



Infection Prevention Society

Incorporating the ICNA

Editorial for International journals

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Launch of the Infection Prevention Society – a new era, a new outlook.

September 2007 sees a significant development in the field of infection prevention and control, with the launch of the Infection Prevention Society (IPS). This exciting development completes the transformation of the Infection Control Nurses Association (ICNA) into an organisation that welcomes as full members all professionals working in the field of infection prevention and control. Whilst full membership is open to those who live or work in the UK and Eire, associate membership is available for anyone who wishes to join, from anywhere in the world. All members will continue to receive the British Journal of Infection Control as a membership benefit at no additional cost.

The ICNA was formed in 1970, to provide a network for infection control nurses to meet and share learning together. Over the past 37 years it has grown to become *the* leading nursing organisation in the UK in the field of infection prevention and control, and is an active supporter of the International Federation of Infection Control (IFIC). In 2006 the membership of the ICNA recognised that many other disciplines and roles have emerged within the field of infection prevention and control and that all would benefit from each other through membership of the same organisation.

Whilst infection prevention and control nurses will, no doubt, remain the backbone of the new Infection Prevention Society (IPS), as they are within the infection control team in the workplace, it is hoped that many new members will join from other professions. For the first time, link practitioners, directors of infection prevention and control, infection control managers, infection control doctors, audit and surveillance practitioners, antimicrobial pharmacists, scientists, educationalists and researchers can all join the IPS as full members. Combining such expertise in one organisation can provide benefits for all and facilitate the embedding of an infection prevention culture in health care.

The ICNA had achieved recognition as *the* leading nursing organisation in the field of infection prevention and control in the UK and its expertise was sought by government, voluntary and commercial bodies. This expertise will be further enhanced through the expanded membership of the IPS. We invite you to join us as a member of this exciting new society, and help us shape the future of infection prevention globally as we move into a new era.

Judy Potter
ICNA Chair/IPS President

Information on joining the IPS can be found from 27th September 2007 at

www.ips.uk.net