



# Australian Infection Control Association

## National News

### Issue 41

September 2011

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The aim of this newsletter is to keep all members informed and updated with the activities of the AICA Executive team. This newsletter is distributed to members quarterly as an insert to *Healthcare Infection*.

Australian Infection Control Association  
PO Box 3254

Brisbane Queensland 4001

Email: [admin@aica.org.au](mailto:admin@aica.org.au)

Web: [www.aica.org.au](http://www.aica.org.au)

#### Mission:

*AICA provides infection control practitioners with a professional profile, identifies and promotes professional standards and lobbies with one voice on behalf of infection control practitioners*

### From the Vice-President's Desk

As a member of the AICA Executive I feel fortunate to be part of an organisation that has accomplished so much for the profession of Australian Infection Prevention and Control. In my ICP career dating back to 1988 there has been vast progress and advances. From the current range of local, national and global issues this will no doubt continue well into the future. This is particularly so as health and care organisations head in many different service delivery directions. The following is a thought that comes to my mind at this stage of the ongoing history of Infection Prevention and Control Professionals in Australia.

**Change is the law of life and those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future." — John F. Kennedy**

I urge you to participate in the AICA 2011 AGM as this your opportunity to :

#### Have your voice heard

The AGM will be held during the Asia Pacific Society of Infection Control (APSIC) Conference to be held 8 – 11 November 2011 at the Melbourne Convention Centre. This will be your chance to hear the latest news and vote on important matters relating to the AICA structural changes. Details of the AGM will be distributed to all members in the near future.

*Sylvia Gandossi, Vice- President, AICA*

### National Consultative Steering Committee (NCSC) : Update

At the time of writing, the AICA NCSC had reviewed all responses from the online survey as part of Consultative Round 4 – Open Community Consultation, and are in the process of liaising with Moore's Legal and AICA Executive as the final draft of the Constitution progresses. Once the draft Constitution is finalised it will be placed on the NCSC website together with final recommendations from the NCSC on the proposed structure.

The AICA NCSC would like to acknowledge the extraordinary cooperation and input from each of the State and Territory Associations during the previous three consultation rounds. The level of enthusiasm for a new national body provided by formal feedback from general members and through Association's Executive is most encouraging.

The NCSC would also like to acknowledge the cooperation and support received from AICA Executive during this exciting process.

Phil Russo, Chair, NCSC

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## State and Territory News

### South Australia

#### Education

Over 30 people attended an interesting evening seminar in June "Animals our friends or foe?" Dr Mary Carr, a Veterinarian with Biosecurity SA provided an interesting insight into animal diseases such as Hendra and Influenza viruses

#### State Conference

Over 150 people and 39 trade exhibitors attended the South Australian conference "Driving Infection Control to Infinity and Beyond" held on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> August at the Convention Centre, Adelaide. The conference offered the members an opportunity to network and also catch up on the latest evidence based practice for not only acute care settings, but also community and multicultural settings. Thank you to everyone who came and made it a successful conference.

#### State Scholarship

A state scholarship was awarded to Wendy Peacock to attend and present at the Clinical Audit Improvement Conference 8–9 September 2011 in Melbourne, on the success of the hand hygiene program rollout in South Australia.

#### Collaborative Seminar with AWMA (SA) and ICASA

A collaborative seminar evening is planned at the ANMF Education & Skills Centre: Torrens Road, Ridleyton on the 16<sup>th</sup> November to explore *MRSA & VRE in wounds* (including basic microbiology, healing, management and practice implications); *topical antimicrobials* (including indications for, types of and use of these products in practice) and finally what are the *Myths and Misconceptions* in managing infected wounds. All ICASA and non ICASA members are welcome.

#### Lifetime Recognition Award

A lifetime recognition award was presented to Judith Bail at the AGM that was held on the 19<sup>th</sup> August 2011 at the ICASA state Conference. This award was presented to Judith because of her dedication and collaborative work in promoting Infection Prevention and Control within SA and ICASA over many, many years.

#### Linda Henderson

#### Newsletter Representative

### New South Wales

I wonder if anyone knows where 2011 has gone. It has slipped away all too quickly, and most people I talk to are feeling equally at a loss. There are many changes afoot this year. On a National level our Association is growing and changing with the times. In NSW over the past 12 months we have been Area Health Services, Networks and now

Districts; some of us have been split into smaller groups again, with resultant restructuring of resources.

**AICA 2012 7<sup>th</sup> Biennial National Conference** – "Building, Believing, Balancing, & Beyond..." is to be held in Sydney in October 2012. The organising committee, scientific committee and ASHM are working hard to bring this to fruition.

The organising committee members are from throughout Australia to ensure we have a truly national representation, as this will be the first national conference we will be having as one truly national body in 2012.

The group has reviewed the feedback provided by delegates from the 2010 conference and established conference objectives and key themes. They are currently working together to set the program, identify keynote speakers and look at branding and budgetary considerations. A conference organising timeline and budget has been established.

Stay tuned...

**Education:** Leigh Boiven has done an outstanding job in coordinating education days across the State. There has been very good feedback from the days held in Port Macquarie and at St Vincent's Hospital in Sydney, with another occurring soon in northern NSW. We thank Leigh for her dedication to providing this education, and working with local ICPs. We also acknowledge the role that Michelle Berarducci plays in her support.

#### Helen O'Harae

#### Newsletter Representative

### Tasmania

#### 2011 Grants and Awards

The TICA recently awarded grants to Fiona Wilson, Kate Herbert and Anne Wells to assist them with professional development activities. A research grant was also awarded to Brett Mitchell.

#### Move to a new national body

TICA members have to date supported the move to a new national body for infection control. Members have had the opportunity to discuss issues relating to the new body at length at GMs this year. All TICA members are encouraged to keep up to date with this important development and review the NCSC website – [www.icaustralia.com.au](http://www.icaustralia.com.au)

#### Guidelines

A number of guidelines have recently been developed by the Tasmanian Infection Prevention & Control Unit, with input from the TICA representative. These documents are available on the TIPCU website ([www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/tipcu](http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/tipcu)) and include:

- Guidance for the decolonisation of MRSA
- Guidance for the management of patient with MRSA in Tasmanian rural hospitals and non acute settings

- Guidance for the management of patient with VRE in Tasmanian rural hospitals and non acute settings
- Preventing catheter associated urinary tract infections. A number of TICA members were also involved in a recent Healthcare Infection publication on the same topic.

### **TICA Conference 29-30 September 2011 "Keeping it Clean" - Wrest Point Conference Centre, Hobart**

The TICA conference has an exceptional line up of speakers and is attracting one of the world's most high profile and sought after speakers in the area of healthcare associated infections, Dr Stephanie Dancer.

Dr Dancer will be discussing the role of environmental cleaning and prevention of infections, in addition to issues related to antibiotics and antimicrobial resistance. This is the only time she is speaking in Australia and has never presented in Australia before.

The conference is also attracting some of Australia's leading experts and speakers in their respective fields.

A number of poster submissions have been accepted for the conference, showcasing some great work occurring across the State. At the time of developing this report almost all industry booths for the conference have sold out, with a large number of early bird registrations received.

Conference registration closes Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2011.

For details about the conference, please see - <http://www.thetica.net.au/home.htm>

### **TICA Meetings**

Members are reminded that the AGM meeting will be at 11am on the 29<sup>th</sup> Sept at the Wrest Point Casino prior to the commencement of the conference.

### **Jenny Stubbings**

**Newsletter Representative Tasmania**

## **Australian Capital Territory**

### **Education**

Jan Roberts has just returned from the 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Prevention and Infection Control in Geneva Switzerland, in June/July 2011. Jan was sponsored by AICA ACT to attend and represented the ACT in this forum. The conference was attended by over 1400 participants from all regions of the world and had a diverse scientific program. The program covered all current issues influencing IP&C and also presented information on emerging issues including newly emerging multi-resistant organisms. Jan spoke at our meeting following her return and presented a written report on the various speakers and sessions attended.

A reminder to all members our next breakfast education session will be held on 30 August 2011. The guest speaker will be Prof Frank Bowden Professor of Medicine ANU and Director of the Canberra Sexual Health Centre. He will be

speaking on Innovative clinical trials in both Chlamydia and head lice, and introducing his new book 'Gone Viral'.

Date: Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2011. Time: 7.15am - (7:30am start) - 8:30am.

Venue: The Quality Hotel, Corner Launceston St and Melrose Dr, Phillip ACT RSVP - Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2011

Remember 7:15am for a 7:30am start

Our current membership stands at 45. New members are always welcome. Membership forms are available via Wendy Beckingham at Canberra hospital - [wendy.beckingham@actgov.au](mailto:wendy.beckingham@actgov.au), or Philippa Keating at Canberra hospital - [philippa.keating@actgov.au](mailto:philippa.keating@actgov.au).

**Philippa Keating on behalf of the Publicity Officer/ Newsletter Representative**

## **Victoria**

### **Half Day Seminar Thursday 14th July 2011**

The half day seminar this year was held at the Royal Melbourne Hospital. It was another very successful study day with 86 people attending. Our best attendance at this yearly seminar to date.

Topics presented included an update of TB in Victoria, a hand hygiene update from Hand Hygiene Australia, decreasing CLABSIs in Australian ICUs and a study re MRSA surveillance and the use of contact precautions.

Please ensure you have responded to the feedback survey sent if you attended the seminar. Your feedback is valuable in planning future education sessions.

### **VICPA AGM Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2011**

The 2011 VICPA AGM was held after the half day seminar. The AGM provided an opportunity to inform members of VICPA's activities over the last 12 months. VICPA would like to welcome Amanda Ayres from Bendigo Health as a new member on the VICPA executive.

The VICPA executive line up for 2011 - 2012 is as follows:

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| • President:              | Wendy Bacalja                                |
| • Vice President:         | Sue Flockhart                                |
| • Secretary:              | Maureen Canning                              |
| • Treasurer:              | Sue Atkins                                   |
| • Membership Secretary:   | Paul Simpson                                 |
| • Education Officers:     | Kate O'Donoghue & Amanda Ayres               |
| • Publicity & Newsletter: | Donna Cameron                                |
| • AICA Representative:    | Leslie Lewis                                 |
| • VAC Representative:     | Leslie Lewis (rural) & Matt Richards (metro) |

VICPA would like to thank and acknowledge retiring executive member Catina Eyres. Catina has been on the VICPA executive for the past 3 years and has contributed a great deal through her work on the education portfolio. We wish her all the best in her future endeavours.

### **VICPA Special General Meeting (SGM)**

A Special General Meeting will be held in September to vote on a number of resolutions pertaining to the AICA restructure. The date and venue for this is yet to be determined. All members will be notified as soon as the date is confirmed.

### **APSIC 2011**

Abstract submission for APSIC is now closed. Earlybird registration closes Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> September 2011 so be sure not to miss this deadline.

There are a number of workshops being offered at the start of the conference including spending a day with a Melbourne Infection Control Team. The scientific program is available at the APSIC website. For more information on the conference and key dates please visit the website at [www.APSIC2011.com](http://www.APSIC2011.com).

### **VICPA Honour Role to Recognise Past ICPs**

A number of nominations for the VICPA Honour Role have been received. The successful nominations will be announced and presented at the APSIC 2011 conference dinner. Thank you to all

### **VICPA Scholarships for APSIC 2011**

VICPA offered a number of rural and metropolitan scholarships to attend APSIC in November. We received quite a few applications for the scholarships. There were 3 rural (i.e., >150km from Melbourne CBD) and 3 metropolitan scholarships awarded. The following people were the successful applicants:

#### Rural

- Matt Mason
- Amanda Ayres
- Loren Drought

#### Metropolitan

- Michael Rice
- Joanne Culton
- Pauline Bass

### **VICPA 2011/2012 scholarships**

Applications for the VICPA 2011/2012 scholarships will be open shortly. There will be 5 Scholarships of \$2000 each available for research and professional development purposes. For further details please see the VICPA website or e-bulletin.

### **Bi-monthly VICPA/VICNISS Journal Club**

The third Journal Club was held at the start of the seminar day at the Royal Melbourne Hospital 14<sup>th</sup> July 2011. Presenters were Richard Bartolo from Western Health and Sharon Kinney from the Royal Children's Hospital.

Date and venues for the rest of the year are as follows:

September 2011	Peninsula Health
December 2011	VICNISS

For speakers and articles to be discussed see the VICPA website [www.vicpa.org.au](http://www.vicpa.org.au) closer to the date.

**Donna Cameron**

**Newsletter Representative**

## **Queensland**

**ICPAQ 2011 Conference 12 – 14 October 2011 – Save the date!**



### **Sponsorship and Exhibition Opportunities**

Organisations are invited to participate as sponsors and/or exhibitors at the ICPAQ 2011 Conference, which is the premier infection control conference in Queensland and offers a unique opportunity to promote products and services to a select and valuable audience of key infection control professionals.

For more information download the Sponsorship & Exhibition Prospectus from <http://www.icpaq2011.com/>

### **Keynote Speaker**

Dr Paul Barach

Project Leader, New South Wales Trauma Collaborative

Dr Barach has over 15 years experience in researching, teaching and applying human factors and quality improvement methods to healthcare and has been integrally involved as a clinician, educator, researcher and policy maker in enhancing healthcare improvement and patient safety policy in the United States, Europe and more recently Australia. Dr Barach is a board certified, practicing anaesthetist with fellowship training in critical care medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School. He founded the Centre for Patient Safety and Simulation at the University Of Miami Jackson Memorial Hospital.

Presentation: *"How Human factors and behaviour can influence the ability to improve patient safety outcomes"*

### **Invited Speakers include:**

Marilyn Cruickshank

Clinical Policy Manager, Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare (ACSQHC), New South Wales  
Presentation: *"The National Strategies for reducing Healthcare Associated Infections"*

Phil Russo

National Project Manager, Hand Hygiene Australia (HHA), Victoria

Presentation: *"Hand Hygiene Initiatives – How far have we come?"*

Dr Gary Lum, AM

Assistant Secretary, Health Emergency Management Branch, Department of Health and Ageing, Queensland



Presentation: "Coordinating efforts during time of natural disasters"

Dr Jenny Robson

Microbiologist – Sullivan Nicolaides Pathology

Presentation: "VRE - Emergence of new resistant organisms and the impact on patients"

Dr Geoffrey Playford

Infectious Diseases Physician & Clinical Microbiologist, Princess Alexandra Hospital

Presentation: "Hendra Virus"

Dr Cathryn Murphy

Clinical Nurse Consultant, Infection Control, Gold Coast Hospital

Presentation: "How to be a better ICP and improve leadership skills"

Dr Deborah Macbeth

Assistant Director of Nursing, Infection Control, Gold Coast Hospital

Presentation: "Infection Prevention Focus when designing a new hospital"

Dolly Oleson

Director, Centre for Health Related Infection Surveillance and Prevention (CHRISP), Queensland Health.

Presentation: "Infection Control at a local level"

Rosemary Steinhardt

Project Manager, Centre for Health Related Infection Surveillance and Prevention (CHRISP), Queensland Health

Presentation: "Sterilisation"

Cathy Fritz

Infection Control Practitioner, Bundaberg

Presentation: "Management of VRE patients"

The conference theme of "Helping Hands" will focus on the importance of Infection Control Practitioners helping each other by sharing knowledge and experiences to strive for optimal outcomes. Our Scientific Program will encompass key topics to highlight this and will include Infection Control and Prevention across various Healthcare settings.

We have an exciting social program lined up which will allow delegates the opportunity to network with colleagues and friends whilst enjoying the fantastic cuisine and entertainment Brisbane has to offer.

We look forward to seeing you at the ICPAQ 2011 Conference in Beautiful Brisbane. Further details can be found at <http://www.icpaq2011.com/>

### **ICPAQ Scholarships – applications close the end of September**

Infection Control Practitioners, who have been full financial members of ICPAQ Inc. for a continuous period of not less than twelve months, are invited to apply for scholarships to provide financial assistance towards education and/or research pertinent to the practice of Infection Control.

ICPAQ provides a number of scholarships to apply, please email the ICPAQ Secretary for a copy of the current application form at [icpaq@icpaq.org](mailto:icpaq@icpaq.org).

**ICPAQ General Education Forum (July)**

Recently, Dr David Looke, an Infectious Diseases Physician & Clinical Microbiologist, Princess Alexandra Hospital, presented to ICPAQ members on 'The Real Treat of Antibiotic Resistance', describing the history of antibiotic development; the causes of resistance; the dwindling pipeline of new antibiotics; the burden of multi-drug resistant bacteria; the consequences of antibiotic resistance, case studies; and the need for strong antibiotic stewardship into the future.

### **AICA Credentialed?**

Congratulation to our newly credentialed ICPAQ Committee Members:

- Kathy Taylor
- Robyn Birch
- Sara Godden

And to our re-credentialed member:

- Jenny Stackelroth

**Meagan Hunter**

**Newsletter Representative**

## **Western Australia**

As of the 15 July 2011, ICWA membership consisted of 124 members. New and renewing members are always welcome and the 2011 membership form is available for download via the AICA website.

Members are reminded that the 25<sup>th</sup> International Infection Prevention week will be held from the 16 to 22 October 2011. You are encouraged to promote infection prevention strategies in your workplace. Ideas for workplace activities and further information regarding Infection Prevention week initiatives and resources can be found

at: [http://www.asid.net.au/hicsigwiki/index.php?title=Infection\\_control\\_and\\_prevention\\_week\\_2011](http://www.asid.net.au/hicsigwiki/index.php?title=Infection_control_and_prevention_week_2011)

[http://www.apic.org/Content/NavigationMenu/Education/InfectionPreventionWeek/2011InternationalInfectionPreventionWeek/IIPW\\_2011.htm](http://www.apic.org/Content/NavigationMenu/Education/InfectionPreventionWeek/2011InternationalInfectionPreventionWeek/IIPW_2011.htm)

[http://www.chica.org/news\\_icweek.php](http://www.chica.org/news_icweek.php)

This would be a great opportunity for members to submit an article for the ICWA Newsletter – please enclose a photograph or two as they enhance the story.

### **ICWA Education and Scholarships**

The ICWA Executive is planning an education session / networking opportunity to be conducted in the second half of 2011. Further information will be circulated to members via email. It is anticipated that a General Meeting will be held on the same day.

ICWA members have been informed via email of four scholarships of \$1500 each for members to attend the APSIC Conference. The conference is to be held in Melbourne from 8 -11 November 2011. The scholarship application closing date has passed.

**ICAWA Newsletter**

Following the publication of the April edition of the ICAWA Newsletter, two members were rewarded for their hard work compiling an article, with a \$50 book voucher. The recipients were Simon Meyer-Henry who provided a summary of the recent "Infection Control During Construction, Renovation and Maintenance Workshops"; and Ann Whitfield for the story of her personal journey into the field of Infection Control. By the time of publication, an August edition of the ICAWA Newsletter will have been circulated, containing more member submitted articles. It is wonderful to see the sharing of information between colleagues using the newsletter as the

medium. A non exhaustive list of suggested articles suitable for submission includes:

- Member profiles
- Education tips / helpful websites / recommended reading / other helpful resources
- Crosswords / sleuths
- Infection prevention / control strategies implemented in your workplace

Please continue to submit articles and remember a \$50 book voucher is offered for any member's published articles.

**Susan Swaby**

**Newsletter Representative**