



international federation of infection control

Website www.theIFIC.org UK Charity No 1072681 Company No 02980306

Annual Report - 2006

Vision

Every nation has a functioning infection control organization

Mission

The International Federation of Infection Control provides the essential tools, education materials, and communication that unite the existing Infection Control societies and foster development of Infection Control organizations where they are needed.

Introduction

During the year 2006, the Board of Trustees of the International Federation of Infection Control (IFIC) pursued the stated goals of the federation, namely to:

- promote high quality infection control educational opportunities, materials and training programmes across the world at low cost.
- provide a communication network of support by members via the Newsletter, the website (www.theIFIC.org), and email.
- maintain 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.
- draw on the expertise of 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.

Membership

IFIC now numbers 70 member societies from 58 countries on all continents. We welcome three new members who joined in 2006 i.e. Hong Kong Infection Control Nurses Association, Turkish Society for Infectious Diseases & Clinical Microbiology Speciality and Societa Italiana Multidisciplinare per la Prevenzione delle Infezioninelle Organizzazioni Sanitarie (SIMPIOS).

In addition Becton Dickinson, 3M, Tyco Healthcare International, Medi-Flex and Clorox were accepted as Strategic Partners for 2006/07.

Conferences

- The 7th International IFIC Congress was held in Stellenbosch, S Africa from 3rd - 5th July 2006. It was an exceptional experience, with 320 delegates from more than 40 countries, an outstanding academic programme and tremendous networking in a beautiful location. The IFIC Board extends its thanks to Prof. Shaheen Mehtar, Chair of the congress, and her team for their outstanding preparatory and organizational work.
- IFIC also actively participated in the Sixth International Conference of the Hospital Infection Society, (HIS 2006), held in the RAI Conference Centre in Amsterdam last October. IFIC sponsored a workshop on Infection Control in Countries with Limited Resources, in which Patricia Lynch, Nizam Damani, Michael Borg, Didier Pittet and Shaheen Mehtar were the speakers.
- IFIC was also the joint organizer of the 6th International Conference Infection Control Society of Pakistan (ICSP). The conference was held in Karachi from 18-20 2006. Patricia Lynch, Nizam Damani and Shaheen Mehtar were the speakers and also held one day pre-conference workshop on the Prevention of infections in Intensive Care & Neonatal Unit.
- The Eighth Congress of the International Federation of Infection Control will take place in Budapest, Hungary, 18-21 Oct 2007.
- The 9th IFIC congress will be held in Santiago, Chile form 14th to 17th Oct 2008 in conjunction with the 7th Pan American and the 13th Chilean Infection Control Congress.
- IFIC will also collaborate with one of its member organizations, the Asia Pacific Society of Infection Control, Kuala Lumpur: dates July 2007.

IFIC Board activities

During 2006, the constitution of the IFIC Board was:

Executive committee

Patricia Lynch, RN, MBA, Chair, USA
Nizam Damani, MD, Treasurer, N. Ireland
Ulrika Ransjo, MD PhD, Secretary, Sweden

Board members

Carol Goldman, RN, Canada
Gary French, MD, UK
Gayle Gilmore, RN, USA
Gertie van Knippenberg-Gordebeke, RN, Editor IJIC, Holland
Michael Borg, MD, Malta
Ossama Rasslan, MD, Egypt
Pola Brenner, RN, Chile
Smilja Kalenic, MD PhD, Croatia

Administrative Officer : Pamela Allen, BA. N. Ireland

In addition, a number of sub-Committees 2006 were established as follows (with chairs):

- *Initiatives & Education* Sergey Eremin
- *Conference* Michael Borg
- *Scholarship* Moira Walker
- *Bylaws* Ulrika Ransjo
- *Publications Advisory Board* Candace Friedman

The Board met two times during the year (a) 1st and 2nd July 2006, Stellenbosch, South Africa and 14th and 15th October 2006, Amsterdam, Netherlands. In addition three teleconferences were held in which the majority of Board members participated.

The term of office of Patricia Lynch expired in December 2006, whereas Gary French indicated that he was not in a position to serve for another 4 years. Gayle Gilmore, USA Association of Practitioners in Infection Control ,Carol Goldman, Canada Community and Hospital Infection Control Association ,Jane Murphy, Ireland Infection Control Nurses Association and Walter Popp, Germany German Society for Hospital Hygiene were elected with approval, to serve on the IFIC Board from 1st January 2007 to 31st December 2010.

Nizam Damani, Ossama Rasslan and Michael Borg have consented to continue to serve as trustees for a second four-year period. Ulrika Ransjö will continue to serve until end of December 2007.

Annual General meeting

The AGM was held on Monday the 16th October, 2006 from 1730 to 1900 at the RAI Conference Center, Amsterdam. In addition to the IFIC Board, society representative were present from Austria, Bulgaria, Germany (2 societies), Hungary, Norway, Romania, South Africa, Netherlands and USA. Seven associate members and others were present.

Bye-laws

New Articles and Memorandum of IFIC had been approved at the AGM in Istanbul on 15 October 2005. However the consent of the Charity Commission under section 64 of the Charities Act 1993 was not forthcoming, as the objects of IFIC were not consistent with the organization's status as a charity.

Therefore, The Charity's objects ("the Objects") were modified to state them to be: "*the relief of sickness and the preservation and protection of public health in all parts of the world by providing education and training about control of infection, in particular but not exclusively to people working in medical, educational and residential care institutions*" and approved at the AGM in Amsterdam.

Scholarship Fund

IFIC provides scholarships for individuals to attend conferences. Individuals, organizations such as our member societies and corporations can provide scholarships by contributing to the Scholarship Fund, chaired by Moira Walker from Canada.

IFIC requires scholarship applicants to prepare an abstract for poster or oral presentation on some aspect of their work; the abstracts are judged and ranked, and scholarships are awarded in the order of ranking. This year, there were 40 applicants from many countries, some of whom were helped by donations from SAIC Sweden, the Netherlands, and chapters of CHICA-Canada and APIC, USA.

The following **scholarship awards** were given in 2006

- Ms Duong, Vietnam*
- Ms Ndhlovu, Zambia
- Dr Khanani, Pakistan
- Mr Gobte, Cameroon

Travel grant

- Dr Lugina, Tanzania
- Ms L Nisbet, Namibia
- Dr Alfadilhassan, Sudan
- Dr Zeggwagh, Morocco

* Awarded from the Tsunami Scholarship fund which was established in 2005 to enable IC professionals from Tsunami stricken areas to participate in the IFIC congress and to share their experiences.

New Products

The second edition of IFIC's main publication, "***Infection Control: Basic Concepts and Training***" is available for translation at no cost for member societies and corporate members. "Basic Concepts" is also available on the web site: www.theIFIC.org. The 3rd edition is in preparation, with editors Candy Friedman and Bill Newsom, publication date 2007.

The 2nd edition has been translated into Albanian, Arabic, Chinese, Croatian, Greek, Hungarian, Polish, Spanish, Thai, and others. Farsi translation will be available in 2007. Lecture sets in PowerPoint format to accompany each chapter have been developed by Gary French and Nizam Damani, UK, and are available in English.

"***Information Resources in Infection Control***" is a compendium of hundreds of print titles, web sites and organizations that provide infection control information. Dr. Nizam Damani edits the publication and the fourth edition was distributed at the Sixth International Conference of the Hospital Infection Society, (HIS 2006), held in the RAI Conference Centre in Amsterdam.

Communications

The *International Journal of Infection Control* has for the 1st issue been published in print. Due to printing and distribution costs, further issues will be published as an e-journal on the IFIC website. Authors are invited to send material for publication and advice.

IFIC e-News will be published in January, April, July and October, also on the website.

Infection Control Basic Concepts and Training 2nd ed. has been translated into 10 languages.

PowerPoint lecture slides based on 2nd edition are available as CD-ROM or to download from the IFIC Web site

Information Resources in infection control 4th edition is available in print and to download.

The CHICA/IFIC web site has information about IC conferences in many countries; the number of conferences increases every year: <http://www.chica.org/ific/ific.html>

Webmaster Sergey Eremin, Russia was unable to be continue to perform all duties due to pressures of work. Aaron Cauchi, Malta, currently IFIC's web designer, has been asked to take over. The server will be moved to Malta. The web page at www.theIFIC.org will be further improved to make it as user friendly as possible.

Research Projects

Establishing an Infection Control Network in SE Europe

A grant of \$10,000 from 3M USA and 3M Europe funded several projects in this project which concluded in 2006:

- Established a communication network to support infection control education.
- Organised two large multinational, IC educational conferences.
- Developed content for a basic course to train infection control nurses in Croatia to serve as a model for other IC societies that are planning a similar project. The course was used as curriculum for two successful nurse trainings.
- Conducted two surveys about infrastructure and infection control practices in the region. Results were presented as abstracts at the APIC Conference in Baltimore, 2005.
- Translated, published and distributed *Basic Concepts* in Croatian.

IFIC/INICC Joint Project

IFIC has joined the International Nosocomial Infection Control Consortium (INNICC) to develop expanded applications of the methods successfully used by Victor Rosenthal, MD in many hospitals in eight countries.

New initiatives

The World Health Organization Global Patient Safety Challenge, the first truly global infection control project, has the potential to make a real difference in preventing healthcare associated infections. IFIC has actively collaborated with the World Health Organization to broaden support for these initiatives, especially on global hand hygiene improvements. At present, 36 countries (of 193) have “pledged” to support the GPSC; IFIC has proposed that the 68 infection prevention organizations around the world that are member societies could also lend substance to the GPSC through their own individual pledge and involvement and WHO has agreed. Further information is available on the IFIC website.

Challenges for the future

1. Funding: IFIC is expanding the scope of work and funding must increase to support this.
2. Sufficient scholarships for members from low resource areas to attend IFIC and other conferences to gather materials, allies and training to enhance their work at home. Often training even single individuals can help them make a major contribution in their countries or regions.
3. Influencing global health initiatives. For the first time, global infection is a real possibility yet problems of transmission through health care facilities are rarely addressed.

IFIC Goals 2007

- Regional network development
- Projects with broad scope and scale, strong partners
- Education resources in infection control
- Financial support
- Scholarship donations
- Conference support