



international federation of infection control

ANNUAL REPORT 2009

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.

Dear IFIC members,

On behalf of the IFIC Board, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your membership and support during the past year. The year 2009 was, we believe, yet another successful one for IFIC. Our membership continues to grow particularly following the introduction of individual associate membership. The annual conference in Vilnius last October received excellent reviews and was unanimously acclaimed a major success by delegates, exhibitors and speakers alike .

In addition, our internet based educational tools – the website and the journal - continue to shown increased popularity. Indeed, the journal site www.ijic.info exceeded 13,500 hits during the year. We also hope that you have found the activity from the IFIC Board of Directors during 2009 to be useful to your practice. We always welcome your feedback and suggestions on how we can offer a better service.

The past year was the last on the board for Nizam Damani and Smilja Kalenic. Both members have served IFIC well in their eight years on the board. Nizam has been an outstanding treasurer over his tenure and contributed to consolidating the financial stability of the Federation. We are happy to report that we will not be losing his services totally as he has accepted to Chair the newly established Finances and Membership Committee. Similarly Smilja has been invaluable to IFIC. She has been strongly involved in the advancement of infection control in South East Europe; the 2004 IFIC Congress in Porec remains one of the most successful conferences. Again, she has accepted to continue to help – this time with the International Journal of Infection Control.

In the last few years, the amount and complexity of work that IFIC manages to put together, has meant ever greater funding. This year we are again asking you to renew your membership subscription as soon as possible. The forms and details are included with this communication but they can also be downloaded from the IFIC website. Please let your members know how much we appreciate their support. Finally, please be sure to let us know of any changes to your email contact information.

We hope to be able to meet you in person at our next conference in August

Thank you

Michael Borg
Chair

Nizam Damani
Treasurer

Carol Goldman
Secretary

Executive Committee Members 2009



INTRODUCTION

During the past year, the Board of Trustees of the International Federation of Infection Control (IFIC) strived to:

- Supply 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 *e-news*, the website (www.theIFIC.org), and e-mail
- Maintain a liaison with the World Health Organisation and other organisations that promote infection prevention, especially hand hygiene, 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.

IFIC BOARD OF TRUSTEES: 2009

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Michael Borg, MD, PhD, Malta
Nizam Damani, MD, Treasurer, N. Ireland
Carol Goldman, BScN, CIC Secretary, Canada

TRUSTEES

Smilja Kalenic, MD PhD, Croatia
Ossama Rasslan, MD, PhD, Egypt
Pola Brenner, RN, MSc Chile
Gayle Gilmore, RN, MA, MIS, CIC, USA
Walter Popp, MD, Germany
Jane Murphy, RN, Ireland
Judith Richards, MD, UK
Akeau Unahalekhaka, RN, PhD, Thailand

EX-OFFICIO

Candace Friedman, MPH, CIC, Publication Advisory
Aaron Cauchi, Web Master
Pamela Allen, BA. N. Ireland Administrative Officer.

Nizam Damani and Smilja Kalenic retired from the board at the end of 2009 after completing 2 terms of office. The board acknowledges their commitment to IFIC and outstanding work.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM of 2009 was held in Vilnius, Lithuania, within a very successful and well attended conference. This was well attended, with delegates from the following Member Societies:

- Australian Infection Control Association (AISA)
- Austrian Society for Hygiene, Microbiology and Preventative Medicine (OGHMP)
- CHICA-Canada
- National Nosocomial Programme – Chile
- National Reference Centre for Hospital Infections - Croatia
- Egyptian Society of Infection Control
- Society of Practitioners of Infection Control of Egypt (SPIC-Egypt)
- German Society of Hospital Hygiene
- Hungarian Society of Infection Control Practitioners
- Societa Italiana Multidisciplinare per la Prevenzione delle Infezioni nelle Organizzazioni Sanitarie (SIMPIOS)- Italy
- Infection Control Unit- Department of Health – Malta
- Vereniging voor Hygiene en Infectiepreventie in de Gezondheidszorg (VHIG)- The Netherlands
- Norwegian Association of Infection Control Nurses (NAICN)
- Norwegian Forum for Infection Control (NFIC)
- Infection Control Society of Pakistan
- Romanian Society of Microbiology
- Swedish Association for Infection Control (SAIC)
- Infection Society of ROC Taiwan
- Hospital Infection Society – UK
- Infection Prevention Society- UK
- National Resource for Infection Control- UK
- Association of Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC)- USA
- Certification Board of Infection Control and Epidemiology- USA

MEMBER SOCIETIES

IFIC has 78 members from 60 countries. Unfortunately 3 societies who have disbanded have been taken off our membership list – they are from the countries of Bhutan, Kenya, and Zimbabwe.

We welcome eight new members who joined in 2008, namely:

- Iranian Health Care Centre /Armaghan pezeshti rooz, IRAN
- Infection Prevention & Control African Network
- Bolivian Society of Infection Control, BOLIVIA



The IFIC Board recognised that better coordination and communication is needed with members and so approved the concept of regional coordinators. Board members will be appointed as regional coordinators to channel regional queries and to have that person a liaison between member societies in that region and the board. The membership secretary is the link and coordinator for these regional coordinators. The regional coordinators are as follows:

North America: Gayle Gilmore

Central / South America : Pola Brenner

Western Europe: Walter Popp

Eastern Europe: Smilja Kalenic (followed by Emese Szilagyi)

EMRO region + Africa : Ossama Rasslan

Asia/Pacific: Akeau Unahalekhaka

With Nizam Damani and Smilja Kalenic retiring from the board at the end of 2009 after completing 2 terms of office, two vacancies for the 2010-2013 term were created. A call for nomination was issued by the Nominations Committee composed of Carol Goldman, Ulrika Ransjo, Gertie van Knippenberg-Gordebeke, and Candy Friedman. The Committee received 2 nominees and therefore no election was required.

The new board members were elected by acclamation during the AGM:

- Emese Szilagyi : Hungarian Society of Infection Control Practitioners
- Egil Lingaas : Norwegian Forum of Infection Control

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Associate membership was created in 2009. Associate members are defined as individuals professionally involved or interested in Infection Prevention and Control as well as non-commercial organizations which do not fulfil the criteria of full members. They are entitled to receive all published materials as well as any other benefits open to members. However they are not be entitled to vote or hold office.

We are delighted to report that we have 122 members from 33 countries. Associate membership fee is UK £ 25 per year and is payable at each calendar year. However, IFIC recognises that individuals who live and work in low resource countries might be restricted from applying for membership because of limited financial resources. Therefore registration fees are waived for such applicants (see IFIC website). If you wish become to associate members, please visit IFIC web site and apply on line.



STRATEGIC PARTNERS AND PATRON MEMBERS

The IFIC Strategic Partnership Programme continued to flourish in the past year. The 2009 IFIC Strategic Partners were:

- Baxter
- Becton Dickinson
- 3M
- Covidien
- Enturia
- ICNet

Furthermore, the following companies were Patron Members during the year:

- Aqua Free Membrane Technology
- Oxoid
- Virox Technologies Inc

We collaborated with Oxoid in their yearly Infection Control Team of the Year Awards. Nizam Damani formed part of the evaluating committee that chose the winning entries.

CONFERENCES

The Tenth Congress of the International Federation of Infection Control was held in Vilnius, Lithuania between the 8 - 11 October 2009. IFIC 2009 attracted 500 delegates from 46 countries and boasted an academic programme of more than 70 lectures & workshops delivered by a faculty of 50 speakers, 40 oral delegate presentations and an equal number of posters.. The meeting garnered very positive reviews from the delegates and the exhibitors present, the result of an outstanding academic programme and a very pleasant set of social events, both of which allowed good networking amongst the delegates. More than 90% of delegates who replied to our conference evaluation form rated the conference as good or excellent. The board would like to thank the Lithuanian Association of Hospital Infection Control and especially its Chair, Rolanda Valinteliene, for their support in the preparation and management of the conference.

We were also pleased to be able to participate in a number of national and regional conferences organized by our member societies:

- Michael Borg delivered the ending keynote lecture “Overcoming Limited IP&C Resources” at the CHICA Canada Annual Conference held in May 2009 at St. John’s, Newfoundland. Members of the IFIC Board also gave the start signal for the “Run For IFIC”, a yearly fund raising activity which raised money to the IFIC Scholarship Fund.



- A symposium on “Avian Influenza in Egypt” was delivered by Ossama Rasslan at the Association for Professionals in Infection Control (APIC) conference held in Fort Lauderdale, USA in June 2009.

We would like to thank both member societies for their support and for providing free exhibition space for IFIC to disseminate information to the delegates attending both conferences. We would also like to acknowledge other member societies who invited IFIC to be present and share in their annual education events.

In line with our biennial conference schedule, IFIC will be partnering a member society to organise a regional conference in 2010. We therefore are proud to co-host, together with the Infection Prevention and Control Africa Network (IPCAN), a joint conference to be held at Spier Conference Centre, Cape Town from 29th August to 1st Sept 2010. IFIC is providing a number of scholarships to enable delegates, especially from a low resource environment, to attend this event. Please refer to the IFIC website for these scholarships which close in May 2010. Further information on registration and abstract submission will be obtained from the IPCAN website – www.ipcanafrica.org – or by email to IPCAN.Africa@gmail.com. The next IFIC international congress will be held in 2011 in Italy.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Scholarship Fund is established to increase participation for under-funded member delegates at IFIC Congresses. IFIC is happy to acknowledge donations to the scholarship fund in 2009 from (in order of magnitude):

- CHICA Canada,
- APIC,
- CHICA – TPIC,
- Swedish Association for Infection Control (SAIC)
- Shirley R Bradley.

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.

At least one main award is normally granted, consisting of:

- Free registration to the conference
- Refund against travel expense receipts, based on the cheapest economy itinerary
- Subsistence allowance to cover 4 nights board and lodging.

A number of smaller bursaries are also usually awarded, covering:

- Free conference registration
- A subsistence allowance to cover 4 nights board and lodging.

Two types of submissions are accepted: **Research paper** describing a study on a specific aspect of infection prevention and control or **“How we did it”**: providing a more descriptive account of how infection control practitioners or teams tackled a specific challenge or brought improvement in healthcare-associated infections within their institution or country.

This year, IFIC2009 scholarships were awarded to:

APPLICANT	COUNTRY	ABSTRACT TITLE	SCHOLARSHIP TYPE
Gulmira Djumalieva	Kyrgyz Republic	Experience with the national program for infection control in the Kyrgyz republic	Full
Brahmaputra Marjadi	Indonesia	Development of a proxy surveillance for intravenous line-related bacteraemia in remote Indonesia	Partial
Claire Farrugia	Malta	Delivering the message: improving infection control communication	Partial
Greta Gailiene	Lithuania	Surgical site infections in cardiosurgery	Partial
Noel Abela	Malta	Identifying perceptions & beliefs: the first challenge in every hand hygiene compliance initiative	Partial
Altaf Ahmed	Pakistan	IDSP health and hygiene program in Pakistan.	Partial
Naowanit Ponpinit	Thailand	Reduction of catheter-associated urinary tract infections at Udonthani hospital, Thailand	Partial
Ann Higgins	Ireland	Incidence of MRSA at admission to hospital – a prospective four year study	Partial
Ruta Bagonaite	Lithuania	The situation of MRSA control in Lithuanian general hospitals	Partial
Amani A El Kholy	Egypt	Decreasing the rate of central line associated bloodstream infection in a tertiary hospital	Partial
Sergejs Kuznecovs	Latvia	MRSA and tobacco smoking: the crossroad of epidemics	Partial
Ruta Lulianskyte	Lithuania	Management of needlestick and sharps injuries and exposure to body fluids of medical personnel	Partial



COMMUNICATIONS

As postage is costly and mail delivery is problematic in many countries, all IFIC communications are now conducted solely electronically by email and Internet. Therefore it is vital that we have the correct email address of the board members of all IFIC societies and receive updates if these change.

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF INFECTION CONTROL

The *International Journal of Infection Control* is now well established. Between October 2008 and the end of 2009 4 e-issues were published. These included two full issues, and 2 supplements, incorporating extended abstracts from the successful Conference held in Chile in 2008.

A total of 43 submissions were received in the course of the year, with numbers increasing all the time. Of these 24 were published, 9 rejected and 10 and currently under review. The Journal site continues to receive a large number of electronic “visits”, with over 1000 “hits” a month

It is the aim of the Journal to encourage submissions from novice authors, and editorial support is offered through our excellent panel of international reviewers. Although unavoidably some authors will have to be disappointed, we hope the comments they receive will encourage them to consider future submissions.

The journal provides all the required facilities not only for the appropriate electronic publication of the journal but also enables electronic submission by authors. We strongly encourage our members to submit publications to this new journal. Author guidelines are available from the journal website. Furthermore, because English may not be the first language of most of our members, IJIC provides authors with assistance in editing and polishing of the language and grammar of their submission.

IFIC e-News editions were published in January, April, July and October.

INFORMATION RESOURCES IN INFECTION CONTROL

Sixth edition of *Information Resources in Infection Control* - compendium of print, web and organizational resources was published in 2009 and is currently available on the IFIC web site.

WHO COLLABORATION

IFIC continued to work with the World Health Organization to ensure success of the Global Patient Safety Challenge, particularly in worldwide efforts to foster better hand hygiene in clinical care. To this end, several teleconferences were held between GPSC coordinators and members of the IFIC board.

Nizam Damani also served on the WHO Best Injection Practices Working Group to develop WHO guidelines and toolkit on the Safe Injection and Best Practices Guidelines



for Phlebotomy and also member of the core group for the 1st *Global Patient Safety Challenge* “Clean care is safer Care’ whereas Claire Kilpatrick represented WHO at the Vilnius board meeting. More *collaborative* efforts are planned for next year.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

IFIC encourages members to develop interest groups as a means to disseminate and share information with others who have a similar interest, and will assist members to do this. Interest groups communicate via email and also meet at the IFIC congress.

Current Special Interest Groups include:

INTEREST GROUP	CHAIR / SECRETARY
Hand Hygiene	Nagwa Khamis : Chair Pola Brenner : Board liaison
Healthcare Facility Design and Construction Interest Group	Walter Popp : Chair/ Board liaison Ulrika Ransjö : Secretary
Safe Injections	Ed Krisiunas : Chair Jane Murphy : Board liaison
Safe Childbirth	Patricia Lynch : Chair Akeau Unahalekhaka : Board liaison

Further details on activities of the Special Interest Groups in 2009 can be found on the IFIC website.

PROJECTS

A major project in 2009 was the totally revamping of the website. This has been greeted with very positive feedback as being more users friendly and easier to navigate. We would like to thank our webmaster, Aaron Cauchi, for all the hard work that he continues to put into this critical tool, which is vital to disseminate IFIC’s message and resources.

There is no doubt that we can do more to meet all the different aspirations of all our members, wherever they come from. Therefore, one of our major projects for 2010 will be a strategic review by the Board of Trustees. This will start in the coming months by a consultation exercise with all the membership. In this way we hope to further improve both way IFIC functions as well as the support it offers to its members.



GOALS 2010

- Strategic planning exercise
- Special Interest Groups
- Networking function on website
- Review Articles of Association
- Updating of member society details