

**2018 Moira Walker Memorial Award for International Service
Awarded to Barbara Catt and Zahir Hirji for their Project:
Building Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) Capacity in Kenya**



Their journey began with a trip by the Infection Control Practitioner (ICP), Loyce Khungi at the Aga Khan University Hospital (AKUH) in Nairobi, Kenya coming to Toronto who had registered for the in-class Centennial introductory, IPAC course. As faculty within the course, the Nursing Administrator of AKUH, requested Zahir to “watch over” Loyce. This created a relationship with the hospital and a request for IPAC support in 2012. The purpose of the trip was to work with the IPAC Department to ensure they would be ready an Accreditation Survey by the Joint Commission.

During a mock survey, IPAC was identified as a gap. After a successful 2 week visit that involved:

- basic infection control training for 30% of the nursing staff
- education sessions with the surgical units and ICU
- meeting with all departments who liaised/collaborated with that IPAC
- a very eye opening visit to the kitchen

The 2 week visit resulted in the hospital accreditation which was in 2013.

The trip in 2012 highlighted the need for IPAC resources in Kenya. By 2016 the Director of Nursing at AKUH-Nairobi moved to the Aga Khan School of Nursing where she was able to secure the opportunity to offer a basic IPAC course. Together with the assistance of the AKUH Medical Director with IPAC, the local ICP, Loyce, Barb and Zahir developed the program content for a basic course. The course was offered in two modules of 3 weeks.

Barb and Zahir went to teach the second module. They taught for 2 weeks with the students getting a 3rd week with the Medical Director and the local ICP. Topics covered included a review of materials covered in module 1 like standard precautions and transmission based precautions, hand hygiene, personal protective equipment, outbreak management, microbiology, surveillance and epidemiology. It was important to review the original material to ensure maximum learning for the students.

The students reported their projects completed during the time between module 1 and module 2. Additional material included a review of the literature, device related infections, surgical site infections, leadership and patient safety. The program included opportunities for tours of different areas of AKUH-Nairobi to enhance the students' learning.

Barb and Zahir secured their own funding for one flight with the gracious support of vendor partners and their local chapter IPAC-GTA. IPAC- GTA also provided "swag" that Barb and Zahir were able to distribute to the students.

In total, there were 16 nurses from across Kenya plus 1 student, who travelled 24 hours by bus from the boarder of Uganda to learn about infection control. Each nurse participant has been identified as the ICP within their local organization. Many of the students' projects consisted of getting 24 hours of running water to the hospital.

Barb and Zahir have stated: "We hope our short time with the students has increased their confidence, knowledge and skills as we continue to work with AKUH and the AK School of Nursing."

The Moira Walker Award will be presented at the Opening Ceremonies, Sunday, May 27. Barb and Zahir will present on the initiative that resulted in their award at the Breakfast of Champions, Tuesday, May 29, Banff.

The Moira Walker Memorial Award for International Service is sponsored by Sage Products LLC (now a part of Stryker).