

Environmental Hygiene Interest Group

Chair and Co-Chair: Barry Hunt, Monica Stanton

Number of IPAC Canada members who belong to the Interest Group: ~378

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

Sep 15, 2021 – Welcome back, CSA Respirator Standard update, meetings recap, elections

Nov 16, 2021 – Aerosols & PPE

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

- 26/378 members = 6.8% response
- How does EHIG help? - Education, sharing resources, & networking
- Topics of interest? - New technologies, cleaning procedures / EVS education & training / barriers, new disinfectants

Highlights/Ongoing Projects

Protocols for Environmental Testing for QMS – paused for CoVID

Health Care Facility Design Interest Group

Chair and Co-Chair: Barb Shea and Jessica Fullerton

Number of IPAC Canada members who belong to the Interest Group: 462

Dates/topics of meetings throughout the year

Presentation

1. Changes to Z8000 Barb Shea
2. Jeffrey Siegel, PhD, Professor of Civil and Mineral Engineering at the University of Toronto, is scheduled to repeat the presentation he provided as part of PHO Rounds: Indoor Air Quality and COVID-19.
3. Speaker, Marianne Lee, Mechanical Engineer, Senior Manager and Principal at HH Angus' Health Divisions provided an introduction to healthcare plumbing systems and an overview of updates to CSA's Special Requirements for Plumbing Installations in Health Care Facilities Standard (Z317.1)
4. Speaker, Dr. Michele Provost, Professor and holds an Industrial Chair on Drinking Water at the Dept of Civil Engineering of Polytechnique Montreal provided an overview of her extensive knowledge on plumbing system risks, remediation, and water management plans.

Position Statements developed/under development

Healthcare Facility Design and Construction 2016 Position Statement under review

Goals for the coming year

Reviewing need to continue, delete or refresh project:

1. Photo bank for teaching
2. Review and update of the Interest Group website
2. Surveillance definitions re: Aspergillus
3. FAQ's
4. Facility Water Safety Plan
5. Z8000-18 Review Sub-Committee – Interest Group members are meeting to review CSA's Z8000-18 in order to provide collated feedback, as this Standard will be up for review in the coming year

Long Term Care (LTC) Interest Group Annual Report 2021

Current Chair: Outgoing Chair: Cathy Guitare, Incoming Chair: Marjorie Belzile (December 2021)

Number of IPAC Canada members who belong to the Interest Group: Currently 561.

Dates/topics of meetings throughout the year

No meetings were held in 2021. New Chair met with IPAC Executive Director Gerry Hansen in December to discuss role, group, needs assessment, and basic information regarding the LTC group.

2021 has proven to be another difficult year for IPC professionals. Health care facilities have been pivoting to the needs of staff and working to develop and implement IPC standards in the face of the ever-changing research and knowledge of the Covid-19 pandemic. There has been very little to no time for formal meetings.

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

A Needs Assessment survey will be sent to the group membership in January 2022. This will help direct the goals and work for 2022.

Highlights/Ongoing Projects

Letters were sent to two provincial Ministers responsible for Long Term Care (Ontario and New Brunswick). This letter is advocating for designated funding and support for IPC professionals in LTC and for minimal educational requirements in these positions.

Any other relevant accomplishments, goals for the coming year

The goals for the upcoming year include refocusing the LTC Interest Group through networking and education needs assessment. Meetings have been scheduled quarterly and some education sessions are pending. Membership growth will also be a goal for 2022.

Respectfully Submitted,
Marjorie Belzile, RN DOHN BHAdmin

Mental Health Interest Group

Current Chair: Murtuza Diwan

Number of IPAC Canada members who belong to the Interest Group:168

Dates/topics of meetings throughout the year (in-person meetings and teleconference calls/Adobe webinars) - 0

Position Statements (if any) developed/under development – N/A

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

Question:

There have been ongoing issues with hand hygiene due to the fact that it cannot be wall mounted. Staff have personal size ABRH for pockets but they are cumbersome, flip top lids open in pocket, etc. I'm wondering if this interest group has discussed this issue and if so, what type of solutions have been put forward?

Responses:

- I also worked in a very large, acute mental health hospital. We did not have wall mounted ABHR either, sanitizer was available in the nurse's station, medication room, treatment room, on isolation carts, and normally in the man-trap on the way into the unit. This was always an issue with no real solutions. The ultimate goal would be to install hand hygiene sinks, of which my facility had a very limited amount as well.
- We have no issues with hands free sanitizer. They are all over the building.
- We have ABHR wall mounted throughout our facility. We have NON alcohol based hand rub mounted on our Concurrent disorders unit.
 - All our wall mounted products have a anti ligature component. (Soap and hand rub)
 - We have found that occasionally - not frequently – we need to remove the ABHR from the dispensers if a patient drinks the product. We have the ability to have dispensers located within eye shot of the care desk so we can usually keep those dispensers full as the staff can visualize patients and dispensers.
 - We do not have dispensers in the patient room.
 - When we have to remove the product then staff have ABHR at the entrances of the unit to perform hand hygiene as they walk into the patient space. We consider the whole unit, where the patients are as the patient's space. So staff perform hand hygiene on entering the patient space and if needed they perform hand hygiene before direct patient care. Staff also have access to pocket size ABHR.
- At my last site, we had ABHR mounted on all units, but they were visible from the nursing station. We did not have an addictions unit, and twice in the 5 or so years that they were mounted did we remove the product from the dispenser when we did have an alcohol-seeking client, who was in for medication stabilization. Once they were discharged the containers were placed back in the dispensers. While that was in place, staff did carry 50mL pump bottles of a foamed product...I didn't hear any issues with leaking. They were signed in and signed out each shift.

- At CAMH, in addition to hand sanitizer dispensers (mounted only in locations observed by staff), in our new buildings we use Automatic Hand washing stations for staff Hand Hygiene. Washing station includes sink, soap dispenser and air dryer - as one piece. Automatic hand washing station is programmed by Maintenance team to provide correct HH cycle based on PIDAC recommendations/steps. HH cycle can be initiated only by staff ID card to prevent patient water misuse.
 - Our Automatic hand washing stations were provided and installed by WellGate company: <https://www.wallgate.com/about>
 - The picture is attached.
 - Automatic hand washing stations are located in in-patient unit corridors, in close proximity to 4-5 patient rooms so that staff will be able to wash hands before and after direct patient care and PPE donning/doffing.

Any other relevant accomplishments, goals for the coming year

- Complete a needs assessment in 2022
- Run 3 webinars/networking meetings
- Create presence of group on social media platforms

Northern Network Annual Report

Executive (2021)

Past Chair: Samantha Stewart

Present Chair: Karen Pardy (August 2021 to present)

Secretary:

Treasurer:

Executive (2022)

Chair: Karen Pardy

President-elect:

Secretary:

Treasurer:

Number of Members: 13

Geographic Area Served: Nunavut, Northwest Territories, Yukon

Membership

Due to unforeseen circumstances the present chair was to attend or support the committee from September 2021 until April 2022. However, the Northern Network would like to thank the IPAC Canada's Executive Director, Gerry Hansen and Administrative Assistance Kelli Wagner for their ongoing support and assistance over the past year for stepping in to ensure the planned meetings and webinars proceeded.

Meetings

September 20 - Reprocessing and Networking - Noel Talaver, Medical Device Reprocessing Specialist

October 19 - Webinar - What do I need to know about TB and am not afraid to ask? Dr. Jennifer Grant

November 25 - Networking

December 15 - Webinar - Hand Hygiene - Sarah Eden

Highlights

- As the chair has returned, the plan for 2022 is to reinvigorate the committee and schedule meetings for the summer and fall.
- Three of the IPAC team from the NWT attended the 2022 IPAC Canada virtual national conference and will be sharing items at an upcoming meeting.
- A potential topic for future Northern Network meeting; Flooding in remote and rural communities – IPAC's role

Oncology and Transplantation Interest Group Annual Report

Leadership:

- Chair: Sarah Zanchettin
- Co-Chair: Kelsey Houston
- Secretary: Vishnuka Arulsundaram

Number of IPAC Canada members who belong to the Interest Group: 104 members as of November 2021

A survey was sent out to members in November 2021 to seek member feedback re: discussion topics, how the group can best serve their professional needs, etc. Results of the survey indicate our members are most interested in learning about IPAC considerations for neutropenic patients and Herpes Zoster infection in the immunocompromised. They appreciate recurring group Q&A sessions.

Update: The new leadership team took over in July of 2021 and scheduled/ran four meetings of the group between August and November, including talks by Dr. Susy Hota, Dr. John Conly, and Miranda So.



Pediatric/Neonatal Interest Group

Current Chair and Co-Chair Megan Clarke (Co-Chair) Angela Thomas (Co-Chair)

Number of IPAC Canada members who belong to the Interest Group: 125

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

Most communication within the group has been via email – posting of questions or other communication. 13 questions from members were received for distribution for the group. On April 14, 2021, a PNIG afternoon webinar was held with 21 members in attendance. The focus of the meeting was COVID-19; members submitted their pandemic-related questions ahead of the date and responses were shared round-table style. An informal networking and knowledge sharing discussion followed.

Position Statements (if any) developed/under development: Toy Cleaning position statement is currently under revision-on hold due the continuing COVID-19 pandemic response.

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

Highlights/Ongoing Projects: We are in the early stages of organizing a webinar for interest group members in early 2022 to discuss the future of the PNIG group, and to send out a last call for a new chair/co-chairs, as Angela and Megan are stepping down as co-chairs.

2021 Annual Report

Prehospital Care Interest Group

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

Interest Group Membership

PHCIG membership stands at 85 members. 14 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. Additionally, there are representatives from industry.

Meetings

With the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 the regular activities and projects of the interest group were suspended due to the increased workload of everyone on the working group. The decision was made at the time that the group did not have capacity to continue with the established work plan. This was continued through all of 2021. Additionally, similar to 2020 the decision was made for the current co-chairs and secretary to remain in those positions until at least the 2022 conference.

The interest group did not hold any meetings for either the full interest group or the working group due the fact that the group suspended activities for COVID 19. There were a number of meetings held related to specific issues that came up. These meetings included:

- July 21/21, August 12/21, Sept 13/21 and Oct 13/21 to discuss the future of the Cleaning and Disinfection Road Show
- Oct 6/21 to finalize and approve the revision of the Practice Recommendation and Position Statement

The interest group and working group were kept up to date by email as required.

Continuing with the initiative from 2020 monthly Zoom meetings were hosted to discuss COVID-19 issues. These meetings were designed as a drop in with no set agenda. Each participant was welcome to bring forward issues for discussion as needed. These meetings are valued by all attendees and they will continue into 2022 and as long as the Pandemic continues. In some cases non-member guests were invited to attend and this has resulted in some new IPAC Canada Membership. The participants in the meeting include representatives from across the country.

Road Show Events

After discussion to review the impact of COVID 19 on the Cleaning and Disinfection Road show events it was determined that it was not possible to continue with the events as planned. As a result, together with Sani Marc and IPAC Canada the decision was made to cancel the remaining events. The video produced for the events was posted on the IPAC Canada website.

Projects

The review and approval of revision to the Prehospital Care Cleaning and Disinfection Position Statement and Cleaning and Disinfection Practice Recommendation re-draft were complete and submitted to the board for approval.

Goals for Coming Year

Looking towards to 2022 there continues to be uncertainty due to COVID. The intent for 2022 and the potential end to the Pandemic is for the group to undergo a reset. This will likely include a group needs assessment from which a new work plan will be established to guide the group moving forward.

Reprocessing Interest Group

Current Chair (and Co-Chair if applicable):

Chair: Karrie Yausie

Co-Chair: Jennifer Selkirk

Secretary: Tina Stacey-Works

Number of members: 265

Meetings

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 13 2021; February 24, 2021; April 14, 2021; June 9, 2021; September 15, 2021.

The topics that were discussed this past year were:

- 1- Frequency of RIG meetings during COVID pandemic
- 2- Vacant Executive Positions
- 3- Two working groups (on hold): i) Dental Working Group, ii) Ultrasound Probe Working Group

Highlights/Ongoing Projects:

Presentation scheduled for February 24, review of Journal Article

Dental Working Group: On hold

Ultrasound Probe Working Group: On hold

Currently RIG does not have any executives. The Chair, Co-Chair and Secretary positions are all vacant with RIG on hold.



Surveillance and Applied Epidemiology Interest Group (SAEIG)

Leadership

Co-chair: Jennifer Happe
 Co-chair: Katherine Paphitis
 Secretary: Tammy MacDonald

Number of Members

410

Meeting Dates and Topics

Jan 26, 2021:	Education Topic: FluWatch, Canada's national surveillance system that monitors the spread of flu and flu-like illnesses. Speaker: 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.
Mar 3, 2021:	Education Topic: Carbapenemase Producing Enterobacteriaceae (CPE) survey preliminary results were shared. Speaker: Filip Pajtondziew, an MSc student at Queen's University who is collaborating with SAEIG on the survey. Business: Discussed IPAC Canada advocacy efforts during Parliament Hill Day for a national integrated, expanded surveillance system to capture data from acute and LTC settings of all sizes using a standard set of case definitions. Discussed the progress of the Pan-Canadian Surveillance Advisory Committee.
April 14, 2021:	SAEIG members were surveyed about their interest and ability to participate in the annual IPAC Canada Conference Interest Group Day. Due to completing priorities, SAEIG membership voted not to hold an additional meeting during Interest Group Day this year.
Sept 17, 2021:	A survey was prepared in lieu of a meeting as a result of the 4 th wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. The survey captured SAEIG member feedback on meeting dates, times, frequency and content to facilitate planning for 2022.
Dec 1, 2021:	Education Topic: Process Surveillance and the IPAC Canada Audit Toolkit available for free to support all members in establishing and sustaining proper infection control practices in their care areas. Speaker: Jennifer Happe, SAEIG Co-chair. Business: Discussed progress updates on projects placed on hold as a result of the pandemic including, SSI Surveillance Survey publication, CPE Screening and Management Practices Survey analysis and publication, and revision of the LTC Infection Surveillance Definitions. Discussed ESBL surveillance practice across Canada during the Round Table.

Projects

- **LTC Surveillance Workshop:** Following the success of two general Surveillance Workshops in the fall of 2020, the SAEIG co-chairs developed and delivered an interactive workshop focused on the LTC setting on January 20, 2021. The workshop covered what surveillance is, why it is important, and components of a robust surveillance system. The IPAC Canada LTC Surveillance Toolkit and Database were used to test concepts learned. The workshop was open to all IPAC Canada members. A recording and supporting material are available online.
- **LTC Infection Surveillance Definition Revisions:** In June 2021 the revision committee met for training on how to conduct a literature search and how to critically appraise the literature using the PHAC CAT. The committee was divided into workgroups and assigned definition sets. Workgroups reviewed the 2017 IPAC Canada LTC definitions, performed a literature review for updates to their assigned case definitions between 2016 and 2021, and critically appraised new evidence using PHAC CAT. Workgroups determine the need for revisions based on their assessment of the literature. To date the definition workgroups have completed the literature search and many have completed critical appraisal of the literature. Next steps include preparing recommendations for changes to definitions. Work was put on hold in September 2021 as a result of the 4th wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Plans for the Coming Year

- SAEIG will continue to meet bi-monthly through 2022 with a summer hiatus. Meetings will contain an education and business component.
- Planned projects include:
 - complete data analysis and publication of the 2020 CPE Screening Practices Survey,
 - prepare a publication for CJIC on the 2020 SSI Surveillance Practices Survey,
 - update the IPAC Canada 2017 LTC surveillance definitions, and
 - develop a half-day workshop on surveillance that will be delivered during the pre-conference day at the 2022 IPAC Canada Conference.