

February 21, 2017

**MEMORANDUM TO IPAC CANADA MEMBERS
RE ELECTIONS TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The following candidates have been nominated for positions open on the Board of Directors in 2017. Additional nominations may be presented by not less than two IPAC Canada members at the Annual General Meeting (**Wednesday, June 21, 2017, Charlottetown**). Additional nominees must be present to confirm their willingness to be nominated, or have provided a written confirmation to the nominator(s).

President-elect (2 year term)
Followed by 2 year term as President

Barbara Catt RN BScN MEd CIC
Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre
Toronto ON

Secretary (3 year term)

Jennifer Happe BSc MSc
Red Deer Regional Hospital
Red Deer AB

Director (3 year term)
(Education)

Kim Allain BSc RN MHS CIC
Nova Scotia Health Authority
Halifax NS

Director (3 year term)
(Chapters and Interest Groups)

Ramona Rodrigues RN BSc MSc(A) CIC CNS
McGill University Health Centre
Montreal QC

CANDIDATE PROFILES



BARBARA CATT RN BScN MEd CIC has worked in the field of Infection Prevention and Control for many years. Her work experiences include emergency room, operating room, ICU, medical-surgical, long-term care, and professor of nursing at college and university levels. She has worked in a variety of healthcare settings including public health, small community hospital and large tertiary healthcare centre. Barbara is a registered nurse and holds a Master in Education where her research was focused on principles of adult learners. She has been involved in research and publications regarding disease transmission and education such as core competencies. She has been working at SHSC since 2003 as an IPAC Coordinator, PPL. She played a major role in curriculum development and implementation of core competency certification and hand hygiene initiatives. She continues to be an active member with IPAC Canada, APIC, CON, and RNAO.

Barbara is a past member of IPAC Canada Standards and Guidelines and HealthPro Clinical Advisory Committees and past president for IPAC Greater Toronto and Area. She continues to be an active participant on committees such as IPAC Canada Prehospital Care Interest Group, chair of IPAC Canada Education Core Committee and has served as a Board Member for IPAC Canada since 2013, holding the position of Director (Education).

PHILOSOPHY: As a leader, I believe it is important to empower others, recognize and support our strengths and capitalize on opportunities to overcome our weaknesses. Education and mentoring are integral for success whether a novice or an experienced ICP. It is important to share and collaborate as we continue to move forward in an age of antimicrobial resistance, new pathogens and a continuous battle to prevent healthcare-associated infections. We all bring together our own experiences whether in a small community hospital, a long-term care home, or in the public sector. It is these experiences that will lead us to growth and development as an important organization in Canada. We need to engage membership as well as encourage participation on committees and working groups. By encouraging membership and engaging our members, we can reach many of our strategic goals!



JENNIFER HAPPE BSc MSc started her career as a medical researcher investigating alternative therapies for *Clostridium difficile* infection (CDI), including novel antibiotics and fecal transplants, before transitioning into the role of an Infection Control Professional (ICP) in Central Alberta. Jennifer has a varied portfolio and oversees acute care and mental health units at Red Deer Regional Hospital, acute and long term care units at Lacombe Hospital, and cancer care at the Central Alberta Cancer Center. Jennifer's enthusiasm for infection prevention and control led to her appointment as the Chair of IPAC Canada's Surveillance and Epidemiology Interest Group (SAEIG) and an IPAC Canada representative on the Canadian Patient Safety Institute (CPSI) national surveillance definition standardization project. She has been instrumental in facilitating the review of acute care and long term care case definitions. When she's not busy with work, Jennifer enjoys traveling and volunteering at the SPCA.

PHILOSOPHY: My passion for infection prevention is founded on making a difference in the lives and well-being of patients, families and communities. A few years ago I stepped away from benchtop research with the federal government to use my knowledge in microbiology and epidemiology to directly support efforts to reduce the incidence of healthcare associated infections in central Alberta. Membership in IPAC Canada has afforded me the opportunity to grow both personally and professionally by allowing me to connect with a broad network of professionals with the same passion and values for patient advocacy, education, innovation, and research. I am delighted to support IPAC Canada as Secretary to the Board of Directors to facilitate communication within the organization and collaboration between our membership and stakeholders in the pursuit of best practices in our field. It is by teamwork that our vision is achieved.



KIM ALLAIN BSc RN MHS began her career in infection prevention and control in 2002. Kim has worked in a variety of roles including as an infection control practitioner in an acute care facility, and as the provincial infection control consultant for the NS Department of Health and Wellness. Kim is currently the Quality Improvement and Safety Leader (IPAC) for the Nova Scotia Health Authority (NSHA). Kim's role provides leadership within the NSHA's overall provincial/zone programs for quality, safety, accreditation, infection prevention and control, and risk management. Kim graduated from Dalhousie University School of Nursing, and holds a Masters degree in Health Studies (teaching focus). Kim has maintained her CIC designation since 2005 and has held several positions

in IPAC Nova Scotia, as a past Chapter President and Education Coordinator. She has been active on several IPAC Canada Interest Groups. Kim was a member of the Scientific Program Committee for the 2014 IPAC Canada National Conference in Halifax. She served as Scientific Program Co-Chair for the 2016 National Education Conference in Niagara Falls and will serve as Chair for the 2017 IPAC Canada National Education Conference in Charlottetown. Away from the excitement of IPAC, Kim spends her time at the soccer field or rink with her 2 active boys.

PHILOSOPHY: As a national organization, IPAC Canada has evolved and adapted over the last decade, and more specifically in the last three years, with a comprehensive strategic plan and change of board focus. With the fluidity and seemingly unpredictable rate of change within the healthcare field, IPAC Canada must be nimble and equally fluid to adapt to these changes and flux. I believe that our membership, also the backbone of the organization, must be able to rely on their professional association to ensure they remain current, have expert resources, and the capacity and opportunity to share experiences and strategies for best practice. With this nomination, I am excited and eager for an opportunity to continue to help shape, evolve and grow the capacity of IPAC Canada from the board level. The potential of IPAC Canada is unlimited and unwavering as we continue to innovate, collaborate and provide strong leadership, not only a national, but international front.



RAMONA RODRIGUES RN BSc MSc(A) CIC CNS is nominated for her second term on the Board of Directors. She is a Clinical Nurse Specialist in IPAC at McGill University Health Center in Montreal. She has been an ICP for 29 years and a member of IPAC Canada for 28 years. Ramona is a member of the Program Wide Standard development committee and has participated on the Distance Education Endorsement Committee. She is a member and Past President of PCI Montreal as well as an IPAC Canada national conference committee member. Ramona is very active in her profession in Quebec including acting as a member of the Regional Table for IPAC, Reginal Housekeeping Table, Program Reviewer and Lecturer. In her current Board position, she chairs the

meetings of Chapter Presidents, Interest Group Chairs and the new Chapter Council.

PHILOSOPHY: I believe that through collaborations we can learn from the collective wisdom of those we serve. Building upon each other we can achieve more together than we can individually. Through joint partnerships with colleagues across Canada and other professionals who share our values, we can commit to the wellness and safety of Canadians by promoting best practices in infection prevention and control. My hope is to continue to increase the value of the Infection Prevention and Control professional in their practice setting, advance visibility and find ways to stimulate and promote interest amongst our membership, thereby promoting the specialization and field. In order to accomplish these goals, we must continue to foster involvement of membership at the local, chapter and committee level, provide opportunities, stimulate engagement and share achievements. We need to continue to strategically identify key stakeholders to work with, identify and mentor new leaders and readily adapt to changes.