

health-care facility managers and government representatives. Keynote speaker Dr Michael Richards MB BS FRACP recently returned from the Hospitals Infections Program, National Center for Infectious Diseases, Centers of Disease Control, Atlanta, Georgia. He has a special interest in nosocomial surveillance and his most recent publication is entitled *Nosocomial Infections in Paediatric Intensive Care Units in the United States*. Mike will be discussing future directions for infection control in Australia.

Other surveillance topics to be covered at the conference include post-discharge surgical site infection surveillance and the cost of surgical site infections. Concurrent sessions are planned on the second day, with topics that include resistant organisms, infection control in long-term care facilities, infection control in office-based practice, the use of pulsed field gel electrophoresis to investigate an outbreak, side-effects of anti-viral agents in HIV positive patients/clients and an update on hepatitis C epidemiology. The program is diverse, with something for all professionals working in the field of infection control and hospital epidemiology or those with an interest in the field. Convenors are Glenys Harrington, the infection control practitioner (ICP) at Alfred Hospital and Genevieve Ryan, ICP at the Department of Human Services and Melbourne Diagnostic Unit.

VICNA educational activities

Jacqueline Kennon, ICP, Frankston Hospital organised four regional education workshops for country VICNA members. The first, at Hamilton on 23 April, was well-attended, with others at Bendigo, Traralgon and Benalla in May. Each included guest speakers, who covered the following topics: 'Surveillance – back to basics'; 'Managing an outbreak' and 'Managing VRE'. In the afternoons, interactive 'hypotheticals' allowed participants to work in small groups and investigate different outbreaks as information was presented to them. The main speaker, Allan Perceval MSC MASM, is a microbiologist with a number of publications in the area of infection control; he currently works as a private consultant. Over the years Allan has trained a number of Victorian ICPs, myself included. He has extensive experience in infection control in the acute care setting, with a special interest in nosocomial surveillance and outbreak investigation. The next VICNA educational event planned by Jacqueline is a computer workshop in June at the Frankston Campus of Monash University. It will deal with using the Internet for research and include an introduction to PowerPoint. Lecturers in nursing and information technology from the university will conduct the workshop.

Glenys Harrington, state representative

Diary of events *****

***** NATIONAL *****

10-13 September 2000

Australian Wound Management Association Inc.
'First World Wound Healing Congress'
Melbourne, Victoria

For more information, contact:
Intermedia Convention and Event Management
Tel: (07) 3369 0477 Fax: (07) 3369 1512
E-mail: <wm2000@im.com.au>.

***** STATE *****

9-11 September 1999

The Second Joint Conference of the Infection Control Practitioners Association of Queensland and the Queensland Wound Care Association
'Country to Coast: A United Approach'
Capricorn International Resort, Yeppoon, Queensland

For more information, contact:
Judy Lederle or Suzanne Best
Tel: (07) 3369 0477 Fax: (07) 3369 1512
E-mail: <wic99@im.com.au>.

8 October 1999

The Infection Control Association of WA (Inc.)
17th Annual State Conference
Burswood Resort Casino Convention Centre
Perth, Western Australia

For more information, contact:
Rosie Lee:
Tel: (08) 9224 2244 Fax: (08) 9224 1989
E-mail: <rosie.lee@rph.health.wa.gov.au>.

28-30 October 1999

The Infection Control Association of NSW (Inc.)
'Beating the Millennium Bug'
Catalina Country Club

Bateman's Bay, New South Wales
For more information, contact:
Kathryn Stonetreet or Catherine Reilly
Conference Secretariat
PO Box 99, Moruya NSW 2537
Tel: (02) 4474 1085
Fax: (02) 4474 1044
E-mail: <eurotour@acr.net.au>.