

Journal report

Natalie Spearing • Editor

The following is a summary of the editor's report presented at the Annual General Meeting of the Australian Infection Control Association on 5 May 2001 in Sydney.

Journal philosophy

The aim of this journal is to improve knowledge regarding the prevention and control of infection and to develop an evidence base for practice. The journal provides a medium for the sharing of ideas, experiences and information. Ultimately, publication generates theory. A demonstrated commitment to publication is essential for the development of any specialist field.

There are infinite opportunities to contribute towards the development of infection control theory. Research articles, case studies, clinical findings, commentaries and literature reviews are some examples. The AICA Strategic Plan (2001) identifies the need to develop a research agenda to prioritise and focus research efforts.

Indexation

Indexation is the key to the evolution of *Australian Infection Control*. Broad dissemination of the material published in this journal will establish it as a recognised resource, provide authors with the recognition they deserve and facilitate knowledge exchange in this field.

Attaining indexation in a variety of databases remains a priority. The journal is now indexed with CINAHL and the Australasian Medical Index (AMI). On-line access to AIC on the electronic AMI database (Meditext) will be available soon.

Structure

To facilitate the ongoing development of the journal, changes have been made to increase the number of members involved. There are now three assistant editors, Marilyn Beattie, Merrilyn Curtis and Irene Wilkinson, who oversee production of the journal's regular features (Table 1). The Editorial Committee, comprising the assistant editors, three

Editorial Board members and the editor will be responsible for planning the content of the journal.

The Editorial Board has grown to include overseas representatives (from New Zealand and Hong Kong) and more members of the Australian infection control community. The number of people reviewing articles submitted to AIC has increased, allowing the opportunity to engage reviewers with specific expertise in a subject area.

A number of infection control practitioners have expressed interest in developing article review skills. The guidelines produced for AIC reviewers and the opportunity for the authors to view feedback from experienced referees support this endeavour. This process has in turn provided these review panel members with the knowledge and confidence to prepare and submit their own work for publication.

Content

The content of the journal has changed slightly to focus more on the scholarly aspect of this publication. The state news pages have been moved to the AICA newsletter to allow more space for journal articles. The journal will continue to increase the number of articles published in each issue, seeking submissions from Australian and overseas authors. Indexation will play a major role in increasing the profile of the journal, making it more attractive for authors to submit to AIC.

The quality of journal content is of paramount importance. Peer review ensures that a high standard is maintained and promoted. The ability and willingness of reviewers to provide constructive feedback to authors is invaluable. This process, supported by the guidelines for reviewers, guides the selection of articles for publication.

Image

To support the focus on scholarly content, the journal cover design has been altered to reflect this direction. The cover will now be standardised to make the journal a recognisable

entity and develop a 'brand' image. The cover of this issue is presented as one alternative, and member feedback is welcomed.

AICA website

The provision of on-line access to the AIC journal content via the AICA website is another goal. A number of options for providing this service are being investigated. Free access for AICA members to the full text of articles is envisioned, with author and abstract details made available to all at no cost.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Glenn Gardner who has completed her term as assistant editor and acknowledge the state representatives who contributed the state news pages for the journal – Marilyn Beattie, Joanne Cocks, Merilyn Curtis, Glenys Harrington, Katrina Scott, Rachel Thomson, Alison Thrum, Irene Wilkinson and Fiona Wilson – for their hard work and commitment to AIC.

Table 1. *The role of the assistant editors.*

Book Reviews

Marilyn Beattie RN RN Dip Nsg Admin GC (Crit Care), GC (Inf Control)

Marilyn is the area nurse manager for the department of infection control and waste management in Central Coast, NSW. She receives information regarding new resources (generally texts) in infection control and other related fields for review in our journal. AICA members who conduct and submit a book review for AIC can keep the text free of charge. Please contact Marilyn at <mbeattie@doh.health.nsw.gov.au> if you would like more information regarding this opportunity.

Diary of Events

Merrilyn Curtis RN BN Grad Dip (Inf Control)

Merrilyn is the surveillance coordinator at the Centre for Healthcare Related Infection Surveillance and Prevention at Princess Alexandra Hospital, Brisbane. Her role involves compiling the diary of events for the journal. If you would like to submit information on professional events related to infection control and related fields at the state, national and international level, please contact her at <Merrilyn_Curtis@health.qld.gov.au>.

Journal Watch

Irene Wilkinson BSc (Hons) MASM

Irene brings to this role her enthusiasm for the field of infection control gained during her experience as a medical scientist in clinical microbiology and for the past few years as part of the infection control team at the Royal Adelaide Hospital.

She has published papers in both medical and microbiology journals, and has been involved in teaching microbiology and epidemiology for post-graduate nursing courses, undergraduate medical technology and infection control training courses in South Australia. She is currently completing a Master of Public Health and is involved in several research projects in infection prevention at the Royal Adelaide Hospital.

Contributions to this segment are welcomed from our membership. If you would like to contribute an article summary or recommend an article for inclusion in Journal Watch, please contact <irene.wilkinson@imvs.sa.gov.au>.