Dr. Lynn Johnston and Lea Gutterman

**April:** A members brainstorming session

**June:** Speakers from the Department of Health Promotion and Protection in response to H1N1: Jennifer Cutler on ILI screening in ERs for acute care and Dee Mombourquette on the ILI Long Term Care Toolkit. We also enjoyed a pizza party to celebrate the start of summer!

**September:** Two education sessions: LTC Jeopardy! by Danielle Henri which included lots of fun and prizes; and an acute care focus group facilitated by Elizabeth Watson looking at educational tools to accompany the new draft Routine Practice and Additional Precautions.

**October:** Suzanne Rhodenizer-Rose and Patsy Rawding, Provincial Infection Control consultants provided an education session on HINI followed by a round table discussion.

**November:** CHICA NS annual Education Symposium. This annual education conference includes a day and a half with education sessions, a "Strut Your Stuff" poster presentation, networking, and a wine and cheese with vendors. Keynote speaker was Dr. Michael Gardam presenting on the topic: How's Infection Control Working for You? Other speakers included Dr. Todd Hatchette, Dr. Michelle Alfa, Dr. Joanne Langley and several CHICA NS Infection Control Practitioners

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Our annual CHICA NS conference was supported by 23 vendors from industry who set up exhibits for both days of the conference. The conference had 120 in attendance.
- The Executive and Education Chair met in January for an annual planning session and again in July for a strategic planning day.
- Several CHICA NS members were able to take part in the CHICA Canada national conference in St John's. CHICA NS awarded four sponsorships for members to attend the conference and in addition provided funding for our new treasurer to be present at the finance committee meeting.
- Two CHICA NS members were recipients of a Virox scholarship for 2009.
- Mary LeBlanc was awarded an honorary membership in CHICA NS.

**CHAPTER GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR 2010:**

- Development of Interest Groups, especially Long Term Care, within the province in association with the CHICA - Canada Interest groups.
- Continue to increase educational learning opportunities for novice Infection Control Practitioners.
- Increase support and educational sessions by utilizing our more experienced CHICA NS members and our industry partners.
- To continue to provide financial support to CHICA NS members pursuing education in Infection Prevention and Control.
- Increase membership.
- Continue with strategic planning.
- Increase the visibility of CHICA Nova Scotia within the province and explore opportunities to further inform the public of our role.
- Increase the advocacy role of CHICA NS at the provincial and national level.

*Faith Stoll BScN RN  
Chapter President*

## **CHICA-NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR**

### **2010 Executive**

President: Merlee Steele-Rodway RN  
President-elect: Beverley Pittman RN  
Secretary: Lola Gushue RN CIC  
Treasurer: Lynn Mercer BN

**No. of Members:** 43

**Geographic Area Served:** The Province of Newfoundland and Labrador

### **Membership**

Our membership has increased during the last year. Our membership spans the continuum of care, from community/public health to acute care and long-term care. We are fortunate to have expanded to include clinical nursing staff, physicians, laboratory staff and industry representatives. Our members work in regional health authorities, which serve large geographical areas. Several of our members are active on Special Interest Groups.

### **Meetings**

Nine meetings were held last year through the provincial teleconference system. Teleconference meetings usually consist of a business session followed by an educational or regional report from ICP's. H1N1 planning and immunizations consumed our Infection Prevention and Prevention, Public Health and Communicable Disease Teams across the Newfoundland and Labrador. Everyone came together in this critical time.

### **Education**

CHICA-NL played host to a very successful 2009 National Conference this year. We are planning now for our own annual two-day education conference and general meeting to be hosted by our members in St. Anthony in September.

Webber Teleconferences are provided to the CHICA-NL membership by the provincial government.

Several ICP's have completed the Queen's University program for Infection Prevention and Control last year and newly hired ICP's are presently enrolled this year.

3M will sponsor a Provincial Sterilization Education Day for Infection Prevention and Control Practitioners and Medical Device Reprocessing staff.

CSA will hold their Annual Medical Device Reprocessing Conference in St. John's in October 2010.

### **Government**

The Provincial Infection Prevention and Control Network, PIC-NL, has met on a monthly basis to develop provincial policies and standards for infection prevention and control programs as well to develop Provincial Pandemic Plans.

*Merlee Steele-Rodway RN  
Chapter President 2008-September 2010*