International Federation of Infection Control
Dr. Michael Borg, IFIC Chair, Malta
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International Federation of Infection Control (IFIC)

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Hosted by Carol Goldman
IFIC Canada

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August 5, 2010

Evolution in healthcare

FROM
- Delivery of specialist clinical care with (some) measures thrown in to reduce infection

TO
- Creating a safe environment, .....and then delivering specialist care within that environment.
  - Prof B Duerden, JHE (2009)73, 414-417

Infection Control

- One of the great successes in health care
- Reduces unnecessary death and illness
- Saves money for hospitals AND patients
- A fundamental indicator of quality

Challenges for developed countries

- Learn from past experiences
- Apply lessons learnt to deal with new problems
- Create the mind set to deliver a safe, non complacent environment

Challenge for developing countries

- Establish a proper infrastructure
- Introduce trained personnel
- Deal with the basics of:
  - Safe and clean water
  - Waste and sharps disposal
  - Overcrowding in hospitals
  - Enhanced knowledge
  - Need for improved organisation

Global Health Issues

- Insufficient resources
- Emphasis on treatment rather than prevention
- Crisis management
- Failure to maximise proven & inexpensive strategies to reduce risk
- Inadequate training for HCWs
  - ARPAC project: trained ICP doctors: 69 -83%
  - ARMed project: trained ICP staff: 35%

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Getting improvement

Top Down
(driver: governments)

IMPROVING INFECTION PREVENTION & CONTROL

Bottom up
(driver: peer groups)

What is IFIC?

- Umbrella worldwide organisation for societies, associations who are involved in the prevention and control of healthcare infections (IPC)
- UK Registered Charity (No 1072681)
- Also encompasses individuals who work in or have an interest in IPC

IFIC. ...a bit of history

- International conference: The Role of the Infection Control Nurse in the Surveillance, Prevention and Control of Hospital Associated Infections
  - held in 1978 at the European office of the World Health Organisation in Copenhagen, Denmark.
  - result of networking between infection control professionals from the UK, the US, Canada, Denmark, Sweden and the Netherlands.
  - At the close of the conference, a consensus was reached for establishing a multi-disciplinary, international association for the control of hospital-associated infections

>20 Years strong

- IFIC officially inaugurated in 1987
- 2008: Incorporation of IFIC under UK Charity laws
- IFIC board: a balance of membership
  - Physicians and nurses
  - Developed & developing countries

Where do we want to go?

Mission statement:
- To facilitate international networking in order to improve the prevention and control of healthcare associated infections worldwide

Vision:
- To become the leading worldwide network facilitator between organisations and individuals active in the prevention and control of healthcare associated infections.

IFIC Main Objectives

- To reduce or minimise nosocomial infections on a worldwide basis
  - particularly low resource countries
- By developing a network of infection control organizations and individuals for:
  - communication
  - consensus building
  - education
  - sharing expertise

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How we hope to get there...

1. Provide the tools to unite societies & individuals active in infection control in order to reduce the risk of healthcare associated infection globally.
2. Draw on member organizations to provide help and assist with formation of national societies within countries at the early stages of infection control.
3. Provide communication via newsletter, journal, website, publications & email.
4. Maintain a liaison with WHO and other organizations that promote infection control on a global basis.
5. Promote high quality educational opportunities, materials and training at low or no cost.

Membership categories

- **Full members**: Societies, associations or organizations in infection control & related fields
- **Associate members**: Any individual or organizations without a proper constitution or organizations not involved in infection control
- **Patron members**: Persons or commercial companies with an interest in Infection Control can affiliate with IFIC as Patron members or Strategic Partners

A global objective

IFIC now has 84 members from 65 countries

Member Societies 2008

Member societies

- Entities involved in Infection Prevention & Control within healthcare settings.
  - governed by constitution
  - have a defined area of operation
- Benefits of membership:
  - Opportunity to network and receive support
  - Define and contribute to IPC challenges facing global healthcare
  - Support IPC in low resource countries or institutions

Associate members

- Individuals professionally involved or interested in Infection Control as well as non-commercial organizations.
  - Associate members pay a nominal membership fee of and be entitled to receive all material published by IFIC together with any other benefits open to members.
  - Not entitled to vote or hold office.
- Free for individuals in countries reported with GNI per capita of <$10,000

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Individuals from >125 countries benefit from free membership

Benefits of associate membership

- Affiliation with a respected unified global IPC voice
- Share challenges and successes with professionals of similar backgrounds
- Support for less experienced professionals to access ideas, write publications, source scholarships etc.
- Get access to experts in IPC
- Novice infection control professionals can utilize contact opportunities to obtain help from more established colleagues internationally.
- Established specialists can genuinely make a concrete difference to improve IPC worldwide.
- Enjoy benefits that make a difference

Patron members

- Commercial entities - whether persons, firms or companies - that have an interest in, or concern, about IPC.
- Benefits
  - Show evidence of dedication to IPC issues
  - Enjoy global access and impact
  - Gain an opportunity to better clinical practice
  - Provide invaluable to support to IFIC and its output

Website (www.theIFIC.org)

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Educational Tools

Basic Concepts in Infection Control
- 3rd edition published in July 2007
- Editors: Candace Friedman & Bill Newsom
- Follows "Infection Control: Basic Concepts and Training"
- Translation possibilities available

Particularly useful for low resource situations

Teaching aids available
- Previous editions have been translated into 11 languages
- PowerPoint lecture slides based on 2nd edition
- Free download as pdfs or flash presentations from IFIC website
- Compiled by Gray French & Nizam Damani

Basic Concepts Training Program
- A trial 1st Basic Concepts in Infection Control training program was held in Malta 2007
- Plans for a comprehensive online programme on basic infection control

Information Resources in infection control
- Yearly update
- Edited by: Nizam Damani
Journal

- International Journal of Infection Control (IJIC)
  - Official IFIC journal
- International resource on infection control, epidemiology, infectious diseases, occupational health especially in low resource countries
- Electronic publication
  - Free access from website

International Journal of Infection Control

- Emphasis on:
  - Practice development,
  - Sharing experiences,
- Electronic publication:
  - www.ijic.info
- Assistance in manuscript revision
  - Free access
  - No publication fees

IFIC Special Interest Groups

- Hand hygiene
- Safe injection
- Hospital construction
- Surveillance
- Safe Childbirth
  - Free membership to all

Projects

  - Introduced / upgraded hospital infection control in 10 countries within Southeast Europe
- Safe Childbirth Project (2009 – 2011)
  - Proposals to reduce neonatal infections in hospital and outpatient settings.
  - A successful proposal will include a plan to bring infection control best practices to a low-resource setting using a community-hospital partnership and prove that these practices work.
  - Supported by a $3000 grant from Covidien.

IFIC Special Interest Groups

- Hand hygiene
- Safe injection
- Hospital construction
- Surveillance
- Safe Childbirth
  - Free membership to all

Construction SIG

- Opinion papers published on the SIG web page:
  - Design of a general ward
  - Protection of immunocompromised patients during building work
  - Recommendations for an Emergency unit
- Projects in the planning and development stages:
  - Water supply, bathrooms, showers... in hospitals
  - Construction standards of ICUs
  - Endoscopy units
  - Aerosol and particle transmission

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IFIC Conferences

- 1999  George, South Africa
- 2000  Zagreb, Croatia
- 2001  Cairo, Egypt
- 2003  Valletta, Malta
- 2004  Porec, Croatia
- 2005  Istanbul, Turkey
- 2006  Cape Town, South Africa
- 2007  Budapest, Hungary
- 2008  Santiago, Chile
- 2009  Vilnius, Lithuania

Conference planning

- Biennial alternation
  - Full IFIC conference (normally in Europe)
  - Collaboration with a member society (preferably outside Europe)
- 29 August – 1 September 2010
  - Joint IPCAN/IFIC conference
  - Cape Town, South Africa
- 12 – 15 October 2011
  - 11th IFIC Congress
  - Venice Italy

IFIC Scholarships

- Supports attendance of participants to IFIC conference especially from low resource backgrounds
- Advertised on IFIC website
- At least one main award is normally granted, consisting of:
  - free registration to the conference
  - refund (against receipts) of travel expenses,
  - subsistence allowance to cover 4 nights accommodation
- A number of smaller bursaries are also usually awarded:
  - free conference registration
  - subsistence allowance to cover 4 nights board and lodging.
- Scholarship applicants must prepare an abstract for poster or oral presentation
  - Judged independently

IFIC Scholarships

- Two types of submissions are accepted:
  - Research paper: study on a specific aspect of infection prevention and control.
  - How we did it*: a more descriptive account of how infection control practitioners or teams tackled a specific challenge or brought improvement in healthcare associated infections within their institution or country.

Looking to the future

- Revision of Basic Concepts
- On line training course
- Networking tool on the website
- More collaboration with WHO
- Projects within developing countries
  - Surveillance
  - Intervention
  - Training

Our vision of IPC utopia ...

- Every nation has an active and functioning IPC society.
- All IPC providers have adequate training
- All healthcare workers have sufficient knowledge of IPC

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Thank you

The Next Few Teleclasses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 Aug. 10</td>
<td>(Free Teleclass) Positive Deviance: Unleashing Secret Change Agents in Your Hospital to Prevent MRSA Infection</td>
<td>Dr. Jon Lloyd, Phoenix Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02 Sep. 10</td>
<td>(Free South Pacific Teleclass ... Live Broadcast from the NDICN Conference, New Zealand) Measuring the Impact of Infection Control</td>
<td>Dr. Leo Celi, Harvard Medical School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09 Sep. 10</td>
<td>Planning for Infectious Disease Disasters in Ambulatory Care Centers</td>
<td>Tent Rabin, Centers for the Study of Bioterrorism and Emerging Infections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Sep. 10</td>
<td>Lessons Learned From the Canadian Listeriosis Outbreak</td>
<td>Dr. Franco Pagotto, Health Canada</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 Sep. 10</td>
<td>(Free British Teleclass ... Live Broadcast from the IPS Conference, UK) The Evolving Role of Epidemiology in Infection Prevention</td>
<td>Prof. Jacqui Reilly, Health Protection Scotland</td>
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www.webbertraining.com.schedulep1.php

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