

APIC Chicago

Association for Professionals in
Infection Control and Epidemiology

April – June 2005

Number 2 2005

Officers:

President:

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

President-Elect:

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

Immediate Past President

Carol Schultz
St. Joseph Hospital
773-665-3151
Cschultz2@reshealthcare.org

Treasurer:

Robin Larson
Westlake Hospital
708-938-7174
Robin.larson@reshealthcare.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:

Cari Coomer
Elmhurst Hospital
630-758-5101
CCOOMER@emhc.org

Bylaws Chairperson:

Angela Hammer
Loyola University Medical Center
708-216-3476
ahammer@lumc.edu

Dear Colleagues,

Just returned from the 2005 APIC Annual Educational Conference in Baltimore. The conference was well attended...3,591 participants (36 countries), including vendors. The educational programs were excellent and many opportunities were available to assist the ICP to face the every day challenges. As I spoke to Chicago APIC members in Baltimore, the feedback was very positive and everyone was impressed with the coverage of topics. There were a number of presentations by our members at the National Conference. Posters were presented by Teresa Chou (Advocate Masonic Medical Center), Mary Beth Frye (University of Illinois Medical Center/Chicago, and a critical care nurse, who worked with Linda Stein at Resurrection Medical Center. Additionally, Trish Brugger, Northwestern Memorial Hospital was a speaker on the topic of advances in surveillance technology.

Dr. Michael Osterholm was the keynote speaker. He addressed the concerns regarding the Avian Flu and other emerging infections. How well are we prepared for the next pandemic? His lecture was definitely a reality check. One of the speakers at the Chicago APIC educational program in August will also provide us with information related to this reality check. Dr. George Mejicano from the University of Wisconsin will discuss infection control and other health concerns in immigrant populations. He is an excellent speaker!

Dr. Robert Haley discussed the nationwide push for infection rate disclosure laws and positioned this issue as a historic opportunity to get full funding for clinically proven surveillance methods in US hospitals. Dr. Haley is one of the pioneers in the field when he directed the renown CDC SENIC Project, which shaped the efficacy of infection control programs in the 1970's. He stated, "If ICPs don't measure infection rates, others will. That's been the history.....In our business, to measure is to control." Additionally, Dr Haley emphasized that ICP's must insist that the growing legal requirements are met with accurate data. If the effort is really about patient safety, then States and hospitals will have to provide the resources to do it right.

Kathy Wayre, APIC Executive Director, provided at the business meetings a presentation on the APIC Vision 2012, a strategic exploration. The preferred future is that by 2012, APIC will be recognized as the leader in infection prevention and control by practitioners, policy makers healthcare executives and consumers. The strategic plan goals (draft/goals are not prioritized) are as follows:

Goal 1 – APIC will ensure that appropriate standards are set by which infection prevention and control programs are evaluated by regulatory agencies, healthcare executives, payors and others.

Goal 2 - Infection prevention and control will be recognized as a separate and distinct profession, whose members are positioned for leadership roles in healthcare.

Goal 3 – APIC will serve as a catalyst for leading edge research for the prevention of infection and associated adverse outcomes.

Goal 4 – APIC will play a leadership role in emergency preparedness related to infection prevention or control, including emerging and reemerging diseases, bioterrorism, natural disasters and other issues.

Much discussion took place regarding the changing role of the ICP and the focus on prevention. Throughout the meetings, the ICP was referred to as the Infection Prevention and Control Professional. A proposal is being brought forward to have 2 external Directors on the APIC National Board. The external Director would have leadership experience in healthcare, not necessarily infection prevention experience. This proposal will require Bylaw changes, which will be voted on when you receive the ballot for the APIC national elections. At the Chicago APIC Educational Program at the Morton Arboretum on August 16th, this APIC Vision will be open for discussion at 12:30 PM prior to the educational program. Hope to see you there!!

Infection prevention/control professionals are embarking on exciting times and understand the challenge of the changing healthcare climate. This is a pivotal moment in time regarding the direction of our profession.

National News: Mandatory public reporting of healthcare associated infections is a very hot topic. Over the past year this issue has exploded in the media and in the minds of consumers and legislators. One of the primary drivers behind this is consumer advocacy group, Consumers Union, publishers of Consumers Reports. Their campaign to mandate hospitals' reporting of infection rates has helped promulgate legislation in many states. National APIC is being very proactive with stakeholders to deal with the many issues.

APIC members now have the ability to contact their elected officials via the use of APIC's new grassroots advocacy software called the VIP Action Center. VIP stands for Voice of Infection Prevention. This system will allow members to connect with local and federal policymakers. By simply entering a zip code, the VIP Action Center provides members with the identity of their elected representatives on both the state and federal level, giving ICPs the opportunity to communicate their views and concerns to lawmakers.

The Research Foundation will recognize our chapter in the next issue of APIC News for being the largest donator. Chicago APIC donated \$2,000 at the BD booth in order to ensure that it would be part of the vendor match dollar for dollar. Because of our contribution, APIC was able to meet

the \$5,000 cap with BD. As a result, BD will be presenting a check for \$10,000. Additionally, the Silent Auction did very well this year under the guidance of our own Carol Schultz.

We also provided a \$500.00 contribution to the IFIC (International Federation of Infection Control). I received a thank you letter from Pat Lynch, the President. Our donation will go to the Scholarship Fund for the conference in South Africa next year. Central and southern Africa are extremely important to the IFIC's goal for global infection control and our donation will move them closer to their goal.

A number of national membership awards, grants and scholarship are available to members. Contact Gerry Genovese at genovese@yaho.com for more detailed information. Remember that Chicago APIC sponsors 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 earla101@aol.com or check out the APIC Chicago website at www.apicchicago.org. Updated information and applications will be available the end of July.

The national Treasurer's Report showed a favorable bottom line. However, the APIC membership has not shown any growth over the past year. APIC is launching a 2005 – 06 Member-Get-A-Member Campaign to encourage APIC members to recruit colleagues for membership. Also the APIC Ambassador program was re-launched by the Membership Task Force. If you are interest, please contact me or Mark Kiezel. Mark can be reached at mark.kiezel@advocatehealth.com. Jan Lepinski has agreed to serve as chair of the Chicago APIC Welcome/Mentoring Committee. Jan can be reached at JLepinski@aol.com.

JCAHO and APIC are partnering in projects to benefit the ICP. APIC and the JCAHO are co-sponsoring a one of a kind international conference to provide an opportunity to gain a better understanding of the value of global collaboration in infection control. The international conference on infections that have no boundaries, Think Globally, Act Locally, will be held in San Francisco, CA September 8-9, 2005. Additional information is available on the APIC or JCAHO website. Also, the first APIC and JCR co-published book on meeting the JCAHO standards is coming out in December.

Public Policy: Regarding the enforcement prohibition for annual fit-testing for TB, you may recall that President Bush signed into law the Omnibus funding bill providing no federal funds may be used to enforce the annual fit-testing provision for TB through September 30, 2005. However, on June 23rd there was a surprise vote on an amendment to strip the House Appropriations bill containing Congressman Wicker's language prohibiting OSHA from expending federal funds to enforce annual fit testing requirements for occupational exposure to TB imposed by the General Industry Respiratory Protection Standard. Thanks to the many phone calls made by APIC members, the amendment failed. Good news! Congressman Wicker's legislative assistant indicated that it will be difficult for this language to be removed since the full House of Representatives has voted to keep it in.

As many of you know, Illinois was one of the first states to require healthcare associated infections information to be posted electronically in a consumer report card. SB 59 (IL Hospital Report Card Act) was recently revised (SB 1862) and sent to the Governor for signature on June 24, 2005. The modifications dealing with infection reporting now require hospitals to report on 2 or more of selected measurements including:

- Surgical procedure outcome measurements(wound infections)
- Surgical procedure infection control measures (surgical infection measurements of CMS)
- Outcome of process measurements related to ventilator-associated pneumonia
- Central vascular catheter-related bloodstream infection rates in designated critical care units.

The rules for implementation of the requirement are currently in development and still need to be reviewed and finalized. Since Surgical Infection Prevention (SIP) measurements are readily available and supported by Medicare and JCAHO and approved by the National Quality Forum, the consensus of the Infection Subcommittee to the State of Illinois Hospital Report Card Act Advisory Group was to start with SIP measurements with a targeted start up date of January 1, 2006. This consensus recommendation is forwarded to the Hospital Report Card Advisory Group for their review/approval and then the regulatory process for rule-making. At the annual Chicago APIC Educational Program on October 14th, Pat Merryweather from IHA will present current information on this requirement.

The Governor signed HB 2343 on June 14, 2005. This bill amends the Illinois Health Finance Reform Act and provides that the Department of Public Health must require ambulatory surgical treatment centers licensed to operate in the State of Illinois to adopt a uniform system, based on certain federal laws, for submitting patient charges for payment from public and private payors. The bill requires the Department to evaluate additional methods for comparing the performance of hospitals and ambulatory surgical treatment centers and report its findings and recommendations on its website and to the Governor and General Assembly no later than January 1, 2006.

There is a lot of discussion taking place regarding the CMS Condition of Participation for Infection Control. Every body is talking about what is meant by "the log." It is hoped that this will be defined by the end of the year. CDC/HICPAC and APIC are providing input on the CMS Interpretive Guidelines. However, these guidelines are not intended for "our" use, but rather designed to assist the surveyor conduct the survey and theoretically provide a uniform interpretation of the federal COP rules for each set of standards.

An official joint statement from CMS and JCAHO was issued on June 21, 2005 regarding the suspension of the National Quality Hospital Measure SIP-2, appropriate antibiotic selection of surgical prophylaxis.

CMS and JCAHO will continue to collect data on antibiotic selection for surgical prophylaxis during the temporary suspension, but will not publicly report performance on this measure on Hospital Compare. During this temporary suspension, HICPAC has agreed to revisit the issue of appropriate use of vancomycin surgical prophylaxis.

APIC Chicago Website:

Take the time to check out the website www.apicchicago.org. Mary Alice Lavin is in the process of setting up the ability to provide information regarding regulatory issues for the membership. If you have any suggestions for the website, please contact Mary Alice or any Chicago APIC Board member.

Willingness to Serve:

Our success as an organization relies upon the interest and involvement of the membership. Terra Suriano, chair of the Nominating Committee, has included in this newsletter the 2006 Willingness to Serve Form and information sheet on the APIC Chicago Positions. Willingness to Serve Form will also be available on the Chicago website.

The Nominating Committee members are Janet Franck, Russell Karlins, Barbara Kratochvil and Kay O'Connor. If you, as a member of Chicago APIC, are interested in running for office, please contact Terra or one of the committee members. Terra's e-mail address is Terra.Suriano@AdvocateHealth.com

Programs being offered:

APIC/JCAHO International Conference, Think Globally, Act Locally. Hotel Nikko, San Francisco, CA – Sept. 8 – 9, 2005. For addition info, check out the APIC website.

The information on the August 16th APIC Chicago Education Program is in the mail. Cari put together a fabulous program. Dr. Jeff Nelson will provide an update on lyme disease and Dr. George Mejicano will discuss infection control concerns related to immigrant populations. Excellent!

Special thanks to Robin Larson for hosting the educational program in May at Westlake Hospital.

Positions Available:

Northwestern Memorial Hospital - Infection Control Professional. Contact Sandra Reiner at sreiner@nmh.org.

Children's Memorial Hospital – Infection Control Manager. Contact Terri Rearick at rearick@children'smemorial.org.

Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital – experienced ICP 0.6 position. Contact Rene' Karon at Rene.Karon@advocatehealth.com.

University of Illinois Medical Center – Infection Control Professional. Contact Mary Beth Fry at mbfry@uic.edu.

St. Alexius Medical Center – Infection Control Professional.

Check the Career Opportunities on the APIC Chicago website for additional information.

Mark your Calendar:

August 16, 2005 – Educational program at the Morton Arboretum.

October 14, 2005 – the Annual Chicago APIC Prevention Update and Educational Event.

December 7, 2005 – Chicago APIC Business Meeting at Maggiano's

Looking forward to seeing you at the August program!

Respectfully,
Anita Earl