

APIC Chicago

Association for Professionals in
Infection Control and Epidemiology

July – September 2005

Number 3 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
Childrens Memorial Hospital
773-880-3564
AHammer@childrensmemorial.org

Dear Colleagues,

Hope to see you at the APIC Chicago 2005 Annual Education Program on October 14th at Aramark! We are lucky to get Dr. Denise Cardo, Director of the Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as the keynote speaker for the program. Dr. Cardo will include in her presentation MRSA issues, which is a hot topic in IL. Additionally, Pat Merryweather from the IHA will provide us with the latest information regarding the implementation status of the Illinois Hospital Report Card Act.

A special thanks to Cari Coomer for the great August educational program at the beautiful location of the Morton Arboretum. Dr. Jeff Nelson provided an Update on Lyme Disease and Dr. George Mejicano discussed Infection Control and Other Health Concerns in Immigrant Populations. Both presentations were excellent, which was confirmed by many positive comments.

Infectious disease prevention and control has never been more vital in our society than now. Hurricane Katrina and Rita has highlighted the need for rapid response and preparedness. You will be receiving shortly a communication from the APIC national office regarding a collaboration effort from CDC, APIC and SHEA to establish a crisis network of infection prevention and control professionals, as well as infectious disease specialists from throughout the country. You will be asked to participate in a survey, which will be confidential.

Infection Prevention and Control Professionals are embarking on challenging times daily in the ever changing healthcare climate. This is a pivotal moment in time regarding the direction of our profession. Attached is a summary of a presentation presented by Kathy Warye, APIC Executive Director, on the APIC Vision. The proposed Strategic Plan will be going to the APIC National Board in November for a vote. A business plan will be developed based on the objectives. Since I will be serving on the National APIC Strategic Planning Committee in 2006, I welcome your thoughts.

The ICE I course has been redesigned. The first new course will be held in Washington DC January 23-26, 2006. The good news is that this course will also be offered in Chicago in 2006. The date has not been finalized.

National News:

Chicago APIC Chapter was recognized by APIC in the latest issue of APIC News regarding our generous donation, which helped APIC achieve the full \$10,000 in the BD dollar-to-dollar match. The Research Foundation also recognized our chapter's contribution to the silent auction.

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 are available on the APIC Chicago website.

APIC is launching a 2005 – 06 Member-Get-A-Member Campaign to encourage APIC members to recruit colleagues for membership. If you know of colleagues in the Chicagoland area who don't belong to APIC, let them know of the advantages of the organization. APIC launched a new member benefit! Twice a month, members will receive an electronic update about educational and APIC activities. Starting this fall, members will be able to receive ID Center e-mail alerts, as well. APIC introduced the new VIP Action Center, a free member service available on the APIC website. A reminder that this service enables APIC members to correspond directly with local and federal policy makers. This is in addition to the features and benefits of belonging to Chicago APIC. Please contact Mark Kiezel for the latest membership application brochure. Mark can be reached at mark.kiezel@advocatehealth.com.

Jan Lepinski, Chair of the Chicago APIC Welcome/Mentoring Committee, will be providing a report on her progress. If you have any suggestions or working tools you are willing to share, contact Jan at JLepinski@aol.com.

Public Policy: Regarding the enforcement prohibition for annual fit-testing for TB, the current house appropriations bill contains language extending the moratorium on enforcement of the annual fit-testing requirement for occupational exposure to TB. The Senate and House Labor-HHS bills will go to conference committee where the bill is finalized prior to submission to the President for signature. Because the appropriations bill was not finalized by September 30th (the end of the 2005 fiscal year), all government agencies are functioning under a continuing resolution (HJR68). Therefore, it is believed that OSHA will not be able to enforce the annual fit testing requirement. However, since there is no guarantee of the final outcome, the final decision is left up to each facility in regard to instituting annual fit-testing. When I receive additional info on this issue, you will be notified.

As you know, Senator Barack Obama was recognized for his move to add pandemic influenza to the Public Health Service Act by introducing the AVIAN (Attacking Viral Influenza Across Nations) Act of 2005. The bill remains in the Senate

awaiting further action. This issue continues to be a prominent one and will certainly be addressed in the near future through this or other legislation.

In June, the House of Representatives approved a \$75 million cut from fiscal year 2005 in the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies appropriations bill for the CDC, state and local bioterrorism preparedness program. In July, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved a similar \$130 million cut.

The CDC's program provides much needed improvements to the public health infrastructure, and provides greater protection to Americans, especially to those who work on the front lines everyday to protect the health of every community. But much more needs to be done. With the very real threat of bioterrorism, environmental disaster and infectious diseases, such as avian flu, it would be imprudent national policy to cut vital state and local preparedness funds. You are encouraged to take the time to send an e-mail, letter or fax to your legislator by accessing the VIP Action Center located on the APIC homepage.

Reaffirming its commitment to create a level playing field in the fight against healthcare-associated infection, APIC pledged \$25,000 to develop a national infection reporting standard and has called for other organizations to join them in this effort. The APIC Board endorsed a proposal from the National Quality Forum, whose mission is to improve American healthcare through the endorsement of consensus-based national standards for measurement and public reporting of healthcare performance data. Other organizations joining APIC in this critical patient safety initiative include the CDC, the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists, SHEA and IDSA.

APIC Chicago Website:

Take the time to check out the website www.apicchicago.org. Several problems with the website have been resolved through Mary Alice Lavin efforts. If you have any suggestions for the website, please contact Mary Alice or any Chicago APIC Board member.

Positions Available:

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

Loyola University Medical Center – Infection Control Practitioner. Fax resume to 708.216.3968 c/o Adele Gannon.

Alexian Brothers Medical Center – Infection Control Practitioner. Resume and cover letter to Pam Evans, Strategic Talent Recruiter-HR at evansp@alexian.net or fax 847.952.7182.

RUSH University Medical Center – Infection Control Professional. Contact Stacey Pur at stacy_1_pur@rush.edu or 312.942.3056.

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

Mark your Calendar:

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

November 2-3, 2005 - COMPdata Annual Meeting – IHA Program .

December 7, 2005 – Chicago Metro Annual APIC Business Meeting at Maggiano’s in Oak Brook.

January 20, 2006 – APIC Chicago educational program at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital.

Happy Infection Prevention Week!!

Respectfully,
Anita Earl