

OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Bruce Gamage

As IPAC Canada changed its Board elections timing to coincide with our national conference, I remained president of our organization until June of 2015. I wish to give my sincere thanks to our executive director, administrative assistant (Gerry Hansen and Kelli Wagner) and my fellow Board members. Their work really keeps our organization going. I also want to acknowledge Pat Rodenburg, our conference coordinator. Pat has been a great addition to our team and is helping our conferences get better and better each year.

During the spring of 2015, the Board worked with our Pediatric and Neonatal Interest Group to develop a revised position statement on the handling of expressed human milk in healthcare facilities. To minimize the risk of spreading infection in healthcare facilities the statement provides a list of principles that each facility should take into consideration when making policy decisions regarding the safe handling of expressed human milk.

I was privileged to attend our national conference in Victoria, BC as president. The conference was a great success, was attended by many national and international delegates and featured a wide variety of excellent presentations. The highlight for me was a two day session, working with facilitator Dr. David Sheridan, my fellow board members, chapter presidents, and other leaders within our organization to develop a strategic plan that will guide us through the next three years. The participants agreed on three main goals: raising our leadership profile, recalibrating our product mix, and growing our capacity. Various individuals and groups among our membership will take leadership in moving these strategic initiatives forward. I would like to thank those members that participated in the process. Under the direction of our new Board of Directors, who took office in June 2015, we are in good hands.

Another highlight of the June conference was the report from the Chapter Task Force. This task force, led by Director Ramona Rodrigues, had a mandate of identifying pressing issues that are challenging the chapters and provide recommendations on how our chapters can be strengthened and maintained. I wish to thank the members of the task group for their excellent work. Many of the report's recommendation are reflected in our strategic plan as we move forward in the next three years.

Another major initiative during the first half of 2015 was moving ahead with the Canadian Patient Safety Institute's national plan for infection prevention and control. IPAC Canada and AMMI Canada have taken a co-lead on realizing the goal of developing and adopting a set of national healthcare-associated infections case definitions. Working with the members of the Surveillance and Epidemiology Interest Group and our partners at AMMI and the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), this project is making good progress. As I finished my term as president I agreed to take on the role as chair of the working group addressing this goal.

*Bruce Gamage RN BSN CIC
IPAC Canada President (term ended June 2015)*

INCOMING PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Suzanne Rhodenizer Rose

As 2015 has come to close, it allows me to reflect on my past year in IPAC Canada. It has been a very busy and productive year as I stepped into the role as the national President for the next two years. It is an honour and a privilege to be able to participate in so many initiatives and collaborate with so many astounding professionals as we advance the field and infection prevention and control.

I offer a sincere thanks to outgoing President, Bruce Gamage, whose honest and dedicated leadership has taken the organization to a new level. I feel fortunate, as well, to work with a committed and dynamic board who are so keenly interested in building a strong and relevant organization and raising the profile of infection prevention and control in Canada and internationally. It goes without saying that both Ms. Gerry Hansen and Ms. Kelli Wagner are the backbone of IPAC Canada and since coming on the board, I have a renewed appreciation for the work that they have accomplished, almost always behind-the-scenes and unbeknownst to the membership at large. We are truly in good hands.

We have many accomplishments to celebrate and more to achieve as we close out the 2010-15 Strategic Plan and embark on a new two-year plan taking us to 2018. I am eager to get to work on our new plan as we work towards a number of vital organizational goals including increasing our profile locally, nationally and internationally, increasing political advocacy and influence, enhanced educational offerings, innovative use of technology to increase membership access and social awareness, enhanced mentorship, and strengthening our relationship with our industry partners. In many instances, we have already set in motion activities to bring us close to our strategic goals!

This last year serving as President-elect - and now President - have afforded me the opportunity to contribute, in part, to the goals of the 2010-2015 Strategic Plan, namely in the areas of raising the profile of the association and providing national and international leadership. The following are some of those highlights:

- Following the Canadian Patient Safety Institute Summit in 2014 and subsequent release of a National Action Plan for Infection Prevention and Control in 2015, IPAC Canada and AMMI Canada are co-leading the development of a pan-Canadian set of case definitions for surveillance of healthcare-associated infections. In November of 2015, I took part in a working group meeting that brought together surveillance and healthcare experts from IPAC Canada, AMMI and Accreditation Canada. The progression of this work is exciting and many would say long overdue! Kudos to Bruce Gamage for bringing such an excellent team to the fore for this important project.
- Working together with Marilyn Weinmaster and Bruce Gamage, we developed a common briefing note with the sole intention of distributing it to provincial and territorial ministries to increase awareness of IPAC Canada and the crucial role the organization and its members play in keeping patients safe. This piece of work will be part of a much broader communication strategy for the upcoming year.
- In Victoria, B.C., with the expert facilitation of Dr. David Sheridan and the first time inclusion of all the chapter presidents and committee chairs, we conducted a pre-conference strategy development session and finalized the strategic plan for 2016-18. These two year goals and strategies will contribute substantially to our vision of having IPAC Canada as the national and international infection prevention and control leader.
- I had the opportunity to contribute to several media releases, including our position on the influenza vaccine vs. mask debate, an editorial for the Hospital News February 2016 Supplement around patient safety culture, and President's Message submissions to CJIC.
- In November 2015, I had an amazing experience representing IPAC Canada at the Australasian College Infection Control Conference in Hobart, Tasmania. It was a unique opportunity to share our Canadian successes and discuss our challenges with like-minded professionals from a different part of the globe.

Suzanne Rhodenizer Rose RN BScN MHS CIC
President