



# international federation of infection control

## ANNUAL REPORT 2008

### 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 for your support during the past year which has now drawn to a close. The past year was, we believe, yet another successful one for IFIC. Our membership continues to grow as do our activities. The annual conference in Santiago last October attracted over 900 delegates and was unanimously acclaimed a major success by those present.

In addition, our internet based educational tools – the website and the journal - continue to shown increased popularity. Indeed, the journal site [www.ijic.info](http://www.ijic.info) is now reaching close to 1000 hits a month. We hope you have found the activity from the IFIC Board of Directors during 2008 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 Gertie van Knippenberg-Gordebeke. Throughout her eight years of service to IFIC, Gertie has provided a crucial service to our previous printed publications, initially the IFIC Newsletter and subsequently the International Journal of Infection Control. We shall miss her presence in our meetings and board interactions. We would like to take this opportunity to thank her for the work she has put into the organization and wish her well for the future.

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.

Thank you

**Michael Borg**  
Chair

**Nizam Damani**  
Treasurer

**Carol Goldman**  
Secretary



## 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](http://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.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM of 2008 was held in Santiago Chile, in the midst of a very successful and well attended conference. This was well attended, with delegates from the following Member Societies:

- CHICA-Canada
- Croatian Medical Association, Croatian Society for Medical Microbiology and Parasitology
- Danish Society of Hospital Hygiene and Sterile Supply
- Egyptian Society of Infection Control
- German Society of Hospital Hygiene
- Hospital Infection Society – UK
- Indonesian Society of Infection Control
- Infection Control Society of Pakistan
- Infection Control Unit- Department of Health – Malta
- Infection Prevention Society- UK
- Infection Society of ROC Taiwan
- Lithuanian Association of Hospital Infection Control
- National Division of Infection Control Nurses- New Zealand
- National Nosocomial Programme – Chile
- Swedish Association for Sterilization and Infection Control
- Vereniging Voor Hygiene En Infectiepreventie in De Gezondheidszorg – The Netherlands

The membership approved a change in the Memorandum and Articles so that the Associate Membership category is now open to Individuals professionally involved or interested in Infection Control as well as non-commercial organizations. Applicants will be able to apply for Associate Membership on line. Furthermore membership fees will be waived for individuals coming from approximately 100 developing nations.

The minutes in full of the AGM will be posted on the IFIC website shortly.



## MEMBERSHIP

IFIC now numbers 78 member societies from 60 countries on all continents. We welcome eight new members who joined in 2008, namely:

- Association des infirmieres en prevention des infections, Canada;
- Eastern Mediterranean Regional Network for Infection Control, Egypt;
- Society of Practitioners of Infection Control of Egypt;
- Indonesian Society of Infection Control;
- Dutch Society of Medical Microbiology;
- Infectious Diseases Society of Pakistan;
- Hasta Güvenligi Dernegi (Turkish Patient Safety Association)
- National Resource for Infection Control, UK

## STRATEGIC PARTNERS AND PATRON MEMBERS

The IFIC Strategic Partnership Programme continued to flourish in the past year. The 2008 IFIC Strategic Partners were:

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

This initiative was borne from the appreciation that there is considerable scope for improved partnership with members from industry. We believe that if we work together, our efforts towards improving the prevention and control of health care infections have a greater chance of success. We are greatly indebted to these companies.

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

- Oxoid
- Virox
- Soapopular 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. Submissions from infection practitioners from various parts of the globe have been included in a recent supplement of the International Journal of Infection Control.

## CONFERENCES

The Ninth Congress of the International Federation of Infection Control was held in Santiago, Chile between the 14 - 17 October 2008. IFIC 2008 attracted no less than 800 delegates attending from more than 40 countries. The meeting garnered very positive reviews from the delegates and the exhibitors present, as a result of an outstanding academic programme and a very pleasant set of social events, both of which allowed good networking amongst the



delegates. The board would like to thank Prof. Pola Brenner and her local organizing committee for their outstanding 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:

- A symposium on infection control in limited resources was delivered by Michael Borg and Nizam Damani at the international conference of the Association for Professionals in Infection Control (APIC) held in Denver, USA in June 2008.
- Members of the IFIC Board also gave the start signal for the “Run For IFIC”, a yearly event held during the CHICA Canada Conference in Montreal. This fund raising activity contributed almost £3500 to the Scholarship Fund.

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 present in both conferences. We would also like to acknowledge other member who invited IFIC to be present and share in their annual education events.

The 10<sup>th</sup> IFIC congress will be held in Vilnius, Lithuania between October 6 - 11 October, 2009. Further information can be found at the conference website [www.ific2009.com](http://www.ific2009.com). Due to the Decennial Conference in March and the quadrannual HIS conference in October, in addition to the usual society annual conferences, the Board has decided that it would not be cost-effective to organise an annual congress in 2010. The next international congress will therefore be held in 2011. See [www.theifc.org](http://www.theifc.org) for further details.

## **IFIC BOARD ACTIVITIES**

The 2008 Board of Trustees were:

### **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  
Gertie van Knippenberg-Gordebeke, RN, The Netherlands  
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 Members**

Candace Friedman, MPH, CIC, Publication Advisory, USA  
Aaron Cauchi, Web Master, Malta



Pamela Allen, BA. , Administrative Officer, N. Ireland

Gertie van Knippenberg-Gordebeke retired from the board at the end of 2008 after completing 2 terms of office. The board acknowledges her commitment to IFIC and her outstanding work.

## SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Scholarship Fund is established to increase participation for under-funded member delegates at IFIC Congresses. IFIC can now accept donations by Paypal, Master Card and Visa. IFIC is happy to acknowledge donations to the scholarship fund in 2007 from (in order of magnitude) CHICA Canada, APIC Colorado Mile High Chapter, Swedish Association for Infection Control, Puget Sound APIC Chapter 062, Seattle, WA, Shirley R Bradley, APIC Chicago Chapter, Central WA Infection Control Pam Schutz, Altrusa International of Longview Kelso, Glenda L Schuh, APIC Greater Detroit, Gayle Gilmore, Neil Pascoe, Mary Bolanos and Stephen Odachowski.

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, IFIC2008 scholarships were awarded to:

Fernando Espinoza Osorio	Bolivia	“Medidas de contención de riesgo de infección intrahospitalaria en neonatología”
Sajith Jayasree Sadanandan	India	Socio-cultural realities and importance of interventional AIDS education in the prevention of the disease
Gagan Gurung	Nepal	Effectiveness of capacity building of Peon to improve infection control practices in government health facilities of Morang, Nepal
Chao-Ying Yang	Taiwan	The need satisfaction for nurses in the hospital during the SARS pandemic in Taiwan
Salisu Abubakar	Nigeria	Antimicrobial activity of <i>Newbouldia laevis</i> extracts on some bacteria isolated from patients with dental caries
Hayam Abdel Meguid El Aggan	Egypt	Bacteriological monitoring of hemodialysis system: relation to pyrogenic reaction, bacteraemia and bacterial contamination of dialysis fluid
Olivia Yow	Canada	Positive impact of immediate feedback to front-line health-care-workers on hand hygiene compliance
Alberto Valderrama	Colombia	Tamización para <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> resistente a meticilina en unidad de cuidado crítico de un hospital colombiano

An Administrative manual was compiled for IFIC Board members to enable better management of the rapidly growing Federation. Educational materials and publications continued to be developed, the latest being audio-visual recordings from the key note lectures in the congress.



Our presence in several conferences of our member societies (CHICA-Canada and APIC) has proven very successful and a goal for the board is to be available (if time and financial resources allow) to attend conferences by other societies. Members are encouraged to be in touch if interested in our participation in their educational meetings.

Another Special Interest Group was formed:

- *Safe Childbirth*: Chair: Patricia Lynch, Secretary: Kara Wagner. Information on this and other SIG's can be found in the IFIC website.

## COMMUNICATIONS

As postage is costly and mail delivery is problematic in many countries, all IFIC communications will now be conducted solely electronically by email and Internet.

The IFIC website at [www.theifc.org](http://www.theifc.org) continues to be improved thanks to the support of our webmaster Aaron Cauchi, Malta, who has taken over all IT coordination duties. We hope to make it even more user friendly and further changes are envisaged in the coming year.

## INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF INFECTION CONTROL & IFIC e-News

The *International Journal of Infection Control* underwent further development over the past year with a new design and the inclusion of all previous issues and supplements into the web site ([www.ijic.info](http://www.ijic.info)). This 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 will be unique in providing 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 September.

## NEW INITIATIVES

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 is now a member of the Core Group for the 1<sup>st</sup> Global Patient Safety Challenge for the hand hygiene whereas Julie Storr represented WHO at the Chile board meeting. More corroborative efforts are planned for the next year.

In addition, Nizam Damani was also member of the WHO Best Injection Practices Working Group to develop WHO guidelines and toolkit on the Standard Precautions for Injection Safety and Best Practices guidelines for Phlebotomy.

## PROJECTS

A major project in 2008 was the production of sets of slides for basic lectures and self assessment questions, adapted on the chapters of IFIC Basic Concepts of Infection Control.



These sets will soon be available on the website as a teaching support for individuals starting in infection control.

### **GOALS 2009**

- Revamping of website
- Special Interest Groups
- Associate membership
- Networking opportunities
- Training slides for Basic Concepts
- IFIC2009