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For most of us, attending a conference can be inspiring! Listening to the experiences of others, and viewing the posters that crowd 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!

## Abstract Thinking

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 that's 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 that you could 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.

**Then write your abstract.** On the conference website you will find the specific headings and information that 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 send it off. Many conferences accept on-line 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 all of our efforts more effective!

*Photo credits: ©Istockphoto.com/Jim Jurica, /james steidl, /Marck Uliaszl, /keskiner*

## CIC Spotlight

The Waterloo Wellington Infection Control Network is delighted to recognize Chris Mitchell, ICP at Grand River Hospital and Katherine Pollard, Public Health Nurse at the Region of Waterloo for their achievement of Certification in Infection Control!



We would also like to welcome Katherine's new baby 'Evan' and congratulate the new parents on his safe arrival!

## 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  $\beta$ -lactamase producing microorganisms (ESBLs) 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- $\beta$ -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

### Preconference 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](#) 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 Work life

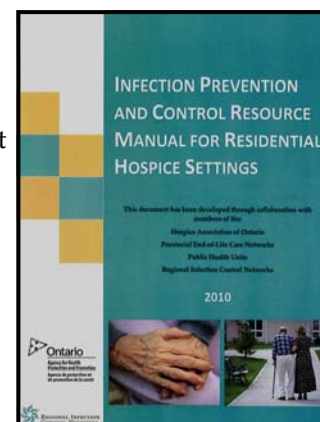
### [Antibiotic Awareness Day, Canada \(website\)](#)

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

*Use your favourite search engine to find them all on-line.*

## 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.



## CIC Study Group 2011

Certification in Infection Control and Epidemiology (CIC) is an internationally recognized level of excellence in infection control practice. To earn the designation of CIC, an individual must pass the certification examination administered by the Certification Board of Infection Control and Epidemiology Inc. (CBIC). Certification is valid for five years, after which time, recertification is necessary. "CIC" is a legal designation that can only be used by those who have successfully passed the examination. Purposes of the CIC include:

- To provide standardized measurement of current basic knowledge required for professionals practicing infection control
- To encourage individual growth and promote professionalism
- To formally recognize infection control professionals and the important work they do to protect client health and safety!

The WWICN is running a CIC Study Group beginning January 19. To get involved, contact Ellen by email at [etterbein@cmh.org](mailto:etterbein@cmh.org) or phone at 519-624-9781.

## Celebrating Successes!

In the October 12 edition of the 'LHINfo Minute', a health care update provided to stakeholders of the Waterloo Wellington Local Health Integration Network (LHIN), the recently launched Environmental Cleaning Best Practice Toolkit was featured. Local project participants Keith Sopha (Canadian Association of Environmental Management and Manager of Housekeeping, Linen and Space Hotel Services, Homewood Health Services) and Debbie Richarz (Director, Food Services & Housekeeping, Grand River Hospital) were quoted in the story and RICNs were acknowledged for contributing to it's development.

To view the update, visit

[http://www.waterloowellingtonlhinc.on.ca/uploadedFiles/Home\\_Page/Be\\_Informed/WWLHINfo%20Minute%20-%20October%2012.pdf](http://www.waterloowellingtonlhinc.on.ca/uploadedFiles/Home_Page/Be_Informed/WWLHINfo%20Minute%20-%20October%2012.pdf)

Grand River Hospital's Freeport site was recently profiled in the November 1st edition of the LHIN e-newsletter (WWLHINformation) as well as in the LHINfo Minute Health Care Update in an article entitled 'Race for Zero: Empowering Staff to Protect Patients'.

Staff at the Freeport site have been working diligently to stop the spread of microorganisms in a friendly competition that pits unit against unit in a race to go the longest without infection spread. Jenn Marshman, ICP at Freeport, Ruth Schertzberg, Director of Infection Prevention and Control at GRH and Dr. William Ciccotelli, Infectious Diseases & Medical Microbiology contributed comments to the article.

To read the full article in WWLHINformation visit:

<http://www.waterloowellingtonlhinc.on.ca/WWLHINformation.aspx?id=5926>

To read the article in the October 25th LHINfo Minute Health Care Update, visit:

[http://www.waterloowellingtonlhinc.on.ca/uploadedFiles/Home\\_Page/Be\\_Informed/WWLHINfo%20Minute%20-%20October%2025.pdf](http://www.waterloowellingtonlhinc.on.ca/uploadedFiles/Home_Page/Be_Informed/WWLHINfo%20Minute%20-%20October%2025.pdf)

## 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 web cast and videoconference in collaboration with OHHA and CAEM. Come and hear about some of 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!*

## More RICN Support for Just Clean Your Hands in LTC!

The WWICN is thrilled to announce that expected funding for additional support for the Just Clean Your Hands program in LTC homes has recently been received! We are currently in the process of reviewing project status and bringing on several additional team members to help complete the work.

ICPs in LTC homes can expect to receive a call in the next little while. These individuals will be asked to complete a survey regarding implementation status of the program. An additional component of the support RICNs will be providing is that of coaching for hand hygiene auditing.

## Mark Your Calendar!

### WEBBER TRAINING TELECLASSES

- **Getting the Most Out of Our Frontal Lobes—What We Don't Know (or Forget) May Hurt Us** January 20, 2011 1:30pm
- **A Human Factors Approach to Hand Hygiene** January 27, 2011 1:30pm
- **Quality Improvement in Infection Prevention and Control** February 1, 2011 1:30pm
- **Why Don't People Use PPE?** February 10, 2011 1:30pm
- **Controlling *C. difficile* Outbreaks: Going Beyond the Guidelines** February 17, 2011 1:30pm
- **The Future of Infection Control: Challenges and Opportunities** February 18, 2011 1:30pm
- **Writing for Publication and Conference Presentation—First Steps to Disseminating Your Research and Improvement Projects** February 22, 2011 1:30pm
- **Public Health Lessons Learnt From the 2010 Canterbury Earthquake** February 23, 2011 1:30pm
- **What to Ask For and Look For When Evaluating Cleaning/Disinfecting Products in 5 Easy Steps** March 3, 2011 1:30pm
- **Introduction to Mold Remediation for Buildings, Including Basic Infection Prevention Strategies for Mold Control** March 10, 2011 1:30pm
- **Moving Closer to Nirvana—The Importance of Nurse Empowerment in Preventing Healthcare-Associated Infection** March 15, 2011 1:30pm
- **Voices of CHICA Part 1** March 22, 2011 1:30pm
- **The Role of Microbial Biofilms in Chronic Bacterial Infections** March 31, 2011 1:30pm

Free RICN LUNCH AND LEARNS offered via videoconference at the WWICN office, teleconference, live and archived webcast \*Lunch **not** provided\*

- **Ministry of Labour IPAC Consultant Role** January 13, 2011 12:00—1:15pm EST
- **Micro Session—Gram Positives & Negatives** February 17, 2011 12:00—1:15pm EST

### RICN LUNCH AND LEARNS cont'd

- **Using Glow Germ for Auditing** March 17, 2011 12:00—1:15pm EST

Free RICN LTCH Act Education Series offered via videoconference at the WWICN office, teleconference, live and archived webcast

- **Introduction to the Education Series** January 11, 2011
- **Microbiology—Lab Testing & Specimen Collection** January 25, 2011
- **Routine Practices & Additional Precautions, Chain of Transmission** February 1, 2011
- **Cleaning, Disinfection and Sterilization of Medical Equipment** February 8, 2011
- **Outbreak Management** February 22, 2011
- **Infection Prevention and Control & Occupational Health** March 1, 2011
- **Catch-Up Session on Health Care Associated Infections in LTC—Surveillance, Analysis and Reporting and Environmental Cleaning & Construction and Renovation** March 8, 2011

### FREE WEBINARS for APIC Members

- **Determining Quality Data and Putting It to Good Use** January 19, 2011 12:00pm EST
- **The Standardized Infection Ratio: What, Why and When** January 26, 2011 1:00pm EST
- **Creative Hand Hygiene for Staff, Visitors and Patients** February 16, 2011 1:00pm EST
- **What Does 'Meaningful Use' Mean to Me? Translating Health Information Technology for the Busy Infection Preventionist** March 16, 2011 1:00pm EDT
- **Show Me the Evidence! Using Evidence-Based Practices to Prevent Healthcare-Associated Infections** March 30, 2011 1:00pm EDT

For further information about any of the listed educational events, please contact the WWICN office.

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

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REGIONAL INFECTION  
CONTROL NETWORKS

**Waterloo Wellington**

*Giving Health  
a Helping Hand*