

VOL. 2 Spring 2009

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Webber Training Schedule

**April 21**

Voices of the IPS

**April 23**

Economic and Health Benefits of Universal MRSA Screening

**April 29**

C. difficile in the Southern Hemisphere

**April 30**

Finding the Gaps: HAI Surveillance in BC

**May 19**

Human Papillomavirus and Vaccination

**May 21**

The Pregnant HCW and Infection Risk

**May 29**

Surgical Site Infections: 2009 Update

**June 4**

Portal of Entry: The Missing Link?

**June 16**

Gleaning Gold From Surveillance Data

**June 24**

Tea Tree Oil and Staphylococcal Sepsis

For a complete schedule and more information check [www.webbertraining.com](http://www.webbertraining.com)

## Getting to know CHICA-Canada!

Professional networks present themselves in a variety of structures; composition and governance all of which provide a range of valuable benefits to their members. There are many professional networks that we can join for Infection Prevention and Control by region and province but only one national network that supports IPAC from coast to coast and that exceptional network is **CHICA-CANADA**.



**CHICA-CANADA** (Community And Hospital Infection Control Association-Canada) is a multidisciplinary, professional organization for those engaged in the prevention and control of infections. CHICA was incorporated under the Canadian Corporation Act in 1976. It is a registered non-profit organization and has over 1225 members across Canada and internationally.

Being a member of **CHICA-CANADA** is essential for IPAC professional as it is the primary, national source of communication and education for those involved in infection control activities. Its goal is to prevent infections and as a result improve patient care and staff health by:

- coordinating effective communication among all disciplines
- supporting and developing effective and rational infection control practices
- standardizing infection control practices
- promoting research in areas related to infection control
- promoting and facilitating infection control education

**CHICA-CANADA** is an organization that involves ICP's in all healthcare settings. In 1985 it was recognized that Infection Control Professionals contribute their expertise to the community in many ways so **CHICA** expanded its mandate to include the community to reflect the responsibility of infection control beyond hospitals.

There are many benefits to membership apart from the support and education received through local chapters and national interest groups; such as, access to on-line resources, a subscription to the *Canadian Journal of Infection Control (CJIC)* and an individual copy of the Annual **CHICA** Member's Directory and Source Guide.

To learn more about CHICA visit [www.chica.org](http://www.chica.org)  
For membership information click on the "About Us" icon

## 12 Steps to Prevent Antimicrobial Resistance in Long-Term Care

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has developed the *12 Steps to Prevent Antimicrobial Resistance Among Long-Term Care Residents* as part of its campaign to prevent antimicrobial resistance. The "12 Steps" include:

1. Vaccination
2. Reducing risk factors that lead to infection
3. Getting the unnecessary devices out
4. Using established criteria for diagnosis of infection
5. Using local resources
6. Knowing when to say "no" to antibiotics
7. Treating infection, not colonization or contamination
8. Stopping antimicrobial treatment
9. Isolating the pathogen
10. Breaking the chain of transmission
11. Performing hand hygiene
12. Identify residents with multi-drug resistant organisms (MDRO)

One of the more difficult guidelines to satisfy is reducing inappropriate use of antibiotics (#6). The CDC recommends reducing empiric prescribing and establishing a system to monitor antibiotic use to assist practitioners in saying "no".

To achieve this, Infection Preventionist (ICP), Martha Harris, suggests the use of an antibiogram. An antibiogram is a chart showing the most common bacterial isolates from your facility as well as the percentage of the isolates susceptible or resistant to a range of antibiotics tested. This will assist facilities in the following ways:

- increase the accuracy of empiric therapy
- reduce the use of inappropriate antibiotics
- identify MDRO trends
- improve resident outcomes

To obtain more information about preventing anti-microbial resistance in your healthcare setting, contact **(insert local Network contact info)**

### Reference:

*Infection Connection*. 2008. *Antibiograms Effective in LTCF MDRO Assessment*. Summer 2008, pages 6-9.



## Ask the Expert: Dr. Corinna Quan, Infectious Diseases

**Q: How can Health-Care Personnel (HCP) be protected from acquiring HIV, Hepatitis B (HBV) and Hepatitis C (HCV) in the work place?**

**A:** Routine practices remain the primary strategy for reducing occupational exposures. Post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) is the second line of defense. Under-reporting of exposures is a major problem. HCP should be educated to report occupational exposures immediately since PEP is most likely to be effective if administered as soon as possible.

**Hepatitis B:** The risk of HBV infection is related to the degree of contact with blood in the work place and to the Hepatitis B e antigen (HBeAg) status of the source person. HCP who perform tasks involving contact with blood, body fluids or sharps should be vaccinated against HBV. When indicated, PEP for HBV includes hepatitis B immune globulin (HBIG) 0.06 ml/kg intramuscularly and/or HBV vaccine.

**HIV:** The risk of HIV transmission after percutaneous exposure to HIV-infected blood is about 0.3%. A drug regimen of HIV PEP must balance the risk for infection against the potential toxicities of the agent(s) used. The most common PEP regimen currently used is Combivir 1 tab PO BID (ZDV + 3TC) for the two-drug regimen, and Combivir 1 tab PO BID and Kaletra 2 tab PO BID for the three-drug regimen.

**Hepatitis C:** The average incidence of anti-HCV seroconversion after percutaneous exposure from a HCV-positive source is 1.8%. No clinical trials have been conducted to assess post-exposure use of antiviral agents to prevent HCV infection. HCV serology should be done at baseline and repeated at 4-6 months. Recent studies have suggested that a substantial fraction of HCV-infected individuals spontaneously clear their infections without any interventions.

Read the complete text of Dr. Quan's article at :

[http://ricn.on.ca/files/PEP20091\\_45.doc](http://ricn.on.ca/files/PEP20091_45.doc)

*All exposures to sharps and needles must be taken seriously and require diligent assessment by a qualified practitioner.*

# What's Up? What's New?

## The Return of the Tired Traveler: What's your Differential Diagnosis?



CICN and CHICA Ottawa hosted this educational event on February 5, 2009 at the Hellenic Centre. 70 participants rated the speakers, the topics and the location as excellent!

“Great variety, informative, excellent speakers, great location, excellent food”

“Variety of talks, speakers all very engaging”

“Great evening”



Carolyn Fox, Sylvie Giroux  
Door Prize winners

### What an achievement!

Allison Abbott, 4th year nursing student completed her consolidation with the Champlain Infection Control Network. Best wishes for continued success!



### CHICA OTTAWA REGION

Planning committee has started meeting in preparation of the CHICA Ottawa Region educational session for Fall 2009.

### CHICA RENFREW

Congratulations to Sheila Havey, newly elected president for CHICA Renfrew chapter.

There are many benefits to membership apart from the support and education received through local chapters and national interest groups; visit [www.chica.org](http://www.chica.org)

## Ottawa Regional PSW CONFERENCE

April 7, 2009

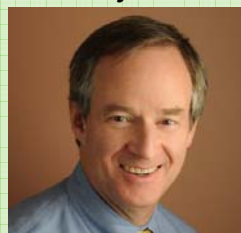


MRSA/*C. difficile*:  
Trying to Take Over the World!

With over 70 attendees, a few conference participants were able to help demonstrate donning and doffing of PPE: dress up time!



## Dr Gary Garber on the Road!



Barry's Bay, Renfrew, Pembroke, Deep River and Cornwall were the stops on the road trip to Antibiotic Stewardship. “Lots of practical information delivered in a very relaxed manner -- lots of good messages”

## Scary Movie at Carleton

### Place Hospital!

March 31

The 4 Moments of Hand Hygiene were reinforced during a “Movie Premiere”.

Popcorn, door prizes and characters in costume made for a memorable event. Well done!



Mona, Linda and Lisa

## APIC Clostridium difficile Conference, November 2008

CICN acquired limited access to all of the lectures given. The topics cover all aspects of *C. difficile*. Half day education sessions are offered in the CICN boardroom.

For complete schedule or for more information: Contact [info@cicn-rcic.on.ca](mailto:info@cicn-rcic.on.ca)



## Spring Training!

CICN and Renfrew County & District Health Unit are pleased to offer a half day workshop for staff employed in Long Term Care.

### Who should attend?

Anyone involved in Long Term Care including Nursing Directors, Infection Control staff, Nursing staff, Personal Support Workers, Housekeeping, Laundry and Maintenance staff

This workshop will be repeated at different locations on different dates for ease of access.

Thursday, May 21, 2009: 9am to noon  
North Renfrew LTC, Deep River

Thursday, May 21, 2009, 1pm to 4pm  
Miramichi Lodge, Pembroke

Wednesday, May 27, 2009, 9am to noon  
Caressant Care, Cobden

Wednesday, May 27, 2009, 1pm to 4pm  
Groves Park, Renfrew

Choose your location— choose your date!

For more information: [info@icn-rcic.on.ca](mailto:info@icn-rcic.on.ca)

### CHICA Webinar

Tuesday, May 26, 2009

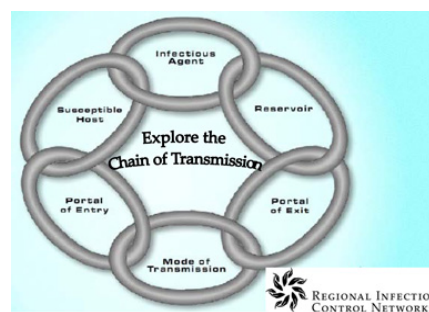
Central-Line Infections: Mandatory Reporting and Surveillance.

Camille Lemieux and Barbara Catt

[http://www.chica.org/inside\\_indust\\_spons\\_events.html](http://www.chica.org/inside_indust_spons_events.html)

## NEW RESOURCES FROM THE RICN!

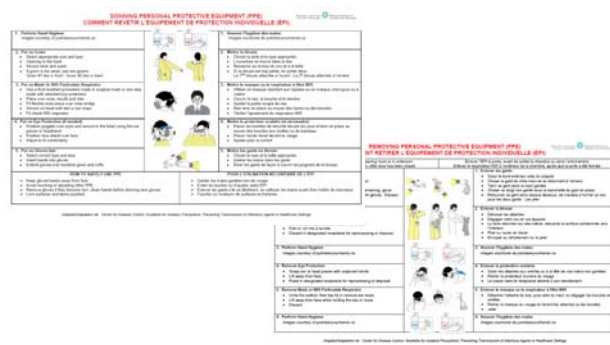
This exciting resource was developed collaboratively by the RICN Infection Control Consultants. The interactive "Chain of Transmission" will walk you through simple descriptions of the factors that need to be present for infection to occur. Infection prevention and control measures which target various "links" help to reduce or prevent the spread of infection. To find out more, just click on the center "Explore the Chain of Transmission!"



<http://ricn.on.ca/chainoftransmission/>

### Now Available!

PPE posters are available for distribution: contact [info@icn.on.ca](mailto:info@icn.on.ca) for more information.



This newsletter was prepared by a collaborative effort of the RICNs and CICN.

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Giving Health  
a Helping Hand