Chair Update

Message from the Chair

Now that we are coming to the end of 2017, I want to thank each individual working in infection prevention and control, all the infection control societies around the globe, and each of our partners from industry. This was a fruitful year, and we look forward to a successful 2018. On behalf of the IFIC Board, I invite you to join us as we plan and work together in the coming year. We have a great conference ready for all of you in 2018 where our workshop formats promise to provide: 1) many opportunities for professional interactions, 2) active learning and sharing of the most current concepts in our field, and 3) networking with colleagues from around the world. We are meeting in Poland’s cultural capital, Krakow, and we hope to see you there 25-27 April 2018!

For any non-European infection prevention and control society that would like to work with IFIC in hosting our annual Congress in 2021, please see our call for expressions of interest in this newsletter (pp 12-13). These are to be submitted by 28 February 2018.

For those infection control societies that will have new officers or contact persons, please be sure to notify Pamela Allen at IFIC, so that we will not lose contact with you and your organization. If we do not have this information, it will be impossible to continue communication, so please send us that new information right away! Enjoy the infection prevention and control society stories submitted by our board of trustee members from the regions of the world they represent.

Best wishes to you as we embark on another exciting and productive year of preventing infections for patients everywhere, and willingly sharing our knowledge with those who need us. If you have questions or concerns, please contact me.

Terrie B. Lee
IFIC Chair
tleewv@msn.com
Infection prevention network Kenya (IPNET-K) was formed in the year 2010. It’s registered in Kenya under the societies rules, 1968(rule 4), registration number 39694. It’s a multidisciplinary society from health professionals or those in the health sector, and are involved or have interest in the infection prevention and control. Membership includes, doctors, clinical officers, nurses, pharmacists, public health officers/specialists, laboratory technologists/technicians, hospital administrators, scientists, epidemiologists, policy makers, researchers, and any other recognized HealthCare provider in Kenya. Corporate membership is from the pharmaceutical industry, business organizations and other registered bodies related to infection control. IPNET-K is a non-profit society of approximately 120 members, governed by an elected committee, headed by a chairman. It draws its membership from all counties in Kenya. The current leadership: Chairman-Prof Revath Gunturu, a Microbiologist, Secretary, M/s Jemima Katama, infection control Nurse, Treasurer-Mr. Eric Kitangala-Lab technologist, Scientific chair-Dr. Daniel Kimani- Public health specialist.

IPNET-Kenya was a founding member of Infection control Africa network (ICAN), attending its inaugural meeting in 2009. In 2015, IFIC welcomed, IPNET-Kenya, as new full member of the society. IPNET-Kenya works very closely with the other African societies of infection control under the umbrella of ICAN. Infection Prevention Network Kenya organizes scientific conferences, seminars, meeting and trainings to raise the scale of awareness of Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) issues nationally and regionally. Since its formation IPNET-K has successfully organized 6 conferences, with representations from across the globe. The conferences also aim to educate, collaborate and foster understanding with stakeholders (communities, families, all health care settings, industries, and training institutions) on training, best practices of IPC and promote application of its knowledge for the good health of humankind. Besides, they provide a forum for regular exchange of information and sharing of expertise on IPC issues with other infection control societies in Africa and the rest of the world.

**World antibiotic awareness week (WAAW) 13-19 November, 2017**

IPNET-Kenya, has been spearheading WAAW in Kenya and climaxing it with a conference since 2013. Through, this IPNET-K lobbied with ministry of Health Kenya, and IPC program was sent up at the national ministry and helped develop policy and guidelines for infection control in 2010. Currently, the national IPC program has also a focal person for antimicrobial resistance (AMR) activities in Kenya. IPNET-K in partnership with MoH and other organizations, helped develop national action plan on prevention and containment of antimicrobial resistance and policy on prevention and containment of antimicrobial resistance, which were launched by the cabinet secretary for health during WAAW, 2017. Other activities during this year’s WAAW included, procession of flagged off by Deputy director of veterinary services in Kenya, with participants drawn from ministries of health and agriculture, staff, students from college of veterinary sciences, members of other societies like EPN,ReACT, IPNET-Kenya. Participants were able to engage the public during the procession by sharing IEC material. In addition, media sensitization in Kenya on AMR and students in medical colleges were involved as the future champions of AMR.
IPNET-K conference 28 Nov-1st Dec, 2017

This year’s IPNET-K conference was the 6th under the theme Managing infection prevention and control programs in a devolved governance system. The conference had one day pre-conference workshop on AMR and a two and half days of conference presentations from local and international participants.

Below is pictorial presentation of the conference
Serbian Association of Prevention and Infection Control (SAPIC) was founded in May 2007 with the following goals: 1) to improve the health of the population by preventing and reducing the risk of hospital infections; 2) to affirm an interdisciplinary approach in prevention and control of hospital infections; 3) to enable domestic and foreign exchange of experiences in the prevention and control of hospital infections; 4) to organize scientific and professional meetings, congresses and seminars; 5) to organize lectures and visits of experts from abroad; 6) to conduct research in the field of hospital infections; 7) to educate new experts interested in hospital infections and 8) to launch a professional journal together with other publications in the field of hospital infections and related disciplines.

Perhaps the most significant event in the organization of the Association is the 6th EurAsia Congress of Infection Diseases, Epidemiology, Immunology and Clinical Microbiology in 2014.

SAPIC works closely with similar domestic and international associations in order to exchange knowledge, experience, staff and publications and it is a registered Member Society of IFIC since 2007.
WHO’s “Global Infection Prevention & Control Priorities 2017-2021: A Call for Action.”

“Global Infection Prevention and Control Priorities 2017-2021: A Call for Action.” is an initiative that was developed by the Infection Prevention and Control Global Unit at WHO. Invited guest speaker at IFIC 2017, Benedetta Alegranzi, presented the WHO Guidelines on Core Components of Infection Prevention and Control Programs in every country. She directed attendees to the WHO website to download the resources. There is a manual and video available on the WHO website elaborating on these core components. http://www.who.int/infection-prevention/countries/core-components/en/

Eight Necessary Components are described in the manual and highlighted by experts in infection prevention from around the globe:

1. Infection Control Program supported by a dedicated budget and trained staff
2. Global standardized guidelines for the prevention of surgical site infections
3. Education and practical training based on best infection prevention practices for healthcare workers and other professionals
4. Healthcare associated infection surveillance and timely feedback of results both at a national and facility level.
5. Use of multimodal strategies to implement recommendations to improve practice at the point of care
6. Regular monitoring of health care practices according to standards guidelines followed by timely feedback of results both at national and agency level
7. Bed occupancy does not exceed standard capacity of the facility and staffing is adequate for workload
8. Ensure that patient care activities are undertaken in a clean hygienic environment with adequate infrastructure and equipment in particular for hand hygiene

http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/251730/1/9789241549929-eng.pdf?ua=1
Misusing and overusing **ANTIBIOTICS** puts us all at risk

- Taking antibiotics when they are not needed accelerates emergence of antibiotic resistance, one of the biggest threats to global health
- You can help reduce antibiotic resistance
  - Antibiotic resistant infections can lead to longer hospital stays, higher medical costs and more deaths
  - Always follow the advice of a qualified health care professional when taking antibiotics
  - Antibiotic resistant infections can affect anyone, of any age, in any country
  - When bacteria become resistant to antibiotics, common infections will no longer be treatable
- Overuse of antibiotics can cause bacteria to become resistant, meaning current treatments will no longer work
- It is the bacteria itself not the person or the animal – that becomes resistant to antibiotics

http://www.who.int/mediacentre/
IFIC is pleased to announce the 2018 IFIC CONFERENCE, to take place in KRAKOW, Poland, from April 25 to April 27. Our new, exciting format will provide even more opportunities for networking in the setting of state-of-the-art participative workshops, and highly interactive key-pad sessions, as well as our traditional key note lectures, debates and symposia.

The workshops, to be conducted in English, are aimed to ensure a high level of interaction, and the presence of Polish participants will enhance the experience for local attendees. Interactive keypad sessions with some translation into Polish and full translation of all plenary sessions into Polish will make this an attractive mix for all.

All workshops (two half day ones and one full day) are limited in space, and will be allocated on a first-come-first serve basis. Do not miss the opportunity to participate in what promises to be an innovative and highly educational Congress, covering most key aspects of Infection Prevention and Control.
Annual General Meeting
IFIC Society Delegates & Members

Thursday 26 April 2018 at 12:15-14:00
Conference Venue
Krakow, Poland

Delegates vote on initiatives
A quorum of delegates is essential to vote
Members exchange ideas
The International Journal of Infection Control (IJIC) our fully open access journal continues to be published quarterly. Editor Kathy Suh, of Canada, has been focusing efforts on improving the turnaround time between submission of manuscripts and the final publication decision. IJIC welcomes submissions that cover topics of interest related to infection control, especially from low and middle resource settings, and encourages members of IFIC societies to submit their research and practice findings to IJIC (www.ijic.info).

SUBMIT MANUSCRIPTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF INFECTION CONTROL

We invite you to submit your manuscripts to be considered for publication in the International Journal of Infection Control (IJIC). The aim of the journal is to provide a forum for staff working in infection control (IC) to disseminate research and practice information, and encourage IC initiatives on an international level. IJIC welcomes submissions that cover topics of interest related to infection control, especially from low and middle resource settings, and encourages members of IFIC societies to submit their research and practice findings.

IJIC is a fully open access journal, available online at www.ijic.info. It is published online only, usually quarterly. There is no cost for publication of accepted manuscripts, or for access to the journal. Submission is performed online and you can keep track of the whole process in the authors’ section of the IJIC website.

For more information, please refer to the journal website. Once on the website, the Instructions for Authors outlines the different categories of manuscripts as well as general guidelines for manuscript preparation and formatting. We look forward to your submissions!
To access previous issues of the International Journal of Infection Control, click here.

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ISSN: 1996-9783
Call for Expressions of Interest to Collaborate with IFIC in the Scientific Organisation of its International Conference in 2021.

The International Federation of Infection invites expressions of interest from Member Societies outside of Europe, who are interested in hosting its 21st international conference, scheduled for 2021, and collaborating with IFIC in the organisation of this international event.

IFIC’s conferences are normally held between February and April of every year. Nevertheless, exceptions and compromises may be possible, especially related to weather and clashes with other major conferences in the region/globally.

The organisational model of the conference will utilize an equal share template, in which both IFIC and the Member Society will collaborate and contribute to the organisation of the event in roughly equal quantities.

Responsibilities
The respective responsibilities and contributions of IFIC and the Member Society will be outlined in an Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that will be signed by representatives of IFIC and the chosen Member Society once the location of the 2021 conference is chosen.

Benefits for the collaborating member society:
Host Society members have the option of benefiting from a reduced preferential registration fee. This reduced fee should be given only to the paid up members of the Society and, if taken up, will be collected directly by the Society and then transferred to the Organiser.

Expressions of interest should include:
Suggestions about the city/cities where the conference could be held as well as possible conference venues (hotels/conference centres) and dates (preferably March/April).

Information about recent infection prevention and control conferences held by the member society; including: when were they held? How many attendees were present? Were these only doctors or was the audience multi-disciplinary? What was the registration fee?

An estimate of the number of delegates from the region, including neighbouring countries, that can confidently be expected to participate in the IFIC 2021 conference.

A financial estimate that includes suggested registration fees for local delegate and a prediction of accommodation costs for speakers and delegates.

Detailed information about visa requirements for all delegates.

Local Conference Organiser: The Society will need to propose a Local Conference Organiser, who will liaise closely with IFIC’s Conference Committee in the organization of the congress. Details of the organiser should be included, including competence and experience in organising similar sized conferences in the past. Details about the proposed financial remuneration model for the local organiser should also be included; IFIC’s preferred method of remuneration for local conference organizers is normally based around a commission on revenue generated.

Expressions of interest should be addressed to the IFIC Conferences Committee through an email sent to Terrie Lee, at: tleewv@msn.com no later than 28 February 2018. Any queries or requests for clarifications should also be sent to the same email address. (continued on page 12)
The Conferences Committee will make a recommendation to the Executive and the IFIC Board, based on the expressions of interest received, and an assessment of the adequacy of suggested facilities, etc. The final decision will be communicated by the IFIC Board to all applicants by end of April 2018.

The Memorandum of Understanding will then be finalised and signed by IFIC and the Member Society, outlining their respective tasks in the organization of the congress and the benefits each party will be entitled to.

While the details of the MOU will be negotiated and finalised with the Member Society, some details of the MOU are likely to include the following:

The member society would be responsible for:

- Appointing a conference organizing company to deal with all issues pertaining to the organization of the conference. This includes drafting and updating a business plan incorporating projections of attendance and sponsorship incomes as well as establishing a timeline of activities and ensuring that milestones and deliverables are achieved as planned. The conference organizer would also liaise with conference venues to finalize set up, food and beverage, room allocations, etc.

- The member society and/or the appointed conference organizer would be responsible for:
  - Appointing members of the society to an International Scientific Program Committee and liaising with IFIC members of the committee to plan the content of the program
  - Identifying local and international speakers to deliver lectures and workshops in the conference, in liaison with IFIC.
  - Dissemination of conference information to its members and external contacts, and encouraging attendance.
  - Promoting the conference to industry by sending out a comprehensive sponsorship manual to its own company list and using its personal input to invite exhibitors to the congress, and to maximise sponsorship of the conference.
  - Using its current resources to provide an English language website page with translation to the local language as required, an abstract submission platform, a registration platform, and a conference application.
  - Appoint an Abstract Review Committee to review local abstract submissions
  - Appoint a registration supervisor to coordinate receipt, payment and registration of attendees and to supervise bilingual on-site registration staff.
  - Facilitating all other aspects of the conference including accommodation, audio-visual support, exhibits, programs, conference app, communication, special events, etc., in liaison with IFIC.
  - Developing a conference budget, in consultation with IFIC, processing finances, submitting required fiscal reports, and completing a final reporting.
  - Maintaining all insurances relating to the conference, including general liability, accident insurance, and conference cancellation.

IFIC would be responsible for:

- Appointing official IFIC representatives to the International Scientific Program Committee
- Appointing international speakers for lectures within a program to be agreed upon by both IFIC and the hosting society (excluding delegate free papers)
- Advertising, selecting, and paying for a number of IFIC scholarships to the conference. These will be open to all IFIC member societies, and adjudicated by the IFIC scholarship committee.
- Linking to the abstract submission platform through its website.
- Appointing an Abstract Review Committee to review international abstracts submitted.
- Using the local registration form as the template, alter the registration form for international registration. Post the registration form for use by international attendees. (Continued on page 13)
- Appointing a registration supervisor to monitor the IFIC registration platform, collect any outstanding attendee revenue, and to provide the local organiser and society with a regular Excel spreadsheet of attendee information
The 2016 edition of IFIC Basic Concepts of Infection Control is now available at [http://theific.org/basic-concepts-book/](http://theific.org/basic-concepts-book/). This 3rd edition builds on its predecessors, enhancing and updating in a scientific way the knowledge required as a foundation on which local policies and procedures can be developed. All English language chapters have been reviewed and brought up-to-date by an international panel of experts; several new chapters have been added to ensure this new edition provides a sound comprehensive knowledge base. As before, the infection prevention and control principles set out in this book are applicable to all health care settings, however, particularly to areas where infection prevention and control is still in its infancy.

The 2011 Edition is available in Spanish, Italian, French, Hungarian, Arabic and Bulgarian thanks to BD, Meiko, IFIC Board members, and our member societies.

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**Call for Expressions of Interest to Collaborate with IFIC 2021 (final)**

- Appointing a registration supervisor to monitor the IFIC registration platform, collect any outstanding attendee revenue, and to provide the local organiser and society with a regular Excel spreadsheet of attendee information
- Providing a regular financial accounting of attendee fees paid through the IFIC registration platform.
- Extensively disseminating information about the conference to its member societies and use IFIC’s channels to attract international attendance.
- Providing any assistance needed throughout the planning of the conference.
- Using its contacts, especially with its corporate partners, to maximise the level of industry support for the meeting.
**SAVE THE DATES!**

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As in the past our community of users drive what we provide: the National Resource for Infection Control has now received a ‘face-lift’ using a new cutting edge technology and will be re-launched as the ‘International Resource for Infection Control (iNRIC) 2015 as part of International Infection Prevention Week 2016.

A research grant "NRIC meets ICAN" has also enabled us to reach out to our international colleagues in Africa. A survey study identifying infection prevention and control information needs of healthcare staff in Africa led the expansion of the evidence-based resources on iNRIC to support infection control professionals with local resources at the point of care in Africa. We also have exciting developments underway using mobile technology, apps and game-based training. [www.nric.org.uk](http://www.nric.org.uk)

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ProMED - the Program for Monitoring Emerging Diseases - is an Internet-based reporting system dedicated to rapid global dissemination of information on outbreaks of infectious diseases and acute exposures to toxins that affect human health, including those in animals and in plants grown for food or animal feed. Electronic communications enable ProMED to provide up-to-date and reliable news about threats to human, animal, and food plant health around the world, seven days a week.

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**Avenues to Access PROMED**