Chair Update

Message from the Chair and Greetings from the IFIC Board!

We hope you have all had productive days during the past few months. As Chair I want to update you on IFIC engagement since our March 2018 publication.

IFIC 2018 Annual Conference

The IFIC Annual Congress was held in Krakow, Poland in April, and the conference was a great success. There were delegates from many countries attending, with intriguing scientific sessions, much interactive learning, oral and poster presentations, and participation by several of our infection prevention societies. A special thanks is given to our scientific program committee and conference planners, led by Michael Borg and Judith Richards. Other members of the committee included Egil Lingaaas, Biljana Carevic, and Terrie Lee from the IFIC team. We collaborated with members of the Polish Hospital Infection Society (PHIS), including Jadwiga Wojkowska-Mach, Anna Rozanska, and Piotr Kochan. This committee worked very hard to produce a great conference experience for all attending delegates.
One highlight of the conference was when Nizam Damani was presented with IFIC’s Graham Ayliffe award in recognition of a lifetime of contributions to international efforts in the prevention and control of healthcare-associated infections.

Dr. Damani is a senior consultant at the Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Unit at the World Health Organization, Geneva Switzerland. He served as Associate Medical Director of IPC at the Southern Health & Social Services Trust, and served as an honorary senior lecturer in Medical Microbiology at Queens University, Belfast, UK.

He trained and worked in Pakistan, Kenya, England and Northern Ireland. He was a member of the 1st Global Patient Safety Challenge and was the country coordinator for the WHO pilot site in Pakistan. He has served on various project boards, working parties and steering groups, both at a national and international level for governmental bodies and organizations, including Department of Health.

For eight years Damani served as the Treasurer of IFIC and Chair of IFIC’s Membership Committee and was Editor of IJIC. His presentation for the occasion of his award, entitled “World tour of ritualistic, wasteful and unsafe IPC practices,” was very thought-provoking and helped to set the tone for the coming sessions.

IFIC Member Societies Conference Support:

Several sessions were organized and presented by IFIC member infection control societies. We owe them a great thanks for their continued support. They included: Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC), European Network to Promote Infection Prevention for Patient Safety (EUNETIPS), Hospital Infection Society (HIS), Infection Prevention and Control Canada (IPAC), Infection Prevention Society (IPS), Polish Hospital Infection Society (PHIS), and World Health Organization IPC Unit. These sessions from our collaborative partners enriched the learning environment of the conference and presented global perspectives on many topics.
Chair Update (continued)

Conference scholarships were granted for abstracts submitted for the conference, and these individuals were also recognized at the closing session of the IFC Congress.

Full scholarships were granted to:

Ms. Claire Farrugia, Mater Dei Hospital, Msida, Malta. Claire presented an oral session: The perceptions of nurses in charge of wards about their role in improving hand hygiene in their unit.

Dr. Asma Ammar, Hospital Hygiene Department, Farhat Hached University Hospital, Sousse, Tunisa. Abstract presented: Prospective assessment of hospital acquired infections epidemiology in a hematology department

Partial scholarships were awarded to:

Ms. Silvia Margalejo Raffin, Belgrano Adventist Clinic, Buenos Aires, Argentina, for: Ventilator-associated pneumonia, multidisciplinary and multifactorial interventions aiming “0”

Dr. Tharntip Sangsuwan, Faculty of Medicine, Prince of Songkla University, Songkhla, Thailand for: Performance of risk adjustment between the former NNIS risk index and the new NHSN risk model for postoperative colorectal surgical site infection. (no picture available)

Mr. Marius Tving Stauning, Department of Clinical Microbiology, Copenhagen University Hospital, Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen, Denmark for: Traffic flow and microbial air contamination in operating rooms at a major teaching hospital in Ghana. (pictured at right)

We are most grateful to the following for contributions of scholarship funds: APIC, IPAC, IPS, Northeastern Infection Control Educators (NICE-USA), and Swedish Association for Infection Control (SAIC).

Poster Award Winners

1st Place—Tatjana Mrvic, Tanja Straus, Natasa Dervovscek Hafner, Tanja Urdith Lazar for: Impact of promotional multi-component campaign on influenza vaccination coverage in healthcare workers in University Medical Centre Ljubljana, Slovenia

2nd Place—Ma, Leni Garcia, Cherlyn Simbulan, Ezeddin Alataresh, Ashfaq Patel, Mincy Shiju, Emad Ibrahim for: Chasing zero CLABSI: a multidisciplinary approach. Hamad Medical Corporation Heart Hospital, Doha Qatar

3rd Place—Rafael Manuel Orti-Lucas, Alba Saa-Casal, Mercedes Salvador-Aguila, Ana Bediao-Collado, Crsntina Gonzales-Steinbaur for: Impact of beta-lactamatase-producing Enterobacteriaceae on the rise of MDRO related healthcare associated infection. University Hospital of Valencia, Spain

We also thank our exhibitors for participating in our conference, bringing opportunities for delegates to explore products and services pertinent to IPC work, and for financially supporting the conference.
Chair Update (continued)

Work with GIPCN
IFIC is continuing as a member of the Global Infection Prevention and Control Network, organized by the WHO IPC Unit. A meeting was held in Geneva in August, where we discussed many issues related to collaboration for sharing IPC knowledge and expertise. We will keep you informed of future reports from this group.

Elections
Elections for two regions are underway, with the voting period ending 23rd September. We will announce the new IFIC Board members in our next newsletter.
Chair Update (continued)

IFIC 2019 conference

Mark your calendar now for the IFIC 2019 Conference, being held in Quebec City, Canada, and planned with the Infection Prevention and Control – Canada a member society from Region B. We are preparing an exciting conference in a beautiful location.

As always, if you have questions or concerns for IFIC, please contact me by email (tleewv@msn.com).

2018 IFIC Board
We would like to thank our Polish colleagues for all of their collaboration and teamwork to host this successful IFIC Conference.
WHO’s “Global Infection Prevention & Control Priorities 2017-2021: A Call for Action.”

“Global Infection Prevention and Control Priorities 2017-2021: A Call for Action.” is an initiative that was developed by the Infection Prevention and Control Global Unit at WHO. Invited guest speaker at IFIC 2017, Benedetta Alegranzi, presented the WHO Guidelines on Core Components of Infection Prevention and Control Programs in every country. She directed attendees to the WHO website to download the resources. There is a manual and video available on the WHO website elaborating on these core components. [http://www.who.int/infection-prevention/countries/core-components/en/](http://www.who.int/infection-prevention/countries/core-components/en/)

Eight Necessary Components are described in the manual and highlighted by experts in infection prevention from around the globe:

1. Infection Control Program supported by a dedicated budget and trained staff
2. Global standardized guidelines for the prevention of surgical site infections
3. Education and practical training based on best infection prevention practices for health care workers and other professionals
4. Healthcare associated infection surveillance and timely feedback of results both at a national and facility level.
5. Use of multimodal strategies to implement recommendations to improve practice at the point of care
6. Regular monitoring of health care practices according to standards guidelines followed by timely feedback of results both at national and agency level
7. Bed occupancy does not exceed standard capacity of the facility and staffing is adequate for workload
8. Ensure that patient care activities are undertaken in a clean hygienic environment with adequate infrastructure and equipment in particular for hand hygiene
We can all help to support and advertise information about antibiotic stewardship! This year, World Antibiotic Awareness Week (WAAW) will be 12-18 November. This year’s campaign includes an emphasis on infection prevention and control, and the close connection of these topics.

The infographics for world antibiotic awareness week can now be found at: World Antibiotic Awareness Week.

Also note the following announcements:

- Launch of the new WHO Guidelines for Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE) and Carbapenemase-producing (CP) Pseudomonas aeruginosa and Acinetobacter baumannii during WAAW.

- Presentation on these new guidelines by Professor Lindsay Grayson (Austin Health and University of Melbourne, Australia) on 13 November 2017 at 9 am CET, through Webber Training (https://webbertraining.com/schedule.php?command=viewClass&ID=1378).

- Online publication of a Lancet Global Health Commentary on 10 November (midnight GMT), on national and global priorities for IPC, authored by WHO staff, US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) staff and other leading global health experts and informed by the organizations participating in WHO’s Global Infection Prevention and Control Network (GIPCN).
Nigeria Infection Control Association (NICA), a multidisciplinary voluntary organization was founded on 27th September, 1997 with the commitment to improve the quality of healthcare delivery in Nigeria through the correct application of effective and evidence-based infection prevention and control practices. NICA is the overall infection prevention and control body in Nigeria.

Current members of the society are drawn from the various disciplines of the health sector including but not limited to clinicians, infection control nurses, pharmacists, public health officers, nurses, researchers amongst many others who have active interest in infection prevention and control. Currently, the association has 111 members spread across the country.

The association is led by:
- Prof. Folasade Ogunsola – Chairman
- Dr. Ken Iregbu – Secretary
- Prof. Oyin Oduyebo – Treasurer
- Prof. Bola Olayinka – Publicity Secretary

NICA is also a member of the Infection Control African Network (ICAN), the body in charge of overseeing infection prevention and control in Africa.

The aim of NICA is to promote safety in patient-care delivery, occupational and public health through the practice of infection control policies and procedures while its objectives are:

- To serve as an umbrella body for all infection control units at Federal, State and Community levels in the country.
- To advocate and promote infection control programmes at all levels in healthcare facilities.
- To formulate guidelines on infection control in healthcare practice in Nigeria.
- To advocate and promote education, training and research in the field of infection prevention and control.
- To advocate and promote the setting up of a reference laboratory for typing organisms from outbreak of infectious diseases.
- To promote the setting up and training of infection control teams capable of responding rapidly and effectively to epidemics in the country.
- To disseminate information on the proper use, storage and disposal of bio-hazardous materials.

Participants at the 2017 National Conference on Infection Control held on November 23-24, 2017 in Abuja, organized by NICA

L-R: Dr. Princewill Nwajiobi; Dr. Ephraim Ogbaini-Emovon, WHO IPC Consultant; Dr. Joshua Obasanya, Head of Department, Prevention and Programmes Coordination; Prof. Bola Olayinka, IPC Specialist; Prof. Sani Aliyu, Director General, National Agency for the Control of AIDS; Prof. Folasade Ogunsola, Chairman, Nigerian Infection Control Association; Prof. Oladipo Aboderin; Prof. Oyin Oduyebo; Dr. Philip Oshun; Prof. Comfort Akujobi
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NIGERIA INFECTION CONTROL ASSOCIATION (NICA)

NICA organizes scientific conferences and collaborative trainings to increase the awareness of Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) issues nationally. NICA has successfully organized several conferences with representations from across the country with the aim of educating, collaborating and fostering understanding with stakeholders on training, best practices of IPC and promoting application of its knowledge. The conference provides a forum for regular exchange of information and sharing of expertise on IPC issues with other infection control practitioners across the country.

The 2017 conference with the theme “Integrating Infection Prevention Control into Healthcare Delivery: A National Priority” was held from November 23 – 24, 2017 at Abuja, the capital city of Nigeria with over 90 participants in attendance with several conference presentations and symposium sessions. (See pictures below)

The 2018 edition of the conference will take place in Abuja from September 27 – 29, 2018 with the theme “Infection Prevention and Control: Driving Down Infection Rates”.

NICA has been at the forefront of the infection prevention and control practice in Nigeria. For instance, in 2014 during the Ebola outbreak in Nigeria, NICA was involved as the association’s chairman; Professors Folasade Ogunsola, Debola Olayinka, Oyin Oduyebo to name a few were all members of the team that effectively contained the outbreak. Other members of the association were involved in the Lassa fever and CSM outbreak response of 2017 and are currently involved in the recent outbreaks in the country.

Some members of the association were also involved in the drafting of the National Action plan for AMR and are part of the National AMR surveillance programme. In 2017, NICA supported the development of a national surveillance tool for healthcare associated infections.

Annually, NICA encourages her members and healthcare facilities to observe the “May 5 Clean your Hands Campaign” with various symposiums and outreaches taking place in various parts of the country. (See pictures below)

In conjunction with the College of Medicine, University of Lagos (CMUL) and Infection Control African Network (ICAN), the association participated actively in the development of the CDC sponsored (Exxon Mobil funded) Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) curriculum that was launched on 10th March 2018 for training IPC practitioners in Nigeria. NICA also engages relevant government agencies such as the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), Federal Ministry of Health, National Agency for the Control of AIDS and other organizations interested in infection prevention and control practice in Nigeria. NICA is online at www.nicanigeria.org

Annual May 5 “Clean Your Hands” Campaign at one of the healthcare facilities in Nigeria with patients
The 2018 Run or Walk for IFIC was held at the IPAC Canada annual conference in Banff, Alberta. 68 runners and walkers and 14 volunteers enjoyed the route through the city and in view of the magnificent Rocky Mountains. Thank you to DebMed and the Running Room for their sponsorship. Mostly, thank you to IPAC Southern Alberta coordinators and volunteers for making the event such fun success. IPAC Canada raised $4668 for IFIC.

The winners were:
- Fastest Runner – Alexander Godbout
- Fastest Walker – Bruce Gamage
- Top Fundraiser – Jim Gauthier
The International Journal of Infection Control (IJIC) our fully open access journal continues to be published quarterly. Editor Kathy Suh, of Canada, has been focusing efforts on improving the turnaround time between submission of manuscripts and the final publication decision. IJIC welcomes submissions that cover topics of interest related to infection control, especially from low and middle resource settings, and encourages members of IFIC societies to submit their research and practice findings to IJIC (www.ijic.info).

SUBMIT MANUSCRIPTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF INFECTION CONTROL

We invite you to submit your manuscripts to be considered for publication in the International Journal of Infection Control (IJIC). The aim of the journal is to provide a forum for staff working in infection control (IC) to disseminate research and practice information, and encourage IC initiatives on an international level. IJIC welcomes submissions that cover topics of interest related to infection control, especially from low and middle resource settings, and encourages members of IFIC societies to submit their research and practice findings.

IJIC is a fully open access journal, available online at www.ijic.info. It is published online only, usually quarterly. There is no cost for publication of accepted manuscripts, or for access to the journal. Submission is performed online and you can keep track of the whole process in the authors’ section of the IJIC website.

For more information, please refer to the journal website. Once on the website, the Instructions for Authors outlines the different categories of manuscripts as well as general guidelines for manuscript preparation and formatting. We look forward to your submissions!
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Knowledge and practice of health workers about standard precaution: Special emphasis on medical waste management in Ethiopia
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Instrument processing knowledge and practice amongst healthcare workers in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
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ISSN: 1996-9783
The 2016 edition of IFIC Basic Concepts of Infection Control is now available at http://theific.org/basic-concepts-book/. This 3rd edition builds on its predecessors, enhancing and updating in a scientific way the knowledge required as a foundation on which local policies and procedures can be developed. All English language chapters have been reviewed and brought up-to-date by an international panel of experts; several new chapters have been added to ensure this new edition provides a sound comprehensive knowledge base. As before, the infection prevention and control principles set out in this book are applicable to all health care settings, however, particularly to areas where infection prevention and control is still in its infancy.

The 2011 Edition is available in Spanish, Italian, French, Hungarian, Arabic and Bulgarian thanks to BD, Meiko, IFIC Board members, and our member societies.

**In Memory**

The Healthcare Infection Society is sad to announce that Bill Newsom, President of the Society 1998 – 2002 and recipient of the HIS Gold Medal, passed away on Tuesday 28 August 2018.

*As described by his family, in his life they celebrated him as a wonderful and loving husband, father and grandfather; a pioneering medical microbiologist, researcher and mentor; as well as an experimental cook, wine lover and keen bridge player.*

*He was an avid book collector, and searched for first editions of J K Jerome’s “Three Men in a Boat” in all languages all over the world.*

*Locally, he was a renowned bee keeper famous for his honey, raspberries and apple juice. He gave these away as generously as he gave his time to support those in the field of Infection Prevention and Control. He will be sorely missed.*

*Bill was also a wonderful colleague of IFIC during the editing of IFIC’s Basic Concepts. His comments and changes always improved the content. His easy-going, collaborative nature made working with him a wonderful and educational experience.*
### SAVE THE DATES!

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As in the past our community of users drive what we provide: the National Resource for Infection Control has now received a ‘face-lift’ using a new cutting edge technology and will be re-launched as the ‘International Resource for Infection Control (iNRIC) 2015 as part of International Infection Prevention Week 2016.

A research grant "NRIC meets ICAN" has also enabled us to reach out to our international colleagues in Africa. A survey study identifying infection prevention and control information needs of healthcare staff in Africa led the expansion of the evidence-based resources on iNRIC to support infection control professionals with local resources at the point of care in Africa. We also have exciting developments underway using mobile technology, apps and game-based training.  [www.nric.org.uk](http://www.nric.org.uk)