

APIC Chicago

Association for Professionals in
Infection Control and Epidemiology

November 2006

Number 2 2006

Officers:

President:

Mary Beth Fry
University of Illinois Medical Center
312-996-1395
Mbfry@uic.edu

President-Elect:

Michael O. Vernon
Cook County Dept. of Public Health
708-492-2263
mvernon@cookcountygov.com

Immediate Past President

Anita Earl
IPEC Consultants, Inc.
708-531-1825
earla101@aol.com

Treasurer:

Sallie Rivera
Sherman Hospital Systems
847-429-2948
sallie.rivera@shermanhospital.org

Membership Secretary:

Mark Kiezel
Advocate Lutheran General Hospital
847- 723-8243
mark.kiezel@advocatehealth.com

Recording Secretary:

Marge Gribogiannis
Advocate Lutheran General Hospital
847-723-6494
Marge.Gribogiannis@advocatehealth.com

Education Director:

Karen Martin
Christ Hospital
708-684-5446
Karen.Martin@advocatehealth.com

Bylaws Chairperson:

Angela Hammer
Childrens Memorial Hospital
773-880-3564
AHammer@childrensmemorial.org

Dear Colleagues,

It's hard to believe that the annual business meeting is less than a month away followed by the end of my term as chapter president. It has been a challenging year for all infection prevention professionals. Pandemic flu planning, proposed MRSA legislature for active surveillance and finally the long awaited CDC MDRO guidelines which can be accessed at: www.cdc.gov/ncid/dhqp/pdf/ar/mdroGuideline2006.pdf

As chapter president, I have been involved with the other Illinois APIC chapter presidents and the IHA to help draft language for proposed senate bills that does not legislate antimicrobial therapeutic intervention for MRSA colonization as was in the first senate bills proposed earlier this year. The bills also had language for active surveillance cultures on all patients admitted to our institutions. We are working to change that language also. Our MRSA task force is kept updated as to issues, language and progress, and we'll keep the membership apprised as developments occur.

Our bylaws chair, Angie Hammer has completed the 2006 update of the chapter bylaws. Legal counsel from the National office has approved the changes. Hard copies have been mailed out to the membership for your vote and approval at the December business meeting. Although our educational programs for 2006 are done, your Board is busily preparing for the upcoming year. Our first education meeting will be Friday, January 12, 2007 at Elmhurst Memorial education Center in Elmhurst. (see this enclosed registration form also) Our former director of education has such a great location, she has kindly offered it for our kick off program.

National News:

A number of national membership awards, grants and scholarship are available to APIC members. If you are interested, please contact Gerry Genovese at genovese@gm@yahoo.com for more detailed information.

Chapter News

Chicago APIC will continue to sponsor scholarships for CBIC certification/re-certification and for the early bird registration to the APIC Annual Conference. If you are interested in the scholarships, you can contact me at mbfry@uic.edu or check out the APIC Chicago website at www.apicchicago.org. Updated information and the scholarship applications are available on the APIC Chicago chapter website. Many of our chapter members are eligible for these scholarships, but don't apply for them. Check out the website and follow the instructions there.

APIC Chicago

Public Policy Update:

2006 continues to be a very busy year regarding governmental affairs/legislative issues! Based on information from several sources, it appears that both MRSA bills in IL (SB 2771 and SB3087) will not be considered this year in the fall veto session. If there are changes, you will be informed regarding any updates. A revision of this proposed legislation is expected next year. Therefore, the information from the APIC MRSA Prevalence Study will be very useful in our tactics with these legislative efforts. It is great that many of you participated in the MRSA Prevalence Study. The results from this study will be State specific, but will not include patient or facility identifiers. APIC is hoping for results by the end of the year.

IHA has initiated a MRSA Task Force to deal with the proposed IL MRSA legislation. APIC is represented by IL APIC Chapter Presidents. IHA held a task force meeting on October 18, 2006 in order to establish a consensus position, which is in the process of being developed.

The Chicago APIC Governmental Affairs Task Force will be meeting on November 14, 2006 with Craig Conover and Sue Gerber to discuss pending IL MRSA legislation issues. The APIC/SHEA MRSA Position Paper and Talking Points was approved November 6, 2006. We expect them to be released the end of November or early December, 2006.

Illinois Hospital Report Card Act – As you know, the comment period for the proposed rules ended in mid-May. The comments are now with IDPH for review. Then final recommendations are made based on comments received and the final rules regarding SCIP measurements will be released by JCAR on December 31, 2006 pending approval at the November meeting. The implementation date is anticipated to be the first quarter of 2007.

Annual Fit-Testing of N-95 Respirators – Congress has yet to take action on the Labor Health and Human Services Bill, which includes Congressman Wicker's language on annual fit testing. This language does not allow OSHA to spend federal funding to enforce the issue of annual fit testing. Political intelligence suggests that the vote on this Labor HHS bill will be postponed until after the November elections due in part to the issue surrounding minimum wage. As you have likely seen in the news, the minimum wage issue has been tacked onto this bill and has caused great angst on the part of many Congressional representatives. So if in fact there is a delay, a continuing resolution will be imposed allowing delay of this action until Congress weighs in officially. APIC is tracking events relating to this issue very closely!! The week of November 13th begins the "lame duck session" of the 109th Congress. It is expected that a continuing resolution to maintain funding at the 2006 levels for the remaining appropriation bills until sometime in the first quarter of 2007 when these bills are passed.

National APIC will keep us posted as this may affect the annual fit-testing language in the Labor, health and Human Services Appropriations bill.

APIC Submits Comments to United States Pharmacopeia (USP) on Chapter <797> - On August 15th, APIC submitted comments regarding proposed revisions to the USP General <797>

Pharmaceutical Compounding Sterile Preparations. USP <797> sets practice standards to help ensure that compounded sterile preparations are of high quality and help to prevent harm to patients suffered as a result of contaminated preparations.

The numerous comments submitted to USP were the results of both those of APIC members, as well as those who took time to comply with APIC's grassroots effort to supply a tool in the form of a lengthy chart of items for them to review and submit to USP. Thanks to Teresa Chou and Carol Schultz for providing valuable comments on this document. Also, I am pleased to announce that Teresa Chou was appointed to the APIC Practice Guidance USP Subcouncil to provide input on these key issues. USP meets in November...so no final decisions have been made.

As you may recall, Senator Obama introduced two bills in early March (SB 2358 & SB 2359) relating to the reporting of health care associated infections specific to the VA hospital system and through the Medicare program. There has been no movement on either bill this year.

The Chicago Metro Governmental Affairs Task Force welcomes your input! Members of this task force are Teresa Chou, Mary Alice Lavin, Carol Schultz, Terra Suriano, Sandra Reiner and Anita Earl, Chair. Feel free to contact me at 708.531.1825 or e-mail earla101@aol.com.

Anita Earl
Legislative Representative

President's Note:

Anita Earl has announced that she will be stepping down as chapter legislative representative. Mrs. Earl has served our chapter for a number of years in this capacity (as well as past president). We thank her for her insightful guidance, as well as for the offer to mentor her successor, Mary Alice Lavin.

APIC Chicago Website:

Take the time to check out the website www.apicchicago.org. Both local and national job opportunities are posted as well as links to many useful sites for infection control professionals.

Positions Available:

Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital

Currently seeking a 0.6 FTE Infection Control Practitioner. Interested individuals should contact: Leanne O'Connell at 708-245-7290 or visit www.Keepingyouwell.com.

Assistant Program Manager, Communicable Disease

To view a complete listing of the position requirements please visit the Kane County website at www.co.kane.il.us
To apply please fax or email your resume to Cindy Gross at 630-897-8128 or grosscindy@co.kane.il.us.

Illinois Masonic Medical Center

Illinois Masonic Medical Center is seeking a full time Infection Control Practitioner. RN, BSN is preferred. For consideration, contact: Teresa Chou Infection Control 773-296-5410 or pager 773-713-5207.

More information on Career Opportunities is on the APIC Chicago website, check it out today.

Mark your Calendar:

December 13, 2006 Annual Business Meeting at Maggiano's in Oak Brook

January 12, 2007

Afternoon education meeting at Elmhurst Memorial Education Center in Elmhurst: Dr. Kenneth Alexander speaking on Antibiotic Usage and MDROs.

Spring meeting tentative date: April 27, 2007

June 24th-28th, 2007 APIC 24th Annual Education Conference and International Meeting in San Jose, CA.

Summer meeting tentative date: August 10, 2007

October 26, 2007 Our annual all day educational event – location to be announced.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Beth Fry