

Foreword

The International Federation of Infection Control (IFIC), founded in 1987, is an umbrella organisation of infection prevention and control societies from more than 60 countries around the globe. The goal of IFIC is to minimise the risk of infection within the healthcare setting world-wide through development of a network of infection control organisations for communication, consensus building, education and sharing expertise.

The purpose of IFIC is to provide the essential tools, education materials and communication that unite the existing infection prevention and control societies and foster development of infection prevention and control organisations where they are needed.

IFIC achieves its goals by:

- promoting high quality educational opportunities, materials and training programs across countries at low or no cost. Conferences are held at least annually in different parts of the world; numerous scholarships are made available to assist delegates, especially those from low resource backgrounds, to attend and present their work.
- providing a communication network of support by members via the International Journal of Infection Control, an on-line forum, a regular electronic newsletter and especially its website (www.theIFIC.org).
- maintaining a liaison with the World Health Organisation and other organisations that promote infection prevention including prevention and management of occupational blood exposures among health care workers.
- drawing on the expertise of its member organizations to help each other and to assist with formation of national societies in countries that are in early stages of infection control development.

IFIC Basic Concepts of Infection Control is a totally new basic infection control manual that builds on the prior publication, Infection Control: Basic Concepts and Training. The intent is to provide a foundation of scientifically valid, basic infection control principles and requirements. This handbook is the result of a co-operation between international

experts on infection control. It is hoped that this booklet will serve as a foundation on which local policies and procedures are developed. The recommendations in this handbook are generally applicable to all healthcare units, but should be particularly useful to hospitals where resources are limited and/or whose infection control initiatives are still beginning.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the International Federation of Infection Control, the corporate sponsors, and the authors of this text, I hope that you will find it a useful resource in your daily practice.

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*Michael A. Borg
IFIC Chair*