

IPAC Canada OPERATIONS REPORT January-May 2021

Following are the activities of IPAC Canada from January to May 2021. These are allocated to the appropriate 2019-2021 Strategic Plan.

INSPIRE BRAND AWARENESS

1. 2021 marks the 45th Anniversary of IPAC Canada. We have acknowledged the significant event through a Timelines video presented at the conference. In addition, greetings from Minister Patty Hajdu and Dr. Theresa Tam for the conference both acknowledged the anniversary.
2. The biannual publication “Industry Innovations’ will publish in the summer of 2021 (PPE) and winter of 2021 (Cleaning & Disinfection). With the departure of the Editor, Madison Moon, and in review of white paper publications through other organizations, it was decided that the Executive Director would be Editor with Guest Editors for each publication. The Guest Editors would be IPAC Canada members who have expertise in the specific topic. The Spring 2021 Guest Editor is Laura Farrell; the Winter 2021 Guest Editors are Monica Stanton and Anthony Turi.
3. A marketing letter was sent to 700 dental offices in southern Ontario promoting the Routine Practices e-Learning Tool and its value to those in the dental setting. There has been significant pick-up of registration for this education opportunity and several new memberships.
4. The IPAC Canada Routine Practices E-Learning Tool and the Hand Hygiene E-Learning Module have been prescribed by many regulatory bodies as necessary for completion before professionals return to work during the pandemic. These include Massage Therapists, Dental Assistants, Dental Hygienists, and Day Care.
5. The three courses offered during Q1 (NWT, Accelerated, applications for 2021-2022 regular program) produced more applications than could be accommodated. This speaks to the awareness of IPAC Canada as an educational institution. FYI – IPAC Canada is officially recognized as a private vocational school by Employment and Social Services Canada.

NURTURE MEMBER VALUE AND ENGAGEMENT

1. At time of writing, we have 1800 members. This partly includes members who have not renewed their membership which expired as of December 31. Members were kept on the registry for additional time (usually 3 months) because of the pandemic. However, new membership has increased by almost 400 members. This is a result of our efforts during the pandemic to provide guidance, consultation and education to various disciplines. New members come from Long Term Care, Dental, Foot Care, and Acute Care.
2. The new Group Membership is providing to be extremely popular. Detailed information will be available after November 1st but at this time we see a significant pick up.

3. Our Corporate membership has increased to 27. This includes 4 new Corporate Members. Corporate Membership renewals are due July 1st. The renewal application will include information on the new Corporate Membership fee of \$5,000, payable over 2 instalments. The renewal results will be interesting because of that.
4. Many chapters tabled activities during 2020 but most are revitalizing. Most of our chapters did try to maintain communication with their members during the pandemic.
5. Interest groups also tabled activities during 2020, with many revitalizing. There is currently a problem with succession in many interest groups. Surveys sent out to interest group members indicate they are very interested in education, and project initiatives, but no one wants to step forward in leadership positions. Several interest groups are on the verge of closing because their current chairs/co-chairs have been in the position for several years and cannot find replacements. We are continuing to work with those interest groups to communicate and encourage members to step forward.
6. An online Interest Group Day was offered to interest groups on April 14th. Of the 12 interest groups, one held a zoom meeting. A meeting of interest group chairs at the end of the day attracted the Chairs/CoChairs of 5 interest groups. Discussion at that debriefing was very interesting with those interest groups making every attempt to keep their members engaged.
7. The first IPAC Canada virtual conference was a tremendous success in terms of member and attendee registration and engagement. There were 600 registrants plus another 90 exhibitors. Every plenary session attracted 400-600 attendees every day of the conference. We have received additional memberships as a result of the conference. A financial report will be sent later in the summer. The 2021 Scientific Program Committee has worked diligently to ensure the highest quality education, starting their work and pivoting a few times since 2018. With the detail of work required to produce in-person conferences, it was decided in 2012 to contract Conference Coordinators to assist the Executive Director with facilitation of conferences. The work includes finalizing the details of the exhibit hall, special events, venue arrangements, and liaison with the host chapter. The desire to produce the highest quality virtual conference again required the assistance of the Conference Coordinators but truly the success of the conference would not have been possible without the assistance of the Conference Coordinators, BUKSA, and our Administrative Assistant, Kelli Wagner.
8. The 2023 Scientific Program Committee will commence their deliberations in the fall of 2021. The 2023 conference will be held in Vancouver (May 28-31).
9. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) working group has been appointed. Their task will be to review literature for inclusion on a DEI webpage, to recommend and facilitate education for members, and to recommend other action to the Board. The DEI Working Group will have their first meeting on June 8. The Chair of the working group is Dan Dimacuha of Halton Healthcare, with seven working members: Murtuza Diwan, Meghan Engbretson, Amber Haw, Marianna Ofner, Adelia Santos, Karmjit Sandhu, and Stephen Palmer, Public Representative. Zahir Hirji, Tanya Denich (Web Communications) and Gerry Hansen will participate as ex officio. Other experts will be added as required.
10. Several education webinars have been held in the first quarter of 2021, including: Certification Board of Infection Control; Infection Control in the Dental Setting; HVAC; Endoscopy; COVID-19 Surveillance; Long Term Care Surveillance Workshop; Medical Device Reprocessing; Reprocessing in Foot Care; and Social Media.

11. As of June 1, all chapters, interest group and committee meetings will be held on Zoom. An exception will be for special education presentations, which will be held via Adobe. This move reduces the IT support cost for Adobe to 1/3 the previous expense.
12. The 2021-2022 Member & Source Guide (Directory) has been published.
13. Stephen Palmer, Public Representative, investigated providing group discounts to members. The project has been halted because our membership is not large enough to warrant 'box store' and national vendor discounts.
14. The Go-To-Cookbook developed by the Programs & Projects Committee will be launched next week. For a donation of a minimum of \$15, members and non-members will receive a download of the recipe book. The book contains 100 recipes from members (and staff!). If there is interest, a hard copy version of the recipe book may be considered.

ADVANCE ADVOCACY AND PARTNERSHIP

1. Hill Day 2021 has become Hill Day 2021+++. A meeting was held on May 11th with the policy staff of Michelle Rempel Garner, the Opposition Health Critic. Her staff has asked for a more detailed brief on our recommendations for the budget and Hill Day. During all the Hill Day meetings, it became very apparent that IPAC Canada has a visible presence at the federal level. We have identified several champions of IPAC, most interestingly that of advocating for a strong surveillance platform.
2. The Endorsement Review Committee has completed review of the 2020 annual reports and a full review of the University of British Columbia. Two applications have been received for Acknowledgement of courses that do not meet the requirements of full endorsement.
3. IPAC Canada is a member of the Canadian Antimicrobial Innovation Coalition which advocates for funding and strategies to reduce AMR. Comprised primarily of pharmaceuticals, IPAC Canada sits as an expert resource in AMR. Zahir Hirji and Gerry Hansen represent IPAC Canada.
4. We continue to participate on the bi-weekly meeting of the Chief Public Health Officer Health Professions Forum. This has become an update on COVID activities, most recently about the vaccine roll out.
5. With the Health Standards Organization, three IPAC Canada Members are participating in the development of an IPAC Recognition Program for LTC and residential homes. The purpose of this program is to provide recognition for IPAC practice awareness and adherence, and to foster improvement over the sector. Jennifer Happe and Molly Blake represent IPAC Canada.
6. The second initiative with Health Standards Organization is the development of standards for Long Term Care.
7. In the early 2000s, IPAC Canada (then CHICA Canada) was a liaison member of the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI). We withdrew from NACI because of the cost of membership fees. In retrospect, it was not costly but at the time we were slashing budgets, including memberships and subscriptions. We have re-applied to be a liaison member of NACI.
8. IPAC Canada participated on the planning committee for the 2021 Clean Your Hands Day, hosted by Healthcare Excellence Canada (formerly Canadian Patient Safety Institute). Thank you to Bal Sidhu for participating on the committee.
9. I attended an information webinar on the PHAC Immunization Project Fund. The fund would provide up to \$250,000 to an organization to promote a response to vaccine hesitancy. After

consideration of the criteria and obligations, it was decided not to submit a project but to send a letter of support to the organization that receives funding.

OTHER ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES

1. Our Copyright Legal Counsel recommends that we review all Chapter Logos to ensure they comply with our copyright of 'IPAC' and 'IPAC Canada'. I will be collecting all logos to review them with Susannah Rolston, Copyright Legal Counsel.

IPAC Canada is very much a volunteer-driven professional association. Even with the burden of the pandemic on our membership, we have been fortunate to receive their support on various committees and initiatives.

Gerry Hansen BA
Executive Director
May 13, 2021