



Australian Infection Control Association

National News

Issue 36

June 2010

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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
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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 President's Desk

An exciting time ahead for the Association

In May, the AICA Executive met for a 2-day face-to-face meeting in Brisbane and tackled some challenging issues on the agenda. Shortly all AICA members will receive correspondence about proposed changes to AICA's existing structure and how these changes will affect you as a member. In the months leading up to the National Annual General Meeting (AGM) which will be held in Perth on October 5th 2010, you will be asked to consider the information carefully and to vote at the AGM with a motion of support for the proposed changes. For some time the Executive has recognised that change is critical to the growth and success of AICA in providing a unified national voice for infection control professionals. By improving access and services available to members, we aim to strengthen our profession and to improve health outcomes for patients. In the last 2 years, AICA has experienced a surge in requests to represent our members in a growing number of national forums and we have exceeded our current capacity. AICA is also experiencing internal expansion and there are major projects scheduled in the coming months (highlighted on page 5).

Our ability to move swiftly and collaboratively is demonstrated by the release of a timely AICA position paper on the hypervirulent strain of *clostridium difficile* (available from the AICA website). Our ability to be responsive and proactive is essential as we strengthen our National profile with our external partners and we are called on to provide expert opinion and feedback in public forums.

AICA is proposing a change of structure from a State based organisation with a State and Territory membership base to a National membership with elected S/T representation. Such a change will enable more efficient service provision and enhance communication to members. AICA will continue to have a strong national voice, which will extend to other activities at an international level but there will be increased buy in at a grass roots level. The change will not affect your day-to-day job; however, it will improve communication with you as a member by increasing availability and access to resources and opportunities available for research and development.

AICA has engaged an external company to assist us during this time of transition. Following a baseline assessment AICA will be able to provide more detailed information about the proposed changes and the way forward. We are seeking endorsement and support from all members to enable this to happen.

AICA is anticipating that the time ahead will raise plenty of questions. As a starting point a list of questions and answers are posted on our website. We welcome feedback and encourage you to stay informed. The change management process will commence following a vote of support by members at the AGM in October 2010 with changes to take effect from October 2011. cont page 5

AICA Newsletter proudly sponsored by



State and Territory News

South Australia

Education

An evening seminar held in April at The Education Centre, was a great success with over 85 people attending. The topic was *"Wound Management – from acute to the community"* and included presentations from key members of the wound management profession and an Infectious Disease Consultant.

3 more educational evenings have been planned for 2010 with topics ranging from Challenges for Infection control professionals (ICP) to risk management & safety & quality. The next seminar night on June 24th we will be exploring the role of the ICP past, present and future with guest speakers from interstate including the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare.

AGM

The annual general meeting will be held in August, during the planned educational evening.

Website

The website is finally up and going and as an ICASA member you will have a members only log in area that provides you with access to previous years conference PowerPoint's, newsletters and other resources. We thank our ICASA sponsors for supporting us over the past few years and by the front page you may be able to access their websites. Feedback is important to us, so please let us know how you find the new site.



Linda Henderson,
Committee member & Newsletter Representative –
ICASA

New South Wales

ICANSW have organized a number of education opportunities for our members. In May we had a day for advanced practitioners (with sponsorship from 3M), which was very interesting and thought-provoking.

By the time this goes to print we will have had a stimulating education day at Royal North Shore Hospital. This is to be a very interactive day, including a tour of the pathology laboratory.

We are also planning a regional education day in Orange. The date and a program will be available later in the year.

The other educational activity we will be planning is around our Annual General Meeting in September. On years that we do not hold a conference we combine our AGM with an education day. This provides a good opportunity for members to come and learn as well as vote for the executive.

Helen O'Harae

ICA NSW

Tasmania

2010 Membership

A reminder for all that on renewal of your membership you will be provided with the password for the members section to the web site. Membership forms are available on the website. There are considerable benefits to membership and discounts for students. A DVD on aseptic non touch technique has been posted to members - suitable for all settings. It takes around 10 minutes to play and is a great educational tool. Additional copies can be purchased from the TICA for a cost. This is only one of the many benefits available to TICA members this year.

Current TICA Developments

TICA and TIPCU will again this year provide joint opportunities for education and professional development to TICA members with education on a range of topics. The information for these sessions will be advertised via e-mail notification to all members and can be obtained on the TICA website.

News About Members

Fifth Decennial International Conference on Healthcare-Associated Infections 2010

The Florence Nightingale Leadership Grant was awarded to Anne Wells by the Tasmanian Returned Nurses Memorial Trust in 2009. The grant enabled Anne to attend this conference during March. (Anne would like to acknowledge Saffron Brown who was a co-recipient of the grant but not able to attend the conference.) The conference was held in Atlanta, Georgia and was attended by almost 3000 international delegates. This forum provided an exceptional opportunity for hearing the latest infection prevention related studies and first-hand interaction with peers, researchers and experts from around the world.

Among the sessions Anne attended was Preventing Central-Line Associated BSI, Infection Control and the Healthcare Environment, Controversies in Contact Precautions, Infection Prevention and Control in Non-Acute Settings and The Most Influential Publications of the Last Decade.

Of particular interest was a presentation by Dr Philip Carling which addressed the challenges of achieving sustained improvement in environmental hygiene. A number of presentations addressed the effectiveness of new technologies for disinfection such as the use of ultra violet light.

Anne will present a summary of her conference experience at a future TICA meeting and other infection control educational events.

Anne Wells has been appointed as the representative on HICSIG for TICA

Jenny Stubbings

Newsletter Representative Tasmania

Australian Capital Territory

Education Meetings

On 9th March Dr Sanjaya Senanyake, infectious diseases physician at The Canberra Hospital, gave a very interesting talk on the topical subject of *Clostridium difficile*. The breakfast was held at a new venue, the Quality Hotel in Woden.

The Quality Hotel was also the location for our breakfast on 10th May.

Dr David Griffiths, Principal Dental Officer in ACT Health, enthralled us all with a lecture on Forensic Dentistry.

Members are always encouraged to come and enjoy a delicious breakfast while listening to entertaining and informative speakers on a variety of subjects.

Scholarships

Members who would like to attend the ICA conference in Perth in October are to be reminded that there are scholarships available to assist with the relevant costs. Members are reminded that the applications for scholarships close at the end of May.

Contact email is philippa.keating@act.gov.au.

Elaine Graham-Robertson Award

The Elaine Graham-Robertson award is designed to recognise and reward excellence in infection control, either through research or through a significant contribution to infection control practices within either the recipients' hospital or community.

Entrants are required to present a paper at the biannual conference in Perth in October. Members who are interested in vying for the award can obtain further from philippa.keating@act.gov.au.

Other News

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of our members to extend our thanks and best wishes to Carmel Spence, who has worked at Calvary Hospital for the last 10 years and will be sorely missed when she takes up a new position in Bairnsdale.

The good folk of Bairnsdale and surrounding district will benefit from Carmel's vast infection control experience and her can-do attitude.

We also send our best wishes to Kris Farrelly, our treasurer, who has also left ACT Health to embark on a career in Aged Care.

We wish both Carmel and Kris every success in their new careers.

Kerry Gill

Newsletter representative

Victoria

VICPA AGM and Half Day Seminar Thursday 15th July 2010

The VICPA Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held this year on Thursday 15th July, commencing at 1700 hours at the Caulfield General Medical Centre, Kooyong Road, Caulfield.

A notice of AGM, proxy form and nomination for Executive will be emailed to all members in mid May. At this stage there will be three vacancies on the VICPA Executive to be filled. If anyone is interested and would like further information please don't hesitate to contact Judy Brett (ph 9342 3905 or email judy.brett@mh.org.au) or any other member of the current VICPA Executive.

A half-day seminar including the VICPA/VICNISS journal club is planned prior to the AGM. There will be a variety of speakers lecturing on a number of different topics at the seminar. Further details will be available on the VICPA website.

Bi-monthly VICPA/VICNISS Journal Club

Date and venues for upcoming Journal Clubs are as follows:

15 th July 2010	Caulfield Medical Centre
8 th September 2010	Royal Melbourne Hospital
November 2010	Venue to be confirmed

Our first attempt at web conferencing to enable our rural members to participate in the Journal Club held at Peter MacCallum on the 23rd April sadly did not work. Due to technical difficulties at the venue the web conferencing was unable to go ahead as planned. We apologise to everyone that waited patiently that morning to be connected. We will continue to pursue this option for future Journal Clubs as there are many people who have expressed their interest in participating.

We are still looking for a venue for the November Journal Club. If you can provide a venue please contact Judy Brett

(judy.brett@mh.org.au). For speakers and articles to be discussed see the VICPA website www.vicpa.org.au closer to the date.

VICPA Honour Role to Recognise Past ICPs – Call for Nominations

The VICPA Honour Roll, launched in 2009, recognises the significant professional contributions made by retiring or deceased members of VICPA.

As there is no state conference this year the honour role will be presented at the VICPA AGM on the 15th July 2010.

Each nomination requires two referees to substantiate the nomination. To inform the VICPA executive, the nomination should include a 500 word briefing of the nominee's achievements. The VICPA Executive will then decide who will be added to the VICPA Honour Roll. Go to the VICPA website to view selection criteria.

If you nominate someone and they are selected you will be asked to provide a photo suitable to include in a PowerPoint presentation. You will also be invited to speak about the person at the AGM.

If you require further information or wish to nominate someone please contact enquiries@vicpa.org.au or Judy Brett ph 9342 3905 or email judy.brett@mh.org.au.

Nominations close 18th June 2010.

APSIC 2011

The 5th International Congress of the Asia Pacific Society of Infection Control is being hosted by VICPA and will be held in Melbourne 8 – 11 November 2011. The venue for the conference is the newly opened Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre situated on the Yarra River.

The scientific programme is progressing and will include several key note speakers from both the international and local infection control communities. For more information on the conference and key dates please visit the website at www.APSIC2011.com.

Donna Cameron

VICPA Newsletter Editor

Queensland

The ICPAQ Management Committee is currently working though a Strategic Planning Review for the Association, with a view to developing a refreshed, refocused vision for ICPAQ and a plan for the next few years. Member input will be requested and encouraged, with the draft plan to be tabled at the Annual General Meeting on September 8, 2010.

ICPAQ would like to welcome the new members joined since December 2009:

- Karen Barrett-McNeill – Radiation Oncology Qld, Toowoomba
- Anne Edwards – Royal Brisbane & Women's Hospital
- Margaret Gleeson – Royal Darwin Hospital
- Andrea Grimes – Cairns Private Hospital

- Karla Cronin – Friendly Society Private Hospital Bundaberg
- Margo Steer – Toowoomba Public Hospital
- Erica Finlay – Charters Towers Health Centre

Conference Scholarships

The conference scholarships consist of two \$1,000 scholarships to provide financial assistance towards conferences pertinent to the practice of Infection Control. The closing date for scholarship applications is June 30, 2010.

Infection Control Practitioners, who have been full financial members of ICPAQ Inc. for a continuous period of not less than twelve months, still have a short time to apply for scholarships to provide financial assistance towards the 2010 Conference Scholarships. Application forms can be found on the ICPAQ website www.icpac.org

Meagan Hunter

ICPAQ Newsletter Representative

Western Australia

ICAWA Membership

The current membership is 102 with outstanding renewals still arriving. The possibility of electronic payment of membership is being investigated to facilitate the renewal process.

ICAWA Quarterly Education Sessions

A representative from the Amanda Young Foundation will speak on meningococcal disease at the education session scheduled for 18 May 2010. ICAWA will make a donation to the Foundation in appreciation.

ICAWA Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The AGM is planned for October and ICAWA Executive is currently succession planning for Executive positions that will become vacant at this time.

AICA Conference, 4 – 6 October 2010, Perth WA - "The 2010 Infection Control Odyssey"

The countdown continues with less than 6 months to this exciting event and the program is progressing well. The closing date for abstract submission is Thursday 27 May 2010.

Link to 2010 conference website:

http://www.aicaconference.org.au/default.asp?active_page_id=1

Conference Scholarships

ICAWA is offering 6 members a scholarship of \$700 to attend the 2010 State Conference.

Credentialing

There are currently 5 Infection Control Practitioners credentialed in WA.

ICAWA Executive have agreed in principle to the funding of scholarships for credentialing. Details will be discussed at forthcoming meetings.

Allison Peterson

Newsletter Representative – ICAWA

Continued from Page 1

During our face-to-face meeting the AICA executive benefited from a half day marketing workshop generously provided by 3M. Jane Crowe and Deborah Giblett engaged us in lively discussions and practical tasks in how to market ourselves as ICPs by:

- Determining a clear and stated objective
- Developing an 'elevator speech'
- Providing consistent and clear messages
- Defining our customers and target audience
- Identifying our competition
- Performing a SWOT analysis
- Defining our brand

The presentation was enormously beneficial and assisted in setting the scene to achieve our goals for the remainder of our 2-day meeting. Sincere thanks to 3M for providing us with this unique opportunity.

Credentialing Committee welcomes new members to assist with service expansion

To support AICA's growth as a leader in Infection Control research and development the scope and function of the credentialing committee has expanded and it is with great pleasure that we welcome 2 new members to the AICA Credentialing Committee; Mr. Ramon Shaban from Griffith University and Mr. Mathew Mason from James Cook University to assist with this process.

The CC is tasked with:

- Establishing a national Infection Control research agenda
- Establishing a structure for review of infection control post graduate programs to enable endorsement/accreditation through AICA
- Strengthening relationships with tertiary education providers
- Reviewing credentialing and re-credentialing applications

More ICPs are recognising the importance of obtaining the AICA CICP title and for all appointments to internal and external committees; representatives must be credentialed AICA members. Our number of credentialed ICPs is steadily growing. To assist members in their application another Credentialing workshop will be held at the forthcoming AICA2010 conference. Further information is available on the AICA conference website: www.aicaconference.org.au

At our recent face-to-face credentialing meeting in Brisbane the committee farewelled Louise Hobbs who has completed her time as Chair. Louise made an enormous contribution to the committee while at the same time working on her PhD, which examines Standards of Practice for the Infection Control Professional. We wish Louise every success in the completion of her project, there are many

eagerly awaiting the results of her paper. On a personal note, we wish Louise all the best with the impending addition to her family.

Credentialing Application Workshop Discount Rate

To assist with your credentialing application, the AICA Executive is waiving the \$100 application fee for all participants who register for the Credentialing Workshop at the AICA 2010 conference. In order to take advantage of this special promotional price, workshop participants are required to submit their credentialing package to the AICA Secretariat by January 31st 2011 in order to receive the workshop discount rate (\$100 off the normal \$200 application price). So why not attend the workshop and get writing over the summer holidays.

Other news***Inaugural AICA road show July – August 2010***

For the first time in AICA's history, we are commencing a series of AICA road shows for education provision in a number of priority areas identified by members.

The first of the workshops conducted by Ms Glenys Harrington (Infection Control Consultancy, Melbourne) will rotate to capital cities during July and August 2010.

The Infection Control during construction, renovation and maintenance simulated training workshop will be of interest to ICPs, Engineers, Architects and Builders working in the healthcare setting. The last workshop of its kind held in Melbourne prior to the AICA2008 conference and was enormously successful. We are looking forward to bringing this simulated and interactive workshop to you in your nearest capital city. For more information, visit the AICA website.

AICAList

Last year AICA re-launched the AICAList. Infexion Connexion accepts posts from all members of the community with an interest in infection control. The AICA Executive uses this medium to rapidly circulate important information to the membership and broader community. If you have not subscribed to this list, you are missing early notification of critical events. Infexion Connexion also provides a forum for discussion of topical infection control related issues. To subscribe visit go to this link: <http://www.aica.org.au/default.asp?PageID=22&n=Discussion+List> or visit the AICA website and click on the discussion list tab on the right.

Reports

Did you know that all the reports tabled at the monthly AICA executive meeting are available via the AICA website members only section? This might be just what you have been searching for to keep abreast of changes on the national front and to find out what is discussed at the AICA Executive meetings.

Claire Boardman, AICA President

**Registration and
call for abstracts
online now!**



The countdown has begun...

**2010 Infection
Control Odyssey**

Invited Speakers

A/Prof Paul Tambyah:

Head of the Division of
Infectious Diseases in the
Department of Medicine,
National University of Singapore.

A/Prof Stephan Harbarth:

Senior Research Associate, Hospital
Epidemiologist and Attending Physician
at the University Hospital, Geneva,
Switzerland.

Prof Dennis Maki:

Ovid O. Meyer Professor of Medicine in
the Section of Infectious Diseases at the
University of Wisconsin.

6th Biennial Australian Infection Control Association Conference
MONDAY 4 - WEDNESDAY 6 OCTOBER 2010
Burswood Convention Centre, Perth, Western Australia

For further information please visit:

www.aicconference.org.au