

## **Dialysis Interest Group Annual Report**

**Interest Group Name:** Dialysis Interest Group

**Current Chair (and Co-Chair if applicable):**

**Chair:** Victoria Williams

**Co-chair:** vacant

**Number of IPAC Canada members who belong to the Interest Group:**

106 members

**Results of any questionnaires/surveys sent out by the Interest Group:**

In 2020 DIG members shared their experience with the following:

- COVID-19

## **MENTAL HEALTH INTEREST GROUP**

Chair: Murtuza Diwan BSc (Hons) MSc CIC

As of December 31, 2020, the interest group has 81 members. We did a survey to see how members were coping with COVID-19, and what their main issues are.

We held regular meetings; in addition, CSA is planning to develop an IPAC standard for LTCH's.

## **Northern Network Update**

Unfortunately, since COVID erupted, there have been no meetings / education days by the Northern Network. It has been very difficult to have members turn out previously, before COVID.

### **In Person Meetings and Education Days**

Nothing booked at this time. Hope to regroup in the New Year.

### **Webinar Meetings and Education days**

Nothing booked at this time. Hope to regroup in the New Year.

New member potentially – Lindsey Frenssen – Nunavut.

New member to be added – Megan Lee RN (BSN) – Temporary Assignment with Samantha Stewart, Yukon Government, H&SS, Continuing Care

## **Oncology and Transplantation Group Annual Report**

**Interest Group Name:** Oncology Transplant Interest Group

**Current Chair (and Co-Chair if applicable):**

**Chair:** Kristie Harding

**Co-chair:** vacant

**Number of IPAC Canada members who belong to the Interest Group:**

83 members

**Results of any questionnaires/surveys sent out by the Interest Group:**

This group has not been active this past year. Search for a new chair is underway.



## IPAC Canada Annual Report 2020

### **Pediatric/Neonatal Interest Group**

**Chairs:** Megan Clarke (Co-Chair) Angela Thomas (Co-Chair)

**Number of IPAC Canada members who belong to the Interest Group:** 92

**Dates/topics of meetings throughout the year:** Most communication within the group has been via email – posting of questions or other communication; in 2020 only 7 questions were received for distribution to the group, likely due to ongoing COVID-19 response. Webinar organization for interest group members on hold due to ongoing COVID-19 pandemic response.

**Position Statements developed/under development:** Toy Cleaning position statement is currently under revision – on hold due to ongoing COVID-19 pandemic response.

**Highlights/Ongoing Projects:** Plan to explore options for virtual meeting at upcoming virtual IPAC Canada 2021 National Education Conference; goal to assess members' readiness to engage in light of current workload of infection control practitioners.

## **Prehospital Care Interest Group Annual Report**

Co-Chairs- Greg Bruce A-EMCA, Janie Nichols MPH, RN CIC  
Secretary- Erika Stebbings, RN, BSN

### **Interest Group Membership**

PHCIG membership stands at 68 members. 17 of these members participate in the Working Group. Membership represents those working in Prehospital care agencies as well as supporting agencies such as Health Regions, Health Units and Hospitals.

### **Meetings**

The interest group held a total of 1 working group teleconference meeting in 2020. The meeting was held on February 5 2020 and was primarily to update the group on the upcoming Cleaning and Disinfection Road Show events to be held through the year. Additionally there was work on a Position Statement and Practice Recommendation review and revision to be submitted for approval and publishing.

With the start of the COVID-19 pandemic the regular activities and projects of the interest group were suspended due to the increased workload of everyone on the working group. This included the selection of a new co-chair that would have taken place at the annual conference. As a result the current co-chairs and secretary agreed to remain in the positions through to the 2021 conference.

Starting in April 2020 the interest group started hosting Zoom meetings to discuss COVID-19 issues arising in our services. These meetings were designed as a drop in with no set agenda. Each participant was welcome to bring forward issues for discussion as needed. The meetings were held every two weeks until July 2020 and then were changed to every month with the option of more frequent as needed. The participants in the meeting include representatives from across the Country.

### **Road Show Events**

The majority of the interest group activities for 2020 were meant to be related to the Cleaning and Disinfection Road Shows. Three events were to take place over the year including Vancouver, Montreal and Edmonton. All the events were postponed due to the pandemic. As a result there will be further discussion about the schedule in 2021. Two Cleaning and Disinfection Road Show Events were held this year.

### **Projects**

The following projects are on the interest group work plan, however all items are suspended until further notice due to the pandemic.

- Prehospital Cleaning and Disinfection Road Show
- Prehospital Care Cleaning and Disinfection Position Statement re-draft
- Prehospital Care Cleaning and Disinfection Practice Recommendation re-draft
- IPAC Canada Prehospital Care Brochure re-draft

### **Goals for Coming Year**

Looking towards 2021 there is much that is uncertain. The intent is for the co-chairs to meet in May and discuss the resumption of normal activities. At this time reengagement in the projects on the work plan will be discussed and a plan to move forward will be determined.

## **REPROCESSING INTEREST GROUP**

### **Current Chair (and Co-Chair if applicable):**

Chair: Karrie Yausie

Co-Chair: Jennifer Selkirk

Secretary: Vacant

**Number of IPAC Canada members who belong to the Interest Group: 220**

### **Dates/topics of meetings throughout the year (in-person meetings and teleconference calls/Adobe webinars):**

All meetings this year have been via teleconference. Due to COVID our monthly meetings were rescheduled for every 2 months with some months having no meetings (summer).

Dates of meetings were January 8 2020; February 12, 2020; March 11, 2020; September 9, 2020; November 18, 2020.

The topics that were discussed this past year were:

- 1- Creating a generic list of stakeholders for working group information dissemination and communication
- 2- Reprocessing 3D printed medical devices; Dental working group to take over.
- 3- Issues with mobile/third party reprocessing; IPAC board to review end of January
- 4- Frequency of RIG meetings during COVID pandemic
- 5- Rotary tool –medical device classification
- 6- Two working groups established: i) Dental Working Group , ii) Ultrasound Probe Working Group

### **Highlights/Ongoing Projects:**

**Presentation** scheduled for February 2021 and April 2021 from Donna Moralejo presenting on Critical Appraisal of Articles and Knowledge Documents.

**Dental Working Group** currently in progress of creating a summary that highlights IPAC dental standards, guidelines, practices as well as variations across Canada.

**Ultrasound Probe Working Group** has not convened since the beginning of the pandemic

### **Any other relevant accomplishments, goals for the coming year**

Would like to move to Zoom platform for meetings and presentations.

*December 2020*

## Surveillance and Applied Epidemiology Interest Group (SAEIG)

### Leadership

Co-chair: Jennifer Happe

Co-chair: Katherine Paphitis

Secretary: Tammy MacDonald

### Number of Members

271

### Meeting Dates and Topics

Jan 16, 2020:	<p>Education: A SAEIG subcommittee presented findings from our 2019 Surgical Site Infection (SSI) Survey. The survey gathered information on SSI surveillance practices across Canada and common challenges.</p> <p>Business: Updated the SAEIG Terms of Reference, welcomed Tammy into the vacant Secretary position and revamped the SAEIG webpage.</p>
Mar 4, 2020:	<p>Education: Explored the epidemiology of Carbapenemase Producing Enterobacteriaceae (CPE) and outlined plans for a survey to gather information on screening practices across Canada. The speaker was Filip Pajtondziew, an MSc student at Queen's University who is collaborating with SAEIG on the survey.</p> <p>Business: Prepared and rolled out a Microsoft Excel database specific for acute care surveillance, adapted from the LTC surveillance database developed by Public Health Ontario (with permission from PHO).</p>
May 2020:	<p>The IPAC Canada conference was cancelled because of COVID, including Interest Group Day.</p>
Sept 17, 2020:	<p>Education: Reviewed the Canadian Nosocomial Infection Surveillance Program (CNISP) COVID Surveillance Definitions, Protocol and Results so Far. The speaker was Robyn Mitchell, an epidemiologist with CNISP.</p> <p>Business: Planned projects including a MDR <i>C. auris</i> surveillance and management survey, revising IPAC Canada LTC infection case definitions, and preparing a publication on the results of the SSI Surveillance Survey will continue to be on hold because of competing COVID priorities. Priorities will be reassessed in 2021.</p>
Nov 4 and 10, 2020:	<p>Education: In response to an IPAC Canada pulse survey, members identified surveillance as one topic they want to learn more about. The SAEIG co-chairs developed and delivered two interactive Surveillance Workshops. Workshops covered what surveillance is, why it is important, components of a robust surveillance system. The IPAC acute and LTC surveillance database tools were used to test concepts learned. The workshops were open to all IPAC Canada members. A recording of the Nov 10 workshop and supporting material are available online.</p>



Jan 20, 2021:	The Surveillance Workshop was modified to focus on the LTC setting. A recording and supporting material are available online.
Jan 26, 2021:	<p>Education: Learned about FluWatch, Canada's national surveillance system that monitors the spread of flu and flu-like illnesses. The speaker was Dr. Christine Bancej who manages vaccine safety, and influenza and emerging respiratory infection programs within the Public Health Agency of Canada's Centre for Respiratory Infectious Diseases.</p> <p>Business: Planned projects including a MDR C. auris surveillance and management survey, revising IPAC Canada LTC infection case definitions, and preparing a publication on the results of the SSI Surveillance Survey will continue to be on hold because of competing COVID priorities through the first quarter of 2021. Analysis and reporting of the national CPE survey will proceed with Filip Pajtondziev.</p>

### Projects (not already described above)

- Public Health Ontario developed an outstanding Toolkit to support long-term care homes in conducting surveillance. The Toolkit was gifted to IPAC Canada. SAEIG adapted each component of the Toolkit to align with IPAC Canada LTC infection case definitions. The Toolkit contains tools to assess readiness to conduct surveillance, staff training and tools to support data collection and validation. The Toolkit contains a Microsoft Excel database to store data and is set up to automatically calculate rates of all infections and of those deemed to be healthcare associated, and to prepare tables and figures of infection rates and epidemiologic curves for reporting. SAEIG hosted a tutorial webinar on how to use the Toolkit. The complete Toolkit, including a recording of the tutorial, are available to IPAC Canada members and non-members alike.
- The co-chairs prepared a Letter to the CJIC Editor on the importance of surveillance in both acute care and LTC settings that highlighted 6 key resources SAEIG has developed to support members in with surveillance (LTC surveillance position statement, LTC Surveillance case definitions, LTC Surveillance Toolkit, acute care surveillance tracking tool, recorded Surveillance Workshops teaching foundation concepts). The letter was published in the winter volume of CJIC.

### Plans for the Coming Year

- SAEIG will continue to meet bi-monthly through 2021 with a summer hiatus. Meetings will contain an education and business component.
- Planned projects include:
  - delivering a Surveillance Workshop that targets the LTC setting which is scheduled for January 21, 2021,
  - preparing a publication for CJIC on the SSI Surveillance Practices Survey (described above),
  - tackling completion of the CPE Screening Practices Survey (described above),
  - updating the IPAC Canada 2017 LTC surveillance definitions (originally deferred from 2020 as a result of COVID), and
  - developing a half-day workshop on surveillance that will be delivered during the pre-conference at the 2022 IPAC Canada Conference.