

December 17, 2018

MEMORANDUM TO IPAC CANADA MEMBERS

RE ELECTIONS TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Nominating Committee of the Board of Directors of IPAC Canada is charged with the responsibility of ensuring continuity by nominating a slate of officers for positions open in 2019 (Policy 12.10). These are nominations only. **Additionally, nominations for any of the available board positions are welcomed from members of IPAC Canada.** Serving on the board of IPAC Canada is an excellent way to participate at the national level. This offers the opportunity to meet a wide range of IPAC Canada members, network with allied professional groups, and work with other motivated and experienced Board members.

Timelines for Election of Officers and Directors:

- December 17, 2018 Announcement of the IPAC Canada Nominating Committee slate of candidates
- February 15, 2019 Deadline for additional nominations from membership
- February 28, 2019 Announcement of slate of candidates for election at Annual General Meeting (AGM)
- May 29, 2019 Late nominations will be accepted at the AGM followed by the election

The Nominating Committee of the Board of Directors of Infection Prevention and Control Canada (IPAC Canada) has put forth the following candidates for positions open as of May 29, 2019.

President-elect (2 year term followed by 2 years as President and 1 year as Past President)

Zahir Hirji BScN MHSc RN CIC
Toronto, Ontario

Director (Programs & Projects) (3 year term)

Baljinder (Bal) Sidhu RN BScN MPH (c) CIC
Vancouver, British Columbia

Director (Standards & Guidelines) (3 year term)

Madeleine Ashcroft RN BScN MHS CIC
Toronto, Ontario

Public Representative (3 year term)

Stephen Palmer
Keswick, Ontario

CANDIDATE PROFILES



Zahir Hirji BScN, MHSc, RN, CIC has worked in Infection Prevention and Control and Patient Safety for nearly two decades during which time he has actively participated in a number of projects and initiatives. Highlights have included being a member of the Scientific Planning Committee for the IPAC Canada National Conference in 2010, 2017 and 2018 and the Chair of the Committee in 2011; Representing IPAC Canada on the National Point Prevalence Surveys; a current member of the Canadian Journal of Infection Control (CJIC) Editorial Board, the Provincial Infection Disease Advisory Committee (PIDAC) and the Certification Board of Infection Control (CBIC) test committee. He is the recent recipient of the Moira Walker award for International Service and enjoys being an active member of IPAC GTA. Zahir is a Registered Nurse with a Masters in Community Health and Epidemiology, a certified trainer for the Patient Safety Education Program with the Canadian Patient Safety Institute and a Lean Green Belt. His newest role is driving him to invest in new ways to collaborate with areas of risk management and patient safety to improve the IPAC perspective.

PHILOSOPHY: As an experienced Infection Control Professional, I renew my passion for the work I do from the opportunities that have been given to me. I believe there are no coincidences in life and this has driven me to look for new experiences to grow, develop and learn. As a leader, I will continue to look for opportunities to grow IPAC Canada as a national and international expert in infection prevention and control. I will also look for opportunities to develop infection prevention and control so we can all continue to learn new ways to enrich the lives of patients and families when they are at their most vulnerable. Healthcare continues to change at an unprecedented pace and it will be our collective humanity that will ensure better patient experiences. I look forward to the opportunity to advance infection prevention and control practice through the tremendous work of our membership and their passion to keep all Canadians safe.



Bal Sidhu RN BScN MPH(c) CIC is a Registered Nurse with over 17 years of experience in health care. Her career in nursing has taken her from point of care nurse in the acute medicine, HIV, and geriatrics patient populations to mentoring student nurses and new staff into a Clinical Nurse Leader role. Bal joined infection prevention and control (IPAC) in 2011 and had a variety of roles leading IPAC initiatives in multiple health authorities. Currently, she is working at Provincial Health Services Authority in the capacity of an Infection Prevention and Control Specialist providing expertise in reprocessing and hand hygiene. Bal served as an IPAC BC Chapter President and Chapter Secretary, is certified in Infection Control (CIC), and completed her Master's degree in Public Health. She is actively involved with IPAC Canada as an acute care representative on the 2020

scientific program committee. She attended 2018 Hill Day in Ottawa to discuss with officials the global threat of AROs and the need for a national surveillance data repository on AROs and HAIs. Bal has presented multiple posters at the Canadian National IPAC conferences, winning best poster awards in 2014 and 2015 - *Automated Microbiology Lab Notifications of MTB orders resulting in timely Implementation of Airborne Precautions (2014)*; *Acceptability of CHG cloths for Patient Bathing of a Medical Unit (2015)*. Her first research publication in the American Journal of Infection Control was published in 2017, which focused on ARO reduction strategies in acute care settings. Bal is an energetic, creative individual, whose passion is to empower everyone to practice infection prevention and control measures to improve the quality of patient care.

PHILOSOPHY: My goal is to empower others to place infection prevention and control as one of their top priorities to ensure safe patient care and to improve the patient experience! In our complex health care environments, health care providers are challenged with many competing priorities. My goal is to ensure that the principles of infection prevention and control remain at the forefront and are integrated into everyday practice

My vast clinical experience and relationship with point of care staff has allowed me to examine the challenges associated with implementing IPAC initiatives with limited resources and time. Bringing this perspective into my role as the Director of Programs and Projects, I will ensure that IPAC recommendations will align with the feasibility and needs of the point of care staff, in all health care settings.



Madeleine Ashcroft RN BScN MHS CIC, a Nightingale nurse (from the Nightingale School, London, England) for more than 40 years, worked in many specialty areas, including critical care, operating rooms, midwifery, renal, intravenous therapy, community care, and as a college educator, before getting into infection prevention and control shortly before SARS hit Toronto. Witnessing the impact of an infectious disease on the entire health care system inspired Madeleine to serve as Toronto chapter president the following year, and to pursue progressive infection prevention and control opportunities in acute, chronic, and rehab hospitals, long-term care, and regional networks. Her experience with the WHO Ebola relief mission in Sierra Leone in 2015 and active involvement on the Standards and Guidelines Committee for 15 years (the last 5 as Chair), serving as IPAC Canada's representative to the Canadian Network of Nursing Specialties and recent appointment as a CNA Board member, as well as her input on core competency and related working groups have brought new perspectives and life-

enhancing relationships.

PHILOSOPHY: An African proverb says, "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go with others".

IPAC Canada is uniquely positioned to go far with others, and to influence policy- and decision-makers. IPAC is part of all health care and we are all in this together for health care and safety. I believe that we can best address the strategic directions we recently identified: enhancing brand awareness, communication, member value and engagement, knowledge management, and advocacy and partnership through building on existing collaborations and seeking new ones. As we know, the only constant is change – which offers us both challenges and opportunities. Being open to change, prepared to nimbly address the issues, and focusing on solutions and successes will continue to move us forward as professionals and as an organization.

Our organization is where it is today because of passionate, dedicated members and leaders who have built a strong foundation and inspired others to strive to prevent and control infections and, in turn, to help others to do so. Our members are our strength and I am committed to keeping that flame of inspiration burning bright – and going far together.



Stephen Palmer was born in the Salford borough of Manchester England. He emigrated to Canada at a young age and lived throughout Ontario region residing primarily in the Brantford and Kitchener areas. After school he served in the Canadian Military for more than two decades before leaving during a period of military personnel reduction. Returning to the private sector he worked with a number of companies primarily in the technology and graphics industry before returning to school to complete a Master's level program through the University of Toronto School of Theology offered by St. Augustine Seminary which led to his ordination as a Permanent Deacon for the Catholic Church. Shortly after that he returned to school during a career change and studied to become licensed as a Financial Advisor. For more than a decade he has owned and managed his own practice with a growing client base focused on serving clients' current and long-term financial needs. Stephen has a strong commitment to giving back and has held both Director and Executive positions on a number of boards. Two of the highlights have been Chair of the Georgina Community Food Pantry and his election in 2016 as the first Public Representative to the national board of IPAC Canada. In his off hours Stephen likes to cycle, having participated in the Ride to Conquer Cancer. He enjoys spending time with his growing family of six children and 15 grand-children. He has been married to his wife, Ann, for more than 30 years and lives in the town of Keswick, Ontario on the east side of Lake Simcoe about an hour north of Toronto.

PHILOSOPHY: As the first Public Representative for IPAC Canada, my role is to provide input on various matters, with specific interest in issues that have a public impact. In my first term in this position I have been focussed on learning and understanding the key issues and priorities, including the challenges faced by many of our members. Public awareness is key. IPAC Canada's efforts through such activities like Hill Days are crucial to changing the conversation and raising awareness. This year, I found the Members of Parliament we met were more knowledgeable on the issues and understanding that more needs to be done. Although a slow process, public engagement is key to bringing attention to issues such as AMR and a National Surveillance Data System. Our conference is a wonderful opportunity to move that conversation forward. I am encouraged by the efforts and determination of IPAC Canada members and trust you are as well.

Additional nominations from the membership of IPAC Canada will be accepted until **February 15, 2019**. Position descriptions (Section 2 Board of Directors, Policy) and nomination forms (Form 3 and 3C) may be obtained from the Membership Services Office (info@ipac-canada.org) or are available in the Members Area of the IPAC Canada website (Policies and Forms).

Signatures of two active members are required for each nomination. Send completed nomination forms to:

Jennifer Happe, IPAC Canada Secretary

Email: info@ipac-canada.org

Fax: 1-204-895-9595

Deadline for nominations: February 15, 2019