



# international federation of infection control

## ANNUAL REPORT 2007

### 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

The goals of the Federation for 2004-2007 were

- Huge increase in scholarship donations
- Expanded education (IC) resources
- IC Congresses with >100 countries represented
- Full publication pipeline
- Sufficient financial support

In pursuit of these goals, the Board of Trustees of the International Federation of Infection Control (IFIC) has strived in 2007 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, 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.

### Annual general meeting

The AGM of 2007 was held in Budapest, in the midst of a very successful and well attended conference. The AGM too was well attended, with delegates from the member societies in Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Egypt, Italy, Lithuania, Malaysia, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Romania, Taiwan, United Kingdom and USA, and many other attendees.



This year IFIC celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We have moved a long way from the first meeting in London UK August 1987. The aims of IFIC have remained the same, namely: To promote international exchange of knowledge, information, ideas and support in the control of hospital-associated infections.

Member societies nominate and appoint trustees of the board, which then select the Chair, the Treasurer and the Secretary among them. In 2007, Michael Borg has been chair, and he has graciously accepted to continue as Chair for 2008. Ulrika Ransjö has resigned from the board, and Carol Goldman will be Secretary for 2008 onward. Two new trustees, Judith Richards UK and Akeau Unahalekaka Thailand were unanimously elected at the AGM, to serve for the period 1 Jan 2008 – 31 Dec 2011.

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

### **Membership**

IFIC now numbers 70 member societies from 59 countries on all continents. We welcome two new members who joined in 2007, namely the Georgian Society of Infection Control and Serbian Association of Prevention & Control.

### **Strategic Partners and Patron Members**

A new initiative for 2007 was the creation of the IFIC Strategic Partnership Programme. 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 the following companies for being the founder members of this programme: **Becton Dickinson, 3M, Covidien (formerly Tyco Healthcare International), Medi-Flex, Chlorox and Enturia. Baxter Worldwide** joined in 2007. Not only has their membership strengthened IFIC's Infrastructure but it has already resulted in projects being launched to the benefit of member societies. The printing of **Basic Concepts in Infection Control** was made possible by financial grants from 3M Health Care, Becton-Dickinson and Covidien, whom we gratefully acknowledge.

The IFIC board would like to highlight the assistance provided by APIC over the past year, particularly Mary Schanz and Kathy Warye. Their input and expertise was crucial in launching the Strategic Partnership programme.

We were also happy to collaborate with **Oxoid**, one of our patron members, in their yearly Infection Control Team of the Year Awards. Nizam Damani formed part of the evaluating committee that chose the winning entries. The submissions from infection practitioners from various parts of the globe have been collated and included in the December 2007 edition of the International Journal of Infection Control.

### **Conferences**

It is only in later years that we have been arranging regular international multidisciplinary congresses. The Eighth Congress of the International Federation of Infection Control was held in Budapest, Hungary 18 - 21 October 2007. IFIC 2007 will rank amongst the best ever IFIC conferences with around 500 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. Karolina Böröcz 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, Nizam Damani and Pola Brenner at the international conference of the Association for Professionals in Infection Control (APIC) held in San Jose, USA in June 2007. We would like to thank APIC for supporting this participation and for providing free exhibition space for IFIC to disseminate information to the delegates present.
- Gayle Gilmore, Gertie van Knippenberg-Gordebeke and Ossama Rasslan represented the Federation at the Asia Pacific Society of Infection Control (APSIC) conference held in Kuala Lumpur in July 2007 and also presented lectures at this event.
- Ossama Rasslan chaired the 2<sup>nd</sup> EMRNIC conference in Alexandria November, with speakers among others Gertie van Knippenberg-Gordebeke
- Ulrika Ransjö represented IFIC as a speaker at the conferences of Hospital Infection Society of India in Chandigarh February 2007 and Patient Safety in Abu Dhabi September 2007.

The 9<sup>th</sup> IFIC congress will be held in Santiago, Chile October 14-17, 2008 in conjunction with the 7<sup>th</sup> Pan American and the 13<sup>th</sup> Chilean Infection Control Congress. Further information can be found at the conference website [www.ific2008.cl](http://www.ific2008.cl). The venue for the IFIC Congress in 2009 will be announced in early 2008. See [www.theifc.org](http://www.theifc.org).

For IFIC supported conferences see also the Global Infection Control Calendar of events, hosted by [www.chica.org/ific/ific.html](http://www.chica.org/ific/ific.html).

### **IFIC Board activities**

The board has expanded during the leadership of Patricia Lynch and Michael Borg, and now works more through committees between the board meetings, which are held twice a year.

Michael Borg, MD, Malta, Chair;  
Nizam Damani, MD, Treasurer, N. Ireland and  
Ulrika Ransjö, MD PhD, Secretary, Sweden  
constituted the Executive committee.

The other trustees for 2007 were:

Carol Goldman, RN, Canada,  
Smilja Kalenic, MD PhD, Croatia,  
Ossama Rasslan, MD, Egypt,  
Gertie van Knippenberg-Gordebeke, RN, Editor *IJIC*, Holland,  
Pola Brenner, RN, Chile,  
Gayle Gilmore, RN, USA,  
Walter Popp, MD, Germany and



Jane Murphy, RN, Ireland.

Pamela Allen, BA. N. Ireland Administrative Officer.

Aaron Cauchi, Malta IT Coordinator for IFIC

The IFIC Committees 2007 were.

- New Initiatives, chair *Ossama Rasslan*
- Publications / Education / Website, chair *Candace Friedman*
- Membership, chair *Jane Murphy*

In Amsterdam 2006, Special interest groups (SIG) were formed, as forums for discussion among individuals in IFIC member societies and among associate members.

Committee chair is Carol Goldman, who has formed terms of reference for the SIG:s. The groups will set their own goals. Work in the groups will be conducted via e-mail, the IFIC website and at IFIC conferences. The Special interest groups formed, with their liaisons to the board, were:

- Construction, Renovation and Design *Walter Popp*
- Surveillance *Smilja Kalenic*
- Hand Hygiene *Gertie v Knippenberg*
- Safe Injection *Ossama Rasslan*

### **Scholarship Fund**

The Scholarship Fund is established to increase participation for under-funded member delegates at IFIC Congresses. IFIC can now accept donations by 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.

As the Scholarship Fund was established by Patricia Lynch as Chair of IFIC, the scholarships are now named after her. Patricia Lynch also chaired the 2007 Scientific Scholarship committee. 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, full scholarships (travel, accommodation and conference fee) were awarded to Shahla Baqi, Pakistan and Ekaterina Tsestvardze, Georgia. Partial scholarships (accommodation and conference fee) were awarded to Mohammed Atif, Algeria, Hala Badawi, Egypt, Mohammed Ali Boroumand, Iran, Irma Burjanadze, Georgia, Yaffa Raz, Israel, Elizabeth Scicluna, Malta, Izhaki Shlomit, Israel, Thu Li Ti, Vietnam and Peter Zarb, , Malta.

### **New Publications**

The year 2007 saw the conclusion of a three year effort in upgrading IFIC's main publication, *Infection Control: Basic Concepts and Training*, into a proper textbook with



ISBN number 978-0-9555861-0-1. The book has been renamed ***Basic Concepts of Infection Control*** and consists of 23 chapters, written by 19 authors, has selected references and covers 208 pages. Editors were Candace Friedman and William Newsom. The book was distributed to delegates at the IFIC 2007 conference. This free publication will also be available from the IFIC web site in pdf format. In addition, some IFIC Strategic Partners have accepted to reprint this publication and have indicated they would be willing to provide printed copies at no cost to individuals upon request. Such requests should be made via the appropriate form on the IFIC web site.

The publishing of the book was sponsored by 3MWorldwide, BectonDickinson and Covidien. IFIC is grateful to these companies for their invaluable support. Translations of *Basic Concepts of Infection Control* can only be done by agreement with IFIC, who owns the copyright.

***Information Resources in Infection Control*** (ISBN number 978-0-9555861-1-8) 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 fifth edition was distributed at the eighth Congress of the International Federation of Infection Control in Budapest, Hungary October 2007.

### **Communications**

As postage is costly and mail delivery problematic in many countries, the IFIC communications are now conducted mainly over the Internet. The IFIC website at [www.theifc.org](http://www.theifc.org) has moved from Russia to Malta, and is now taking new shape with the support of our webmaster Aaron Cauchi, Malta, who has taken over all IT coordination duties. The web site at [www.theIFIC.org](http://www.theIFIC.org) has been improved to make it more user friendly and further changes are envisaged in the coming year.

***International Journal of Infection Control***: Another major achievement over the past year has been the development of a comprehensive journal web site for the *International Journal of Infection Control*. This web site ([www.ijic.info](http://www.ijic.info)) will provide 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 consider submitting 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 expert committee for the hand hygiene challenge whereas Julie Storr represented WHO at the Budapest conference. In addition to holding discussions with the board, she delivered several lectures and workshops to the delegates. More corroborative efforts are planned for the next year.



## **Projects**

A major project for 2008 is the production of sets of slides for basic lectures and self assessment questions, based on the chapters of IFIC Basic Concepts of Infection Control. These sets will be made available to interested parties as support in teaching for individuals starting in infection control.

Another important area is the facilitation of communication with and between IFIC member societies. To this end the web site will be improved to allow member societies to input their own contact details to ensure that all information is correct and up to date.

## **Challenges for the future**

- As the scope of work for IFIC is expanding, funding must increase to support this.
- Sufficient scholarships are needed 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. Donations from our members are critical to maintain these initiatives.
- Global infection control is now a real possibility. IFIC has a key position in influencing global health initiatives through our member societies and our relations with WHO.

### **IFIC GOALS 2008**

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