



Mission of the HKICNA: promulgating infection control best practice in health care organization and the community.

This newsletter, available at our home page <http://www.hkicna.org>, is the official publication of HKICNA and published bi-annually in February/March and August/September. It welcomes articles pertaining to prevention, surveillance and control of infections, and related issues in health care organization and community. Please visit our web to submit.

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Congratulatory Messages from Professor Sophia Siu Chee CHAN, JP Secretary for Food and Health The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

Healthcare-associated infections remain one of the most common adverse events in care delivery and pose great impact on morbidity and mortality. Emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases such as the outbreak of MERS-CoV in 2012 and the large scale Ebola outbreak in 2014, as well as the growing problem of antimicrobial resistance in the last decade are amongst the major public health threats at the global agenda. Constant vigilance and effective strategies for controlling infectious diseases emergence thus remain crucial.

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region has attached great importance in maintaining a high standard of infection control to safeguard the well-being of Hong Kong citizens. The setting up of the Centre for Health Protection under the Department of Health in 2004 contributed to the enhancement of the capacity of the public health system to deal with various challenges in Hong Kong. In 2016, a High Level Steering Committee on Antimicrobial Resistance was set up to formulate strategies under the “One Health” framework to address the unprecedented challenges posed by antimicrobial resistance. Yet, actions taken by the Government alone are not enough and concerted efforts from our healthcare professionals would be crucial.

The Hong Kong Infection Control Nurses’ Association was established in April 1989 by a group of devoted infection control nursing pioneers in Hong Kong. Over the years, through conferences, courses, as well as the granting of research grant, scholarship and sponsorship, the Association has made tremendous contributions to educate healthcare professionals, to promote best practices of infection control and to unite the infection control personnel both locally and internationally. The Association’s efforts have greatly contributed to the effective prevention and control of infectious diseases in Hong Kong.

I wish to send my warmest congratulations to the Association for its achievements over the past 30 years. I wish the Association every success in its future endeavours and continues to contribute to the advancement of the field of infection control.



Ching Hon Chung Radley
Chairman
APN ICT, PMH

2019 is a special year in the history of the Hong Kong Infection Control Nurses' Association (HKICNA) as it marks our 30th Anniversary. In 1989, HKICNA began modestly starting with 40 members including nurses and doctors. Today it has grown to over 600 members and is expected its continue to grow steadily in the future.

Starting with the mission of “Promoting infection control best practice in health care and the community”, the HKICNA has pioneered the provision of a platform for sharing experiences among healthcare professionals. As part of this, HKICNA organizes an international conference every two years. Last year, the HKICNA successfully organized the 8th International Infection Control Conference jointly with the 17th Asia-Pacific Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infection in Hong Kong. It was one of the important events beginning the celebrations of the 30th anniversary of association. At the same time HKICNA has also extended its influence in the community, and started to promote the ‘patient empowerment’ concept to the public.

Today, HKICNA is celebrating its 30th anniversary. This is an important year for HKICNA that marks the remarkable beginning of the next phase. We are over 600 members who have witnessed our success and growth. Congratulations to HKICNA for their thirtieth birthday and continuous growth. Our council members have formed a working group to prepare various celebration activities. Let us celebrate and enjoy our happiness together.

Finally, on behalf of HKICNA, I would like to take the opportunity of this 30th anniversary special issue to thank all members who have continually helped to build the HKICNA with great success from past to the future.



Isadora Wong
Secretary
General Manager, Nursing
The Duchess of Kent Children's Hospital at Sandy Bay
TWGHs Fung Yiu King Hospital MacLehose Medical Rehabilitation Center

I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to the HKICNA on her 30th Anniversary. During the past 30 years, the HKICNA has been playing a significant role in promoting to members and all health care professionals the importance and knowledge of infection control (IC) including the most updated evidence-based IC practices through the organization of training courses, seminars and international conferences. My heartfelt thanks to the leadership from past chairpersons, Patricia, Annie, Conita and Shirley. I am very confident that our new Chairperson for 2019-2020, Radley will continue to lead the HKICNA in promoting the same objectives and making even greater achievements in future.





Lee Suet Yi Shirley
Chairlady 2017-2018
Senior Nursing Officer, ICT, QEH

30 years ago, the Hong Kong Infection Control Nurses' Association (HKICNA) grew from an association with 40 members to over 600 members today. Since then, we have experienced tremendous growth, consolidated the local professional community and expanded our influence across Asia. Our success is due to our readiness to face challenges, willingness to adapt in times of change and our insightful decisions over the years.

During this time, we established the bi-annual HKICNA newsletter to share news, research and evidence-based practices. We also host the biennial International Infection Control Conference, bringing together international and local experts in a productive dialogue to discuss challenging and controversial issues related to infection control. Their shared drive propels innovations in infection control. In 2018, HKICNA joined with the Hong Kong Society for Microbiology and Infection to host the 8th International Infection Control Conference together with the 17th Asia- Pacific Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infection. HKICNA will continue to collaborate with different industry groups to further spread awareness of the importance of infection control in our region.

We at HKICNA renew our commitment to our original founding mission: To increase awareness and adoption of best practice in infection control in health care organizations and communities.

I am honored to be the chairlady during this exciting time. I am confident in HKICNA's capabilities and believe we will become greater and stronger for the years to come. I look forward to celebrating anniversaries for another 30 years with you all.



Chief Editor's Note
Special issue on the 30th anniversary of
the establishment of the HKICNA

In 2019 we celebrate an important milestone – This is the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the HKICNA. Let us congratulate the HKICNA on this great achievement.

The 30th anniversary is a marvellous event to celebrate, and we have already been celebrating the event with some activities. DO stay tuned and watch out for further exciting announcements.

This is a special issue celebrating the 30th anniversary, in which we have Professor Sophia Chan: secretary for Food & Health, our advisors, speakers, presidents of academy & college and key figures in infection control contributing some remarks to this edition. These remarks recognize the achievements of the HKICNA over the past 30 years, and also guide us as we move forward. I am very grateful for their encouraging words, because it is vital to achieving success in the future and it gives us a sense of direction and confidence as we move into the next 30 years.

This newsletter started in 2002 as a local platform for the local infection control studies and works. Therefore, I would like to invite each of you, especially practising infection control nurses, to write your works / achievement to enrich this newsletter professionally. Remember, your participation and support are the keys to the success of this newsletter.

I am confident that with your participation and support, the visibility and stature of the newsletter will continue to increase, eventually becoming one of the timely “must read” newsletters among all disciplines of the health care organizations.

Finally, while celebrating the 30th anniversary, I'd like to thank everyone involved in this special issue newsletter publication, special thanks go to those taking their time out from their busy schedules to write congratulatory message and celebrate with us. Let's have a round of applause for all of them, please.



Patricia Ching Founding Chair

This year 2019 marked the 30's anniversary of HKICNA. Over the 3 decades our association progressed far and wide promoting infection control professionalism locally and internationally. The progress is the impetus from a group of committed and experience Infection control Nurses who spearhead the association to advance from a humble group of ICNs to escalate the international arena. They are the unwavering and altruistic council members who serve the HKICNA's office. I as the founding chair person would like to take this opportunity to thank all the past and present council members for their relentless contributions so that HKICNA can prosper for thirty years and beyond. With the ardent effort of the council HKICNA will flourish in posterity. I would like to thank our advisers and International Dignitary Advisers who have inspired us with stupendous guidance through these years. Finally I am thankful to all the infection control professionals, local and international, for their vehement support to HKICNA. I sincerely wish that HKICNA will continue to contribute in Infection Control.



Dr Seto Wing Hong International Dignitary Advisor Clinical Professor (Hon), School of Public Health, The University of Hong Kong; Director, WHO Collaborating Center for Infectious Diseases Epidemiology and Control

With the utmost sincerity and elation, I write to congratulate the HKICNA for her thirtieth anniversary. I am someone with the privilege of sitting in the front row, observing your development and growth; and without doubt, your achievements are phenomenal. Without question, the challenges in Hong Kong are immense but the HKICNA has met them prodigiously and now stands out with contributions unmatched in the region. Locally, the organization is well respected and Infection Control is a formal speciality recognised by the Hong Kong Academy of Nursing. I have not seen this happening in other parts of the world. Then internationally, you are enormously respected and many of your senior members are recognised as world experts. Still, for the future do look ahead, never slow down but strive to press on. I exhort you to think big and reach out, not for yourselves but for the region. It is repeatedly acknowledged that Infection Control Nurses lack a clear career path, which is crippling the profession all over the Asia Pacific. However, this is not the case in Hong Kong, where the path to seniority for the profession is clearly laid out. This is the professional milieu that must be exported to the region. The training and certification models that are being developed can be adapted and implemented region-wide. So think big and reach out to change the world and thus all humanity. Efficient and well-trained infection control nurse will definitely reduce hospital acquired infections and benefit the world.



Frances Kam Yuet Wong President, The Hong Kong Academy of Nursing

It is my honour and pleasure to celebrate together with you the 30th anniversary of the Hong Kong Infection Control Nurses' Association (HKICNA). The HKICNA has played an important part to safeguard the health of individuals and the Hong Kong community at large. At the clinical front, the ICN team sets guidelines, protocols and ensures that the practice and care delivered is safe, for both the patients and healthcare colleagues. They also take initiatives to identify risks and undertake preventive cautions to control outbreaks. The HKICNA in the past years has supported researches and arranged high quality conferences and courses to promote the continued development of nurses working in the infection control area. The infection control nurses, supported by the HKICNA, is a truly professional team who contribute a great part to our healthcare system that we are all proud of!

This is a year to reap and a year to leap for nurses dedicated to maintain optimal health for the citizens in Hong Kong. In the 2018 Policy Address of the Chief Executive, it states explicitly that there will be a voluntary registration scheme for the development of nursing specialities to pave the way for setting up a relevant statutory registration system. Infection control is an important specialty in nursing with distinct knowledge and skills that make claims for autonomous and independent practice led by advanced practice nurses in the field. The Hong Kong Academy of Nursing upholds quality standards of advanced nursing practice through education, accreditation and certification and strives to attain statutory status of advanced practice nurses through professional regulation. We are proud to have Fellows from the specialty of infection control serving as role models. In partnership, we can make a difference to the well-being of Hong Kong!

May I wish HKICNA to shine and flourish abundantly in the years to come! My heartfelt congratulations to you all who have contributed to this important landmark!



Helena Li President, Hong Kong College of Medical Nursing



Infection Control Nurse – enhance safety

Infection Control nurse specialty arisen a hospital based specialty in the 1970s. The control of healthcare-associated infection is one of the most important responsibilities. The 2003 SARS episode had alerted all health care workers the importance of infection control. Campaigns such as hand hygiene, control of infection outbreaks, prevention of surgical site infections, antimicrobial resistance, prevention of sepsis and catheter-associated blood stream infections are some of activities that Infection control nurses are being called upon to be responsible.

Infection control is not merely control. World Health Organization (WHO) viewed infection prevention and control as a scientific approach and practical solution designed to prevent harm caused by infection to patients and health workers. It is grounded in infectious diseases, epidemiology, social science and health system strengthening. Infection Protection and Control occupies a unique position in the field of patient safety and quality universal health coverage since it is relevant to health workers and patients at every single health care encounter.

The advent of medicine and the pace of change have called for new demand of the infection control nurses. These demands are demands for computer skills, report generation, application of infection definition and epidemiology.

The Association of Infection Control Nurses has worked very hard to develop infection control nursing. Advanced practice nurse (APN) is an umbrella term to describe nurses practicing at an advanced level. Advanced nursing practice involves the emergence of new horizons of clinical nursing practice and expertise that go beyond basic nursing care and activities in meeting the health needs of individuals, families, groups and communities across the health wellness-illness continuum. APNs at a higher level of practice analyze and synthesize knowledge, master complex situations, interpret and apply evidence-based practice and research findings, and advance nursing standards and the profession as a whole. APNs assume collegial relationships in an interdisciplinary team and play a leading role in their area of expertise. These attributes are achieved at a higher educational level interacting with substantial years of nursing experience transiting from proficient to expert level. Incorporating professional leadership, education and research through continued professional development, APNs demonstrate clinical reasoning, judgment, and skills at a higher-level capacity.



William Jarvis
International Dignitary Advisor
Jason and Jarvis Associates, LLC, USA



It is amazing to realize that on April 30, 2019, it will be 30 years since the founding of the Hong Kong Infection Control Nurses' Association (HKICNA)! At it's founding the HKICNA aims and objectives were to:

1. To promote and enhance the knowledge and skill of and expertise in training and development of infection control.
2. To promote the welfare and protect the interests of nurses engaged in infection control.
3. To provide for the delivery and holding of lectures, classes, conference, exhibitions and public meetings and to publish bulletins for the advancement of infection control.
4. To receive visitors or experts in nursing and infection control and to exchange with them on information and expertise.
5. To send representatives to attend and participate in conferences and other events in training and development in all parts of the world.
6. To grant scholarships and to make donations to any institution or organization whose objects are similar to those of the association.
7. To liaise between the association and the receptive authorities, when necessary.

These aims and objectives have been remarkably exceeded. Members of the HKICNA have become and been leaders in the field of infection control and prevention of of healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) and in protecting healthcare worker (HCW) safety not just in Southeast Asia, but throughout the world

Let's examine each aim and objective:

First, to promote and enhance the knowledge and skill of and expertise in training and development of infection control. This has been achieved through membership in the HKICNA and it's frequent meetings, presentations, and seminars, in addition to the biennial meeting of the HKICNA that brings together hundreds if not thousands of individuals interested in and working in infection control and healthcare epidemiology. In addition, infection control training courses since at least 2002 have educated the infection control professionals of the future. Furthermore, in collaboration with the the Hong Kong College of Medical Nursing (HKCMN), the HKICNA has developed a training course and certification program in infection control to ensure that Hong Kong nurses interested in healthcare epidemiology and infection control will be well educated on the basic and advanced principles. One needs only to attend and see the wide variety of excellent presentations and posters at the HKICNA or other infection control meetings or examine publications in this area to see how this investment in training the next generation of ICPs have reaped great dividends for worldwide infection control.

Second, to promote the welfare and protect the interests of nurses engaged in infection control. This has been achieved through education and training both through courses, certification, and the biennial meeting. Just look at how HCWs have been protected from human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), hepatitis viruses, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), etc. In fact, one of the best and leading surveillance systems for respiratory and gastrointestinal infections in the world was established after the SARs outbreak and was better than the surveillance system in the United States for Influenza-like infections. Some of the leading research on respiratory protective devices for viral pathogens has come from Hong Kong since the SARS outbreak.

Third, to provide for the delivery and holding of lectures, classes, conference, exhibitions and public meetings and to publish bulletins for the advancement of infection control. The HKICNA has done a stellar job of this through newsletters, courses, certification, meetings, invited presentations, collaborations with the World Health Organization (WHO), etc. Not only have HKICNA members benefited from these activities, but those throughout the world, especially ICPs from SE Asia countries with newer, younger, and less developed infection control programs. The HKICNA has been the leader in infection control education throughout SE Asia. The HKICNA's last meeting, in 2018, in combination with the Asia Pacific Congress of Clinical Microbiology & Infection exemplified the worldwide stature of the HKICNA and its' members.

Fourth, to receive visitors or experts in nursing and infection control and to exchange with them on information and expertise. The HKICNA has taken this aim/objective extremely seriously and has become the infection control educator of the region. It's impact on China has been particularly noteworthy. The collaboration with the WHO and the presence of large numbers of internationals attending the HKICNA courses and meetings illustrates the pivotal role this organization holds in regional education in healthcare epidemiology and infection control.

Fifth, to send representatives to attend and participate in conferences and other events in training and development in all parts of the world. One only needs to attend a meeting at WHO or the annual meetings of the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA), the Association of Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology, Inc. (APIC), the (International Conference on Prevention & Infection Control (ICPIC), etc. and see the members of the HKICNA both presenting and attending to realize the educational impact of the HKICNA membership.

Sixth, to grant scholarships and to make donations to any institution or organization whose objects are similar to those of the association. The HKICNA has done an excellent job of fulfilling this aim/objective. Since 2002, the HKICNA has given 31 scholarships for studies or meeting or course attendance. In addition, since 2003, the HKICNA has been providing grants for cutting edge infection control/healthcare epidemiology research. The results of these investments are illustrated in the publications resulting that have advanced our field of infection control.

Seventh, to liaise between the association and the receptive authorities, when necessary. The HKICNA has done this more than "when necessary". The HKICNA and its members have liaised with the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) on many occasions to insure that the latest infection control practices/regulations were being implemented in Hong Kong. Their members have participated in the development of guidelines and recommendations from the CHP. In addition, virtually all the WHO guidelines and recommendations have involved HKICNA members. Hong Kong is a WHO collaborating center. The ability of the HKICNA and its members to liaise with infection control organizations throughout the world have insured that the knowledge gained in such instances as SARS or Influenza outbreaks are learned by others and incorporated into the latest recommendations and guidelines.

It is incredible to see the enormous impact that the HKICNA (and its members) have had on infection control and healthcare epidemiology in the world. It would be hard to identify any other national infection control organization of this size that has had such a worldwide impact (no to mention the tremendous impact on improving infection prevention and control in Hong Kong healthcare facilities). To me it is equally remarkable to think that this all has evolved from one unnoticed event – the selection by Dr. Seto of the first infection control nurse in a Hong Kong hospital, Patricia Ching, in the late 1980s. Isn't it amazing what has grown from that decision. This just is an excellent example of how each of us as individuals can have a major impact on preventing HAIs and improving patient and healthcare worker safety. Congratulations to the HKICNA and each of its' members on your tremendous accomplishments. Best wishes for another 30 years of pushing the boundaries of HAI prevention and in preventing the preventable HAIs!



Professor Didier Pittet, MD, MS, CBE
International Dignitary Advisor
Director, Infection Control Programme &
WHO Collaborating Centre on Patient Safety,
The University of Geneva Hospitals and Faculty of Medicine Geneva, Switzerland

It is with immense happiness and a bit of nostalgia that I was looking at some of the photos from the last fifteen years that we have worked together. It's hard to believe that HKICNA is already celebrating its 30th anniversary, and it's amazing to see how far this wonderful organization has come in promoting infection control and best practices in healthcare organizations and the community.

It is rare to see such a dynamic and deeply engaged association championing infection prevention and control through lectures, workshops, trainings, publications, etc. I would first and foremost like to thank the present and past presidents, as well as the board members for their fantastic commitment and engagement. But even more importantly- I would like to thank all of the nurses and colleagues, who gave their time and energy to champion patient safety over the last thirty years and made HKICNA what it is today.



2006 – International Dignitary Advisor presented by chairman Ching Tai Yin Patricia



2006 – Gala dinner



2012 – IICC the officiating dance – Hand hygiene by kids and presentation of souvenir by you

I would also like to recognize the efforts of the association for being so engaged in our own International Conference on Prevention and Infection Control (ICPIC), and always sending a large and highly motivated group. I look very much forward to seeing you all again, and hopefully a few new faces, at this year's ICPIC in Geneva, September 10-13, 2019.



It is with great pleasure, pride, and gratitude that I look back over the last fifteen year at our shared memories and goals. I have included a few photos from these times, so that you could all remember them with me. I look forward to continuing to support your important work, and hope to see you all at the 9th IICC in July of next year. I am especially excited for the next dragon or lion dance!



2010 – 4th IICC opening, together with my friends and colleagues Elaine Larson and Bill Jarvis, as well as the HKICNA board members



2010 – 4th IICC opening



2012 – 5th IICC





Dr To Wing Kin
Advisor; Cluster Infection Control Officer & Consultant Microbiologist,
Department of Pathology, PMH & KWC

Congratulations to the Hong Kong Infection Control Nurses' Association (HKICNA) on the occasion of the 30th Anniversary.

Over the past 30 years, HKICNA has been evolving from a local association in the region to a well-known organization internationally in the field of infection control. Since about 15 years ago, the SARS epidemic in 2003 had posed significant impact to the ecology of infection control in this region. Hospital authority and the government started to inject more resources to the field of infection control regarding the hard wares, soft wares, ICN manpower and training for enhancement. Healthcare workers and even general public began to pay more attention to infection prevention and understand its importance. Last summer, HKICNA collaborated with the Hong Kong Society of Microbiology and Infection to conduct a very successful international conference – the 17th Asia-Pacific Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infection cum 8th International Infection Control Conference. In fact, HKICNA has been serving a key role in training the infection control practitioners in the region, and the beneficiaries are not just limited to nurses but a wide range of healthcare workers from different specialties. All these seem pointing a bright future of the association and all the infection control practitioners.

However, as advisor of HKICNA, I would like to remind all our members that there are still many challenges ahead of us. In the recent few years, people have been shifting their foci to other issues and the priority of infection prevention becomes less important. Overcrowded wards and severe shortage of manpower become the best excuse of not complying the recommended infection control measures. As the result, the problem of multi-drug resistant organism may evolve again in hospitals and more, are we still confident that we can cope with the next unknown emerging pathogen? Moreover, the manpower issue is affecting hospital infection control team (ICT) as well. Due to the high workload among the infection control practitioners, ICTs start to encounter difficulty in recruiting new ICNs and retaining experienced ICNs as well. I think your association would be in a good position to reflect this to the hospital administrators and even the government.

Despite these challenges, I believe under the leadership of your association, the above mentioned challenges could be overcome and I look forward to celebrating another 30 years of success with all of you. May I send my congratulation again and please accept my best wishes for a memorable anniversary celebration.



Dr. Raymond YUNG
Advisor, Deputy Medical Superintendent & Infection Control Officer, HKSH

Happy Birthday HKICNA!

My sincere congratulation to HKICNA on its 30th Anniversary!

Thanks to the concerted effort of a group of dedicated infection control practitioners, our healthcare facilities and the community as a whole have developed a very robust infection control infrastructure to combat against healthcare associated infections and communicable diseases. Although there are still a lots of works remains to be done, may I wish HKICNA all the success in the years to come.





Dr Tsang Ngai Chong Dominic
Consultant Microbiologist, QEH; Infection Control Officer, KCC;
Immediate past Chief Infection Control Officer (CICO) HA

It gives me great pleasure to offer my warmest congratulations to HKICNA on her 30th anniversary on 30th April 2019.

Over the past 30 years, under the pioneering spirit and strong leadership of Dr Seto Wing-hong, the founding advisor and the founding chairlady, Ms. Patricia Ching, and the unfailing support from international renowned expert advisors, Prof. Didier Pittet and Dr. William Jarvis, HKICNA has undisputedly achieved a remarkable success in the local field of infection control. Not only has HKICNA grown from a meager 44 membered society to a sizable membership of over 10 folds of that, she began to successfully host the International Infection Control Conference (IICC) since 2004; to conduct infection control course annually since 2000; to issue Newsletter twice a year since 2002; to confer Infection Control fellowship since 2012; to support members in research on infection control since 2003 and to support members to attend and actively participate at overseas Infection control conferences on a regular basis, just to name a few. All these hard work and new initiatives bear witness to the passion and great devotions of the HKICNA committee members to advance the practice of infection control and to whom we should give our appreciation.

With the ever increasing threat from multiple fronts, including emerging infections, antimicrobial resistance, more immunosuppressed patients, increased patients expectations on healthcare outcomes and a keen competition for limited resources, infection control is facing a new wave of unprecedented challenges which demand a dedicated team of infection control workers not only knowledgeable in diverse subjects related to infectious diseases but also has to be skillful in communications and coaching in order to drive compliance. The immense efforts currently paid by HKICNA stewardship, structured training, role modeling, research incentives, and partnership with industry in the field is highly appropriate and, I am sure, is going to make a great and long lasting impact.

In closing, I would like to share with you all what Winston Churchill once said, “Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts” and I have every confidence in HKICNA’s continuing.



Dr Bosco Lam
Honorary Secretary, Hong Kong Society for Microbiology and Infection



On behalf of Hong Kong Society for Microbiology and Infection, I am delighted to convey our heartiest congratulations to the Hong Kong Infection Control Nurses’ Association (HKICNA) on its 30th Anniversary! The HKICNA has laid a solid foundation in upholding the standard of infection control and prevention in Hong Kong by its various professional development activities for healthcare professionals, not limiting to infection control nurses but extending its generous support and service to members of various professional fields. This has been well exemplified by our seamless collaboration in co-organizing the 17th Asia Pacific Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infection cum 8th International Infection Control Conference just held last year which was proven to be a huge success, amongst many conjoint seminars we held over the years.

I sincerely wish HKICNA many more fruitful years to come, and we are looking forward to our further collaborations in the future!



Peter Hoffman
Consultant Clinical Scientist
Public Health England



Challenges in infection prevention

I have had the privilege of speaking to infection prevention practitioners in Hong Kong on several occasions over the last decade and I remember meetings of the HKICNA as being particularly well informed and enthusiastic. It is now my honour to be invited to share my thoughts on infection prevention with you on the occasion of your 30th anniversary. I bring you good news and bad news: The good news is that I can see you will be needed every bit as much over the next 30 years; this is also the bad news. The global infection prevention community has made great strides over the last 30 years but, just as we have been successful over that time, the microbes have been resourceful and adaptable. I will focus on 2 areas that I am particularly interested in, but these are only examples of a far wider set of problems.

Environmental aspects of carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE).

CRE include a wide range of bacteria and are intensely resistant to antibiotics, mediated by genetic elements that can readily be passed between different species. With previous problem microbes such as MRSA and *Clostridium difficile*, the healthcare environment was a passive reservoir – these microbes could survive but not proliferate; they were a temporary problem and removed by simple hygiene measures. In contrast, many CRE can live as permanent residents of wet habitats, particularly as part of mixed microbial communities living in slime layers (“biofilms”) in hospital drainage systems. Biofilms are notoriously resistant to chemical disinfection and physical removal. If one area of biofilm is killed or removed, biofilm from nearby unaffected areas will just grow back and recolonise within days. Attempts to remove them by cleaning or replacing sink or shower waste traps are just likely to produce profuse contamination of the clinical environment. The most robust approach is making sure that these bacteria always flow outwards and never come back into the patient environment; that basins and showers drain effectively and water flow from taps does not cause splashing from the drain. Good plumbing is now an essential IPC component. There are very interesting recent observations on removing taps and basins from intensive care units to combat this problem. Whereas a few years ago the approach was to install ever more handwash basins to encourage handwashing, the future approach may be the complete opposite.

The challenges of medical device decontamination:

Medical device decontamination has always been a cornerstone of IPC; do not forget that Semmelweis persuaded his colleagues to decontaminate their instruments as well as their hands. Back in Semmelweis’ day, medical devices were mostly robust metal and could withstand high temperatures and harsh chemicals; this is no longer the case. Engineering and materials science advances now enable high technology devices to assist diagnosis and treatment, but there is a downside; these devices are often complex and delicate. There has been a recent example of CRE transferred between patient by duodenoscopes, probably the most complex of endoscopes. (It is interesting to speculate that this might always have been occurring, but went unnoticed as the microbes had no distinguishing features). There is also current interest in the challenges of decontamination of intracavity probes, principally ultrasound devices. These are in widespread use throughout healthcare and often used in areas where high quality decontamination is difficult. Here single-patient use barriers have provided false reassurance and it is now being realised that a more decontamination-focused approach is necessary. As this will require more time and resources it will definitely not be a popular approach, but that has never been in our job descriptions.



Dr Ling Moi Lin
President, Asia Pacific Society of Infection Control (APSIC)
President, Infection Control Association (Singapore)

HKICNA has been a great example to many in Asia Pacific with respect to the work you have done through your society since 1989.

The International Infection Control Conference held every 2 years is well known in the region and many of us look forward to joining you at these meetings – not only do we learn much from sharing of updates but we get to meet our old friends and meet new ones. You are also an inspiration to other Infection Control societies, who are encouraged to do similar work to bless their people in their own country.

The Infection Control courses you run annually has helped to equip many ICNs in their work. Moreover, this course has contributed much to development and launch of the APSIC course which is now run successfully in several countries in Asia Pacific viz. Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and of course, in Hong Kong, too.

Your support and contribution to Infection Control in the region is indeed admirable. Thank you for the wonderful opportunities to partner with you in this. We grow together.

The passion for learning and spirit of improvement is clearly visible through your work – keep pushing on to greater heights.

I look forward to moving on with you in this work of growing and building Infection Control.

Happy anniversary, HKICNA!



Anucha Apisarntharak
Chief & Professor, Division of Infectious Diseases,
Division of Infectious Diseases, Thammasat University Hospital, Thailand

Big Celebration for HKICNA

It is my great honour to write to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of HKICNA. The organization that full of joy, happiness and achievements is now mature to 30 year of age. Founded by Ms. Patricia Ching and Dr. Wing Hong Seto, the organization is now one of the most recognized organizations in Asia Pacific. Asia Pacific is always a potential area where emerging infectious diseases could occur. Once it occurs, it always has the impact to global society. Strengthening efforts on infection control, thus, would be the first priority in this region. HKICNA has achieved that success by setting up several professional activities including international infection control conferences, annual infection control course, newsletter, and provide research funding for the improvement of the understanding of knowledge in infection prevention field.

Furthermore, the HKICNA works very closely and friendly with several professional organizations both in Hong Kong and outside Hong Kong (e.g., APSIC). This relationship will help develop future collaboration to better improve the understanding and prevention of nosocomial infections and drug resistant in this region. I am positive that the organization will set up with milestone goals for future. I am also positive that the HKICNA will experience with much more success in the future. With the leadership of Ms. Conita Lam, I would like to again congratulate for 30th Anniversary of HKICNA and wish all the best the organization and for any activities that the organization like to initiate in the future. Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to write this congratulation note.

Joanne Chung
Advisor, Peter TC Lee Chair Professor of Health Studies,
Department of Health and Physical Education,
The Education University of Hong Kong



Hong Kong Infection Control Nurses' Association (HKICNA), congratulations to you on your 30th anniversary! People around the world have been impressed by the professional and respectful practices of our nurses in HK and in particular our infection control nurses ever since the dreadful SARS outbreak!

Over the years, there have been lots of developments in the infection control arena. Infection control nurses no longer confine their work in hospitals but extend it to a much wider community such as schools. The Association has been putting tremendous efforts in promoting scientific research, developing core competencies, establishing standards, and implementing quality assurance and enhancement. Yet, challenges are still looming in, like the emergence of super bugs, increasing HAI, succession plan in the workplace, and so on. The Association will continue to provide us with a hub where we can exchange our views, share insights, and support one another.

With advancing technology and use of big data in infection control monitoring, the team of infection control nurses can bring new discoveries and new heights in the arena. I am confident that the Association will continue to strive for its best to improve patient safety, promote healthy habitat environment, and create a safer world for everyone!

Last but not the least, may I take this opportunity to salute all of our respectable Infection Preventionists on this special occasion!



Glenys Harrington
Infection Control Consultancy
Australia



It has been my pleasure to work with the HKICNA over many years. Over this time I have seen the association grow and have admired how they have developed the profession of infection prevention and control over these years.

The commitment to the development of the ICP role stands out in the region and is an example to other association/societies around the world. To see so many infection control practitioners (ICPs) being mentored by the more experienced now coming up through the ranks with the same enthusiasm as their mentors is an achievement to be celebrated.

I would like to congratulate all those who have contributed to the association over the last 30 years and look forward to hearing about your celebrations on the 30 April 2019 for your 30th anniversary.



Dr Helen Tinsley
Advisor, Retired HCE CMC & OLMH

Congratulations to you all as you celebrate this special anniversary: 30th Anniversary

Some of you may remember how it was before we had designated and well trained teams of infection control nurses and infection control officers. In the 1980's I was working as a paediatrician in a publicly funded hospital in Hong Kong and was surprised and troubled to find that infection control was largely left up to individuals and their teams to implement good infection control policies, procedures and protocols. There was limited internal hospital-wide accessible infection control expertise and microbiologist support was external to the hospital. So it was a great pleasure to know about Infection Control Nurse training initiatives at that time being spearheaded by the team at Queen Mary Hospital. I was fortunate to be granted the time to join nurses from all over Hong Kong hospitals for that first 2 week training course. That early cohort were a powerful force in the foundation and development of Infection Control across Hong Kong as a recognized specialty, with hospital based funded positions for nurses, the appointment of Infection Control Officers and the setting up of hospital based Infection Control Committees with their associated policies. With support from senior hospital management, staff and teams became accountable for the management of infection risks in their respective hospital departments. It was also one of the few clinical teams within a hospital which had a bird's eye view of the performance of all departments, and because of close and trusting working relationships with ICNs/ ICOs in other hospitals, it was possible to benchmark standards, seek advice when dealing with difficult hospital situations, and also liaise effectively with Department of Health teams on matters of Public Health. Among other initiatives, hospital wide annual prevalence surveys of hospital acquired infections provided important information on how to improve our care for both patients and staff. Advice from the infection control team was routinely sought in the planning of new facilities, the purchase of new equipment and the orientation of new staff. It was my privilege for a period of time to be Infection Control Officer in the hospital where I served, and also Honorary Adviser for the HKICNA.

Since those early days, Infection Control in Hong Kong as a specialty has gone from strength to strength, often facing great challenges during outbreak situations and epidemics, such as SARS in 2003, with international recognition. It has gained status as an important component of Quality and Safety initiatives and Accreditation Programmes in both the private and public sectors of health care in Hong Kong. Infection Control reports are now well accepted as an integral part of Clinical Governance. Future challenges may be different from those of the past, but will undoubtedly need staff such as yourselves with skills and expertise to face them.

Thanks to all those who have helped to achieve so much over the past 30 years.

May you continue to build on those many achievements in the future.



Sammy Chan
Honorary IT advisor

Congratulations on reaching a milestone-
30th year is a big one for any Association!



Council Office

1st January 2019 - 31st December 2020

The election of the council for 2019-2020 was completed in December 2018. The table below shows the result:

Executive Members	Other Members	Alternate Members
Chairman: CHING Hon Chung Radley (PMH)	CHAN Wai Leng Queenie (HKSH)	CHOW Man Sing Madelaine (TMH)
Vice-Chairman: LEE Suet Yi Shirley (QEH)	CHEN Chi Ping (YCH)	LAI Wai Man Yvette (PYNEH)
Secretary: WONG Lai Ching Isadora (DKCH)	CHENG Ka Lam (PMH)	
Treasurer: KAN Chun Hoi (TMH)	CHIU Chor Shan Gloria (PWH)	
	KONG Man Ying (CICO office, HAHO)	
	LEUNG Fat Ying Annie (CMC)	



HKICNA would thank all members of the immediate past council for their dedication and support.

Professional Training Subcommittee

In order to further develop and support professional training, HKICNA formed a Professional Training Subcommittee (PTS) in 2017.

The composition of the PTS from 2019 to 2020 is as follows:

Chair	LAM Hung Suet Conita
Vice-chair	CHIU Chor Shan Gloria (PWH)
Secretary	CHENG Ka Lam (PMH)
Members	CHEUNG Woon Yee, Christina (TKOH)
	CHOW Man Sing Madelaine (TMH)
	KONG Man Ying (CICO office, HAHO)
	KWOK Man Kee Maggie (STH)
	WONG Lai Ching Isadora (DKCH)

HKICNA would thank all members of the past PTS for their dedication and support.

Welcome on board
Associate Editor : Ms Cheng Ka Lam

News and Information

A. Courses

1. The 3rd Certificate Course of Infection Prevention & Control for Infection Control Professionals: 3rd May - 1st June 2019

The course is jointly organized by WHO Collaborating Center for Infectious Diseases Epidemiology and Control, Caritas Institute of Higher Education, Asia Pacific Society of Infection Control (APSIC) and HKICNA. It aims to equip health care personnel with up-to-date infection control knowledge to practice professionally. The special features of the course include site visit like CSSD, endoscopy, haemodialysis, laundry and simulation training.

It is open for application on a first come first served basis. Special registration rate is given to early bird till 19 April 2019.

For details, please visit our website <http://www.hkicna.org>

For enquiry: please email to hkicna.hkicna@gmail.com

Contact person: Ms Vivian Wong ☎3702 4254

Certificate course of Infection Prevention and Control for Infection Control Professionals
2019

Course Duration
3 May to 1 June 2019 (Friday & Saturday)

Aim of this course
to equip healthcare personnel with up-to-date infection control knowledge to practice professionally

Special Features

1. Site Visit
 - CSSD
 - Endoscopy
 - Haemodialysis
 - Laundry
 - Catering
2. Simulation training
 - resuscitation of patients with highly infectious disease

Course Content

- ◊ Basic microbiology, epidemiology and outbreak investigation
- ◊ Surveillance, basic statistic and management skills
- ◊ Prevention and control of healthcare associated infections and implementation of patient-care-practices
- ◊ Managing Multi-Drug Resistant Organisms, emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases
- ◊ Occupational Safety and Health in infection control including staff vaccination and proper use of Personal Protective Equipment
- ◊ Infection control in special areas like ICU, endoscopy, haemodialysis unit

Application
Fees: HK\$7,000

Special Rate of HK\$6,500 for Early Bird Registration before 19 April 2019 and HKICNA members.
Contact Person: Ms. Vivian Wong Telephone: (852) 3702 4254 Email: ipccourse@cihe.edu.hk
Address: School of Health Sciences, Caritas Institute of Higher Education, 2 Chai Ling Lane, Tseung Kwan O, New Territories

2. Clinic Assistant Infection Control Training Program 2019

By 2018, HKICNA was invited to organize this training program, aiming to equip the staff working in clinics (e.g. clinic assistant, personnel responsible for the clinic infection control) with basic infection control knowledge.

The course is scheduled tentatively in June 2019 and the course information has been disseminated to the target group via ICB.

For details, please visit our home page <http://www.hkicna.org>

3. The Certificate Course on Infection Control for Nurses (2018) - Scholarship

The Course was conducted successfully in 2018. The passing rate of the course assessment was about 95%. LAI Ching Hung (CHP) achieved the highest score of the course assessment and has been invited for the presentation of the course scholarship of \$1000 at the 30th anniversary AGM scheduled on 4th May 2019.

CLINIC ASSISTANT INFECTION CONTROL TRAINING PROGRAM

Date (Tentative)
08 June 2019
15 June 2019
22 June 2019
29 June 2019

Time
15:00 – 18:00

Venue
Lecture Theatre,
Centre for Health Protection
147C Argyle Street, Kowloon

Target participants
Staff working in clinics (e.g. clinic assistants; personnel that are responsible / interested for the infection control in clinic. (Preferably with 2 years of clinic working experience)

Medium of instruction
Cantonese supplemented with English

Fee
\$800 (please refer to the registration form for the payment method)

Click here or scan the QR code for registration

Deadline for registration (Tentative)
11 May 2019

Confirmation of enrollment (Tentative)
Before 18 May 2019

IMPORTANT TOPICS

- Understanding the chain of infection
- Structure and management of an out-patient clinic, clinic design
- Staff health and safety
- Infection control audit
- Surveillance and disease reporting
- Standard Precaution & Transmission Based Precautions
- Hand hygiene & Personal Protective Equipment
- Respiratory Hygiene / Cough Etiquette
- Patient Triage and Placement
- Safe Injection Practices
- Safe storage of medication & vaccines
- Reprocessing reusable medical devices
- Environmental cleaning and disinfection
- Handling of linen
- Waste Management including sharps
- Specimen Handling

Organized by Hong Kong Infection Control Nurses' Association
For details, please visit HKICNA website www.hkicna.org or hkicna.hkicna@gmail.com for enquiry

B. Seminar: 1.5 specialty CNE

On 18 January 2019, HKICNA jointly organized a seminar with Hong Kong College of Medical Nursing with about 50 participants joining us from hospitals of private and public sector.

Two important topics were discussed at the seminar:

1. Antimicrobial Stewardship: Reversing the Upward Trend in Antimicrobial Resistant Pathogens
Speaker: Dr William Jarvis, President of Jason & Jarvis Associates, LLC, USA.

2. Routine to Research in Infection Prevention

Speaker: Dr Anucha Apisarnthanarak, Professor in Infectious diseases; Chief, Division of ID, Thammasat University Hospital, Thailand

The seminar was thought-provoking and inspiring. HKICNA will continue to bring the latest news and updates to our health care and infection control professionals.

C. Congress / Symposium:

1. 12th Annual Conference (Infection Prevention 2019) of Infection Prevention Society

22-24 September 2019 Liverpool UK <http://www.ips.uk.net/conference>

2. 8th International Conference of ACIPC (Australasian College for Infection Prevention and Control)

18-22 November 2019 Perth WA, Australia <http://www.acipconference.com.au>

3. SHEA (The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America) Spring 2020 – Decennial

26-30 March 2020 Atlanta, GA ,USA <http://sheaspring.org>



Scholarship & Sponsorship



Introduction:

It aims to encourage members to advance education and conduct research on infection control.

The Scholarship / Sponsorship is **NOT** intended to provide **FULL coverage** of costs and expenses to applicants. Successful applicants are expected to contribute part of those costs and expenses on their own. In addition, applicants are required to ensure that the HKICNA Scholarship / Sponsorship shall be their **SOLE and EXCLUSIVE source of financial subsidy** for the event.

The application and the amount granted is subject to HKICNA's sole decision and discretion, which is full and final.

Event to support for 2019 Scholarship / Sponsorship: <http://apsic2019.com>

9th International Congress of Infection Control of the APSIC on 19-22 March 2019, Da Nang, Vietnam.

Successful applicants list:

Types of support	Grant Maximum per successful applicant.	Successful applicant	
		Name	Hospital / working place
Scholarship: granted to those with Successful acceptance of oral / poster presentation & presented / posted at conference as required	HKD \$9,000	CHAN Nga Han	QEH
		LO Wun Kei	QEH
		YAU Yu Ching	DKCH
		LO Lai Chu, Estella	DKCH
Sponsorship	HKD \$5,000	KONG Man Ying	CICO office, HAHO

Reimbursement:

The successful applicants are required to submit for the reimbursement **on or before 22 April 2019**. The HKICNA Council reserves its right NOT to approve reimbursement if ALL REQUIRED documents for APPLICATION for reimbursement have not reached HKICNA on or before deadline.

Enquiry: please send to hkcna.hkcna@gmail.com

Journey To Success: 2014-2018

Lam Hung Suet Conita Professional Training Subcommittee

In 2014, we celebrated HKICNA's silver jubilee anniversary and shared an album of all the key milestones achieved over the past 25 years with you. This year heralds the 30th anniversary of HKICNA's establishment. Let's celebrate this great milestone.

In the past five years, despite facing challenges both new and old, HKICNA continues to strive to prevent and control infections. Thank you to each and everyone of you who have supported us throughout the years, and helped us overcome each and every one of these challenges together.

I'd like to briefly recap our key achievements in 2014 to 2018:

1. The biennial International Infection Control Conference (IICC):

The 6th, 7th and 8th IICCs were held in 2014, 2016 & 2018, respectively to much acclaim. The 8th Conference was jointly organized with the 17th Asia Pacific Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infection (APCCMI), with over 1,000 participants from 41 countries attending and over 250 presentation abstracts received.





HKICNA Anniversary Since 1989

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HKICNA Anniversary Since 1989

HKICNA Anniversary Since 1989

HKICNA Anniversary Since 1989



At the president dinner: Dr Seto (Chairman of HKSMM) & Ms Shirley Lee (Chairman of HKICNA) presented souvenir to our officiating guests: Dr Marc Sprenger (Director of the WHO secretariat for antimicrobial resistance)



A dinner show of the Sichuan art, 'Changing Face'

25 HKICNA Anniversary Since 1989

HKICNA Anniversary Since 1989

HKICNA Anniversary Since 1989

HKICNA Anniversary Since 1989

HKICNA Anniversary Since 1989

HKICNA Anniversary Since 1989



All "High Five" to celebrate the successful conference.

The upcoming 9th ICC is scheduled on 3 to 5 July 2020 at HKCEC. Please save the date for this exciting infection control event - a must-see for all health care professional.

9th International Infection Control Conference

第九屆控制感染國際會議

Save the Date



3-5 July 2020

**Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition
Centre, Hong Kong SAR, China**

香港會議展覽中心



Organiser :



Hong Kong Infection Control Nurses' Association

香港控制感染護士會

hkicna.hkicna@gmail.com

2. Infection Control Training Program:

- a. **Annual Basic Infection Control Certificate Course for Nurses:** We ran five successful courses with over 600 participants.
- b. **Certificate Course of Infection Prevention and Control for Infection Control Professionals:** We ran this course twice in 2017 & 2018 with great success. It was jointly organized with the WHO collaborating Center for Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Control (WHOCC); Caritas Institute of Higher Education (CIHE) & Asia Pacific Society of Infection Control (APSIC).
- c. **Seminars:** We organised eleven fantastic seminars.

3. Sponsorship and Scholarship:

- a. **Conferences:** About a hundred of members were approved for various sponsorships and scholarships to enable them to attend local and overseas infection control conferences / courses. Since it's inception, HKICNA sponsored over 360 members to local and overseas infection control events.
 - b. **Basic Infection Control Certificate Course for Nurses:** Five course scholarships were awarded to the top students of the courses. Since it's inception , HKICNA presented scholarship to 29 top students.
4. **Newsletter:** there were 10 issues (25-34) published, available on our home page. In March 2019, we will release issue 35.
5. **Establishment of PTS:** In 2017, we established a Professional Training Subcommittee (PTS). Chaired by the immediate past chairman Lam Hung Suet Conita, it focused on supporting professional training and development. The PTS included Lai Wai Man Yvette (secretary), Chan Fung Yee Regina, Ching Hon Chung Radley, Chow Man Sing Madelaine, Wong Lai Ching Isadora, Chiu Chor Shan Gloria, Lee Wan Mui and Cheung Woon Yee Christina. Their term ended in 2018, and we would like to express our gratitude for all their dedication and support.
6. **Fellowship:** Under grandfathering scheme, there were about 45 fellow members of Infection Control conferred till 2014. After this scheme, we developed the syllabus and assessment for the certification program (infection control) to guide the infection control nurse to be a fellow member (Infection Control) of Hong Kong Academy of Nursing (for details, please refer to the road map released in issue 33). The syllabus and assessment were endorsed by the Education Committee of HKAN in 2018.
7. **Research Grant:** One grant was awarded to the research topic "Assessment of the in-use Reliability of N95 respirators for respiratory protection before, during, and after nursing procedures", which was released in the American Journal of Infection Control 45 (2017) 974-8. Please refer to that issue for detail.
8. **Membership:** our membership continues to grow while founding members are still with us.
9. **Annual General Meeting (AGM):** AGM was organized by April / May yearly. Five successful ones were run together with pre-AGM seminar.



AGM on 4th May 2019

Register : <https://goo.gl/forms/bRSDCGkzMhPDTpzn2>

Deadline : 4 April 2019

Details, please visit www.hkicna.org.

