



Winter 2011	
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For most of us, attending a conference can be inspiring!

Abstract Thinking

Listening to the experiences of others, and viewing the posters crowding the exhibit rooms can also awaken ideas of your own. So, why not share your ideas and experiences, too? Submitting an abstract is not as daunting as you might think!

Conferences held every year provide a great forum to tell your story and contribute to the improvement of everyone's IPAC knowledge. For a list of IPAC conferences, visit the RICN or the CHICA website. Once you have found one of interest, search the website for abstract details. An important date to note as you consider drafting your own abstract is the deadline for abstract submissions.

So how do you go about putting an abstract together?

First brainstorm.... Perhaps this will be the easiest part of the process. Think about the work you can feature at your organization. Have you taken a unique approach to a common challenge? Have you created a resource for your staff that makes it easier for them to follow IPAC best practice? Have you done any research at your organization?

Next, determine where your abstract fits. For example, abstracts at CHICA's conference are one of two formats 1) scientific research findings, or outbreak investigations where appropriate comparisons or analyses of data have been performed or 2) abstracts involving the description of educational or performance improvement programs, observations, or other infection prevention activities, including prevention models or methods.

Finally, write your abstract. On the conference website you will find specific headings and information your abstract needs to address. Be sure to complete each requirement thoroughly while staying within the word limit and ask a colleague to review your abstract before you submit it. Many conferences accept online abstract submissions and confirm receipt of your submission.

Hopefully, this brief overview has you thinking about what you can share with conference participants. We all have a lot of knowledge and experience to contribute, ultimately making our efforts more effective!

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Environmental Cleaning Project Update

There are a number of activities in the works to provide continuing support for implementation of environmental cleaning best practices and the toolkit.

- Save the Date:
On January 20th, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., the RICNs will be facilitating a live webcast and videoconference in collaboration with OHHA and CAEM. Come and hear about the success stories of your colleagues and share your own.
- Watch for an environmental cleaning discussion forum on the RICN website, where you will be able to post your questions
- 8 generic policies/procedures have been developed and will be posted shortly on the RICN website. Notification will go out through OHHA, CAEM and the RICNs.

Stay tuned!

Abstract Submission Dates for 2011

CHICA—Canada National Education Conference, *February 18, 2011*

Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC) Educational Conference, *January 14, 2011*

Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA) Educational Conference - Submission for Late-Breaking abstracts *January 7—30, 2011*



Ask the Expert—Dr. Giulio DiDiodato, North Simcoe Muskoka Infection Control Network, Medical Coordinator

Question: I have been hearing more about ESBLs recently. What are they exactly?

Answer: Extended-spectrum β -lactamase producing microorganisms (ESBL) were historically defined as a group of bacterial genetic determinants that conferred resistance to third generation cephalosporins and monobactams. ESBLs are found in gram-negative bacteria (GNB), most commonly in the *Enterobacteriaceae* family (e.g., *Escherichia coli*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*), and in non-fermentative GNB (e.g., *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*).

ESBL-producing bacteria have emerged as a growing public health concern for several reasons. First, their prevalence is increasing all over the world in all populations, both in hospitals and in community-settings, making the treatment of previously responsive infections, such as urinary tract infections, more difficult. Second, the spectrum of antimicrobial resistance in ESBL-producing bacteria continues to broaden, with many bacteria now demonstrating multidrug resistance (MDR) to aminoglycosides, quinolones and carbapenems (e.g., New Delhi Metallo- β -lactamase-*E. coli* (NDM-*E.coli*), or *Klebsiella pneumoniae* carbapenemase-*Klebsiella pneumoniae* (KPC-*K. pneumoniae*). Third and most important, there are currently no new antimicrobials either in pharmaceutical development or awaiting governmental approval that are effective against these emerging pathogens, resulting in very limited treatment options for affected patients. The best strategy to combat the spread of ESBL-producing bacteria among patients in an endemic setting is to practice excellent hand hygiene and antimicrobial stewardship. The role of contact isolation and active surveillance in an endemic setting may also help limit the spread of these pathogens.



Save the Date!!

**For the CHICA Conference
Held in Toronto, May 28 - June 2**

Pre-Conference Day

**Infection Prevention and Control Boot
Camp for Healthcare Workers**

***I'm Not an ICP but
Sometimes They Make Me Do It!***

Participate in a fun and interactive day all about infection prevention and control.

Date: Monday, May 30, 2011

Location: Sheraton Center Toronto

Registration: **\$50.00 plus HST** (includes Lunch and Refreshments)

\$75.00 plus HST after April 15

Visit the CHICA website at

www.chica.org for more information.

New Resources

Public Health Agency of Canada, 2011

- Essential Resources for Effective Infection Prevention and Control Programs. A Matter of Patient Safety: Discussion Paper
- Guidance: Infection Prevention and Control Measures for Healthcare Workers in All Healthcare Settings—Carbapenem-Resistant Gram-negative Bacilli

Accreditation Canada

- 2010 Canadian Health Accreditation Report: Through the Lens of Qmentum—Exploring the Connection between Patient Safety and Quality of Worklife

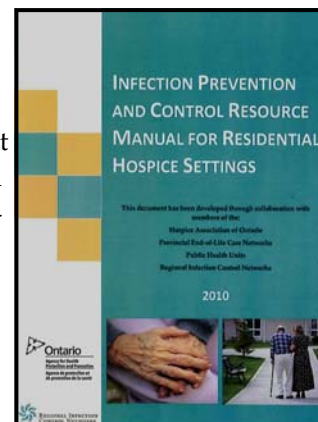
Antibiotic Awareness Day, Canada (website)

- Resources, Information & Activities that support Antibiotic Stewardship in the hospital and the community

Use your favourite search engine to find them online.

**Infection Prevention and Control
Resource for Hospice Settings**

This resource provides current and practical IPAC information designed to ensure a consistent approach to infection prevention and control and reduce the risk of palliative care residents acquiring and spreading infections in the residential hospice setting. A print copy of this resource will be distributed to all residential hospice settings but is also available for download on the RICN website.

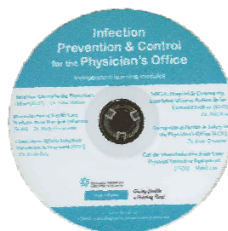


Local Resources Available

For Medical Staff:

During the past year, Central Region Infection Control Network has developed an educational CD for physicians identifying the most common topics of interest. The CD includes current information from physician experts from across the province including:

- ❖ **Infection Control in the Physician's Office** – Dr. Anne Matlow (*Medical Director of Patient Safety & Director of the Infection Prevention and Control, Hospital for Sick Children*)
- ❖ **Occupational Health and Safety in the Physician's Office** – Dr. Leon Genesove (*Provincial Physician, Occupational Health & Safety Division, Ontario Ministry of Labour*)
- ❖ **MRSA: Hospital & Community Associated Disease: Rationale for Current Practices** – Dr. Neil Rau (*Medical Director, Infection Prevention and Control, Halton Healthcare Services/Medical Coordinator Mississauga-Halton Infection Control Network*)
- ❖ **Clostridium difficile Infection: Prevention & Treatment** – Dr. Kevin Katz (*Medical Director, Infection Prevention and Control, North York General Hospital/ Medical Co-Coordinator CRICN*)
- ❖ **Immunization of Health Care Workers: more than just influenza** – Dr. Mary Vearncombe (*Medical Director, Infection Prevention and Control, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre/Medical Co-Coordinator CRICN*)
- ❖ **Get the Most Protection from your PPE** – Mabel Lim (*Infection Control Consultant, CRICN*)



We will have a limited amount of these CDs in our library and will also provide copies to our local Public Health Units, Family Health and Community Health Centre Teams and hospital IPAC libraries for various ways to access a copy. To view some of these presentations, please visit the following website:

<http://ricn.on.ca/cricneducationalresourcesp828.php>

For Frontline Staff:

Our library inventory has copies of various DVDs which have been produced over the past few years, DVDs like...

- Grand Prix of PPE
- Super Bugs: A Nightmare on Your Hands
- It's In the Bag: Specimen Collecting Like a Champion
- Why Don't We Do It In Our Sleeves
- Mantoux Tuberculin Skin Test



Please contact us to make arrangements to get a copy to you.

Conquering Antibiotic Overuse

Many health care facilities have been challenged with the outcome overuse of antibiotics has created and are diligently working towards successful antibiotic stewardship programs.

There are a variety of national resources to assist with interventions for this cause.

WebMD® Professional recently published *An Expert Interview With the CDC*. It posts a series of questions, recommendations, information and strategies to help clinicians prescribe more effectively and reduce inappropriate antibiotic usage.

Questions include:

- How effective are interventions?
- What leads to the most prescribing and most inappropriate prescribing in both outpatient and inpatient settings?
- What interventions actually work to change prescriber behaviour and decrease the public's demand?
- How should clinicians respond when a patient asks for an inappropriate antibiotic?
- What is the best way to stay current on geographic resistance?

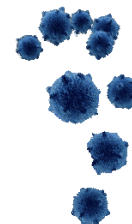
There are many different answers to the perception for the problem of antimicrobial overuse. These problems will require multifaceted solutions which thankfully are under constant development.

Follow the link to Medscape to view the article in its entirety.

Note: (Free) Registration required to view the article.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/733042>

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Mark Your Calendar!

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Niagara Long Term Care Infection Control Group

Next meeting: February 8, 2011
 Location: Tabor Manor, St. Catharines
 Time: 8:00 am—9:30 am

Hamilton (and area) Long Term Care Infection Control Group

Next meeting: January 27, 2011
 Location: St. Joseph's Villa, Dundas
 First Floor Staff Training Room
 Time: 8:00 am—10:00 am

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

January

- 11 RICN LTCH Act Education Series - *Introduction to the LTCH Act* **Webcast Link:** http://webcast.otn.ca/pp_liveevents.html
- 13 NWOICN Lunch & Learn Series - *MOHLTC IPAC Consultant Role* **Webcast Link:** <http://webcast.otn.ca/liveevents.html>
- 20 Environmental Cleaning Videoconference/Webcast—*Sharing Successes*
Webcast Link: http://webcast.otn.ca/pp_liveevents.html
- 25 RICN LTCH Act Education Series: *Microbiology - Lab Testing & Specimen Collection*
Webcast Link: http://webcast.otn.ca/pp_liveevents.html

February

- 1 RICN LTCH Act Education Series:
Routine Practices & Additional Precautions
Webcast Link: http://webcast.otn.ca/pp_liveevents.html
- 8 RICN LTCH Act Education Series:
Cleaning, Disinfection and Sterilization of Medical Equipment
Webcast Link: http://webcast.otn.ca/pp_liveevents.html

- 15 RICN LTCH Act Education Series:
Environmental Cleaning and Construction & Renovation
Webcast Link: http://webcast.otn.ca/pp_liveevents.html
- 15 TPIC: 2nd Annual CHICA-TPIC-RICN Professional Development Day - *Practically Speaking: More tools for the Infection Control Professional*, Toronto
 See flyer: http://www.ricn.on.ca/photos/custom/TCICNfiles/TPIC_RICN%20Flyer%202011.pdf
- 17 NWOICN Lunch & Learn Series - *Micro Session-Gram Positives & Negatives* **Webcast Link:** <http://webcast.otn.ca/liveevents.html>
- 22 RICN LTCH Act Education Series:
Outbreak Management
Webcast Link: http://webcast.otn.ca/pp_liveevents.html

March

- 1 RICN LTCH Act Education Series: *IPAC and Occupational Health*
Webcast Link: http://webcast.otn.ca/pp_liveevents.html
- 4 OHA: *Clostridium difficile: A Superbug Under the Microscope*
 See: <http://www.oha.com/Education/Pages/CalendarofEventDetails.aspx?eventid=EP310>
- 17 NWOICN Lunch & Learn Series - *Using Glow Germ for Auditing* **Webcast Link:** <http://webcast.otn.ca/liveevents.html>

NB: RICN events are also available for viewing via videoconference. Does your office have videoconference equipment? Contact us for details on how to register your site or register to join us here at the CSICN offices!

WEBBER TRAINING

Visit the CSICN website calendar for the 2011 listing of teleconferences!

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

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REGIONAL INFECTION CONTROL NETWORKS

Central South

Giving Health a Helping Hand