

HONOURARY MEMBER – ANNE BIALACHOWSKI RN BN MS CIC



IPAC Canada is pleased to bestow Honourary Membership on Anne Bialachowski. Since joining IPAC Canada in 1998, Anne has been an extraordinary asset to our association in many roles. Her service to the association and colleagues has been inspiring and continues to this day.

Anne has been deeply involved in her home chapter IPAC Central Southern Chapter (previously known as IPAC HANDIC), serving in key positions of Treasurer, Education Coordinator, President-elect and President between 1999 and 2007. In 2010, Anne became President of the (then) Community and Hospital Infection Control Association – Canada. During her tenure she represented the organization with the Canadian Foundation for Infectious Diseases in the development of what became the first ‘Hill Day’, cemented an excellent working relationship with the Public Health Agency of Canada, and forged collegial relationships with many external partners and organizations.

Anne has authored several journal articles and provided abstracts for oral presentations at a variety of conferences. She was a co-author of a series of articles for the *Canadian Journal of Infection Control*, introducing and outlining the utility of the Infection Control Audit Toolkit. Having been intimately involved in the development of the Toolkit, she was well placed to share the work broadly with membership through these user-oriented articles.

Anne has devoted time to the national conference Scientific Program Committee for the 2012, 2015 and 2016 national conferences. At the same time she was a member of the APIC Core Competencies Committee and began her work with the Endorsement Review Committee. Not one to rest on her laurels, Anne followed these activities by becoming a developer of the Mentor Program for IPAC Canada and a developer and Chair of the Learning Repository Depository.

As a testament to the respect that she garners in her professional life, Anne was appointed in 2003 to the Ontario SARS Scientific Committee by the Chief Medical Officer of Health in Ontario. She was a Network Coordinator and developed a Regional Infection Control Network in Central South Ontario and spent four years building that program while participating in numerous regional committees and providing invaluable consultation across the network.

In her professional life, Anne is the Manager of Infection Prevention and Control at St. Joseph's Healthcare in Hamilton. Among numerous efforts, she has been involved in initiatives intended to reduce catheter association urinary tract infections, sepsis and central line blood stream infections. She oversaw the construction of a new Mental Health Hospital as well as a new Surgical Centre. She was instrumental in ensuring appropriate IPAC standards were met in the remediation of a major flood that impacted several areas of her hospital and has developed a formal IPAC rotation program for Infectious Diseases and Medical Microbiology residents, nursing students and advanced degree candidates.

Anne continues her work as the IPAC Canada representative on the CSA Perioperative Safety Committee and just completed her 4th term on the Ontario Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee.

In the words of one of her nominators: *In our professional lives, we seldom have opportunities to recognize the work of exemplary colleagues. Anne is a natural leader with great charisma who turned her professional path to the world of infection prevention and control and we are so much richer for her contributions. ... This is a person who possesses unusual intelligence, confidence, professional commitment and razor-sharp wit.*

Anne is an exemplary professional and an extraordinary member of IPAC Canada. Recognition of Anne's contributions will take place at the Opening Ceremonies, Sunday, May 27th.