

HKICNA Newsletter

ISSUE 39, DECEMBER 2024



Chairman's message

Dear Friends,

As we gather to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the Hong Kong Infection Control Nurses' Association (HKICNA), I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each of you who has contributed to our journey over the years. This milestone is not just a reflection of our longevity, but a testament to our collective efforts, dedication, and commitment to enhancing infection control practices in Hong Kong and beyond.

In 1989, we have faced numerous challenges, evolving in response to the ever-changing landscape of infection control in healthcare setting. Our commitment to education, research, and advocacy has allowed us to make significant strides in improving patient safety and public health.

I would like to acknowledge the invaluable contributions of our dedicated members, healthcare professionals, and stakeholders. Your unwavering support has empowered us to implement effective infection control measures and to foster a culture of safety within our healthcare systems.

As we look to the future, let us continue to work together to advance our mission. The next 35 years hold immense potential for innovation and collaboration, and I am excited about what we can achieve together.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to excellence in infection control. Let us celebrate our achievements and continue to strive for a healthier, safer future for all.

Radley Ching
Chairman of HKICNA

Celebrating 35 Years of Excellence in Infection Control

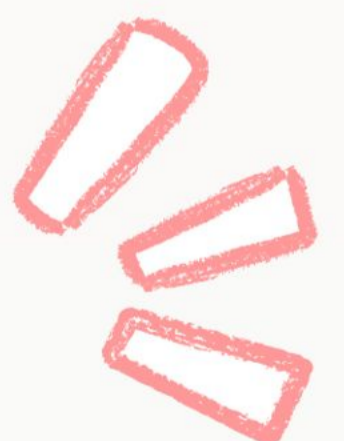
35th Anniversary Annual General Meeting



The HKICNA recently held the 35th Anniversary Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 22 June 2024. The event witnessed a remarkable turnout of 194 members, bringing together esteemed advisors, speakers, council members, and sponsors, highlighting the collaborative spirit of our community in the field of infection control.

Seminar Highlights: “Are You Ready for *Candida auris*?”

The meeting kicked off with an informative seminar led by Dr. Kristine Luk, Service Director (Pathology) at Kowloon West Cluster and Chief of Service at Princess Margaret Hospital and North Lantau Hospital. Dr. Luk provided valuable insights into the emerging threat of *Candida auris*, equipping attendees with the necessary knowledge for enhanced infection preparedness.



Annual General Meeting Proceedings



Chairman's Report:

Mr. Radley Ching shared an inspiring overview of the association's accomplishments and the upcoming events. Mr. Ching also recognized the invaluable contributions of the working group helpers, whose diligence and dedication underpin our success.



Financial Report:

A brief overview of the financial report was presented by Ms. Madelaine Chow, Treasurer of HKICNA.

Advisor Recognition:

Mr. Ching expressed sincere gratitude to our honored advisors.



Professor Seto Wing Hong (Director, WHO Collaborating Centre for Infection Control)



Professor Hung Fan Ngai, Ivan (Chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases at LKS Faculty of Medicine, The University of Hong Kong)



Professor Joanne Chung (Peter TC Lee Chair Professor of Health Studies, The Education University of Hong Kong)



Mr. Alan Yau (Legal advisor of HKICNA)

Awards Presentation



The event concluded with an awards presentation led by Ms. Gloria Chiu, Vice-Chairman of HKICNA, celebrating excellence among our members. Notable recognitions included:



Top Student of Certificate Course:
Ms. Hui Tan Yi (Princess Margaret Hospital)



Winner of the Badge Design Competition:
Ms. Macy Tam (Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital)

Acknowledgment of Sponsors



Ms. Queenie Chan, Council Member of HKICNA, took the stage to thank our sponsors, whose support is crucial to our events and initiatives.



Engaging Activities

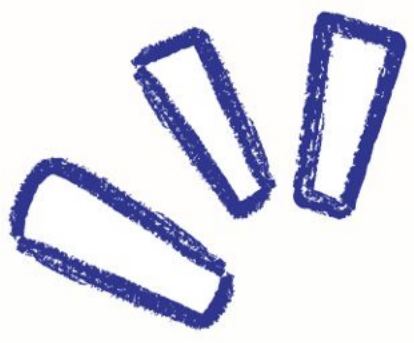
Participants enjoyed exciting games and a lucky draw, fostering friendship and engagement throughout the event.



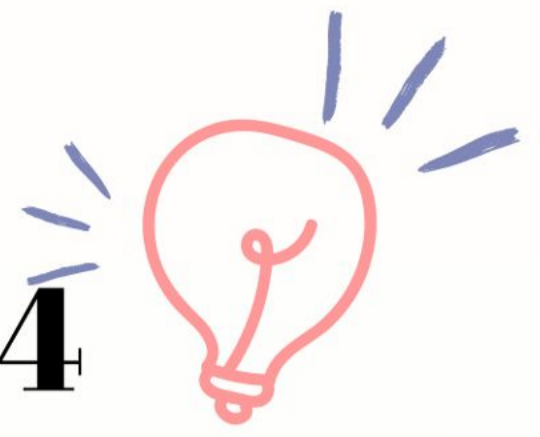


Conclusion

The 35th Anniversary AGM was a resounding success, reflecting the strength and dynamism of the HKICNA community. Thank you to all attendees and contributors for making this milestone celebration memorable. We look forward to your continued support in our mission to enhance infection control practices.



Asia Pacific Society of Infection Control (APSIC) 2024



The 11th International Congress of the Asia Pacific Society of Infection Control (APSIC) was held in Jakarta, Indonesia, from July 25-28, 2024. The annual theme was "Infection Prevention and Control for All: Implementation in Healthcare Settings and Community." Key topics included Device-related healthcare-associated bloodstream infections, Management of Multidrug-resistant Organisms, Catheter-associated Urinary Tract Infections, Ventilator-associated Events, Antimicrobial Resistance, Outbreaks, Infection Prevention and Control in Specialty Settings, The Impact of Antimicrobial Resistance, Hand Hygiene, Construction and Renovation, Infection Prevention and Control Challenges During the COVID-19 Pandemic, Optimizing Antimicrobial Surveillance, Healthcare Worker Safety, Infection Control in Endoscopy, Antibiotic Stewardship, Strengthening Infection Prevention and Control, Healthcare-associated Surgical Site Infections, and Healthcare Facilities and the Environment.

Over the course of four days, the event unfolded smoothly and productively, as the expertise in infection control was brought to life in an animated and inspiring manner. The thought-provoking presentations by the speakers were educational, enlightening, and motivating, captivating the audience's attention and leaving a lasting impression. Additionally, the proactive contributions and enthusiastic participation of all attendees fostered a productive and collaborative atmosphere, leading to the successful and constructive conclusion of the congress.



HKICNA awarded scholarships to two members, Ms. Joanne Kwok Wing Ying and Ms. Sue Pun Sut Kam, to attend the APSIC 2024. We are pleased to share two contributory anecdotes from their experience.

How will artificial intelligence (AI) transform Surgical Site Infection (SSI) surveillance?

Shared by Ms. KWOK Wing Ying Joanne, ICN, St. Paul's Hospital

The APSIC 2024 was very comprehensive in sharing infection control topics and new inspirations. One of the interesting topics "How will artificial intelligence (AI) transform Surgical Site Infection (SSI) surveillance?" was shared by Mr. Doo Ryeon Chung from Korea. Electronic and AI-based surveillance has been implemented in Korea to overcome the limitations of manual surveillance. While fully automated surveillance made subjective clinical judgment impossible, semiautomatic surveillance, combining electronic algorithms with manual review, achieves high sensitivity and specificity, and reduces manual workload. Using electronic screening algorithms could decrease the number of cases requiring chart review per year by 66.7% and estimated



time for review (person-hours) per year by 62.4% compared with the conventional method.

AI techniques like machine learning and natural language processing improve the accuracy and efficiency of SSI detection. Studies indicate that using both structured and unstructured data significantly outperforms traditional methods. Continued advancements in AI technology and further research are essential for developing fully automatic SSI surveillance systems.

Considerations for implementing AI in SSI surveillance:

- Data privacy and security issues
- Interoperability with existing systems
- Training and upskilling healthcare staff
- Addressing ethical concerns

AI has been applied in several healthcare aspects, like diagnostic imaging, pathology, disease prediction, robotic surgeries, personalized medicine, patient care and hospital management. With further research and studies, modern approaches in merging AI technologies for infection surveillance could be enhanced in terms of accuracy and efficiency.

An issue which some people might be curious about is to go back to pre-COVID-19 standard of cleaning in healthcare settings or not. The message is: don't look back and keep the momentum post-pandemic. There is estimated 20-40% of healthcare-associated infection are spread through the healthcare environment. Environmental hygiene is important yet usually underfunded and understudied. There are multimodal strategies for healthcare environmental hygiene facilitate improvement, e.g. system change, training and education, monitoring and feedback, workplace reminders and institutional safety climate. Steps have been taking in moving forward to promote clean hospitals by growing the Clean Hospitals initiative, working on addressing gaps in the field, translating and diffusing the Healthcare Environmental Hygiene Self-Assessment Framework (HEHSAF) and working to include relevant stakeholders globally to ensure sustainability.

It was my first time travelling abroad to join an international congress, which was a precious opportunity to enhance my interest in infection control practice and to be inspired by professionals in multidisciplinary infection control aspects.



■ Promoting hand hygiene before dinner

■ APSIC 2024—Poster presentation



Advancing Infection Control: My Journey to APSIC 2024

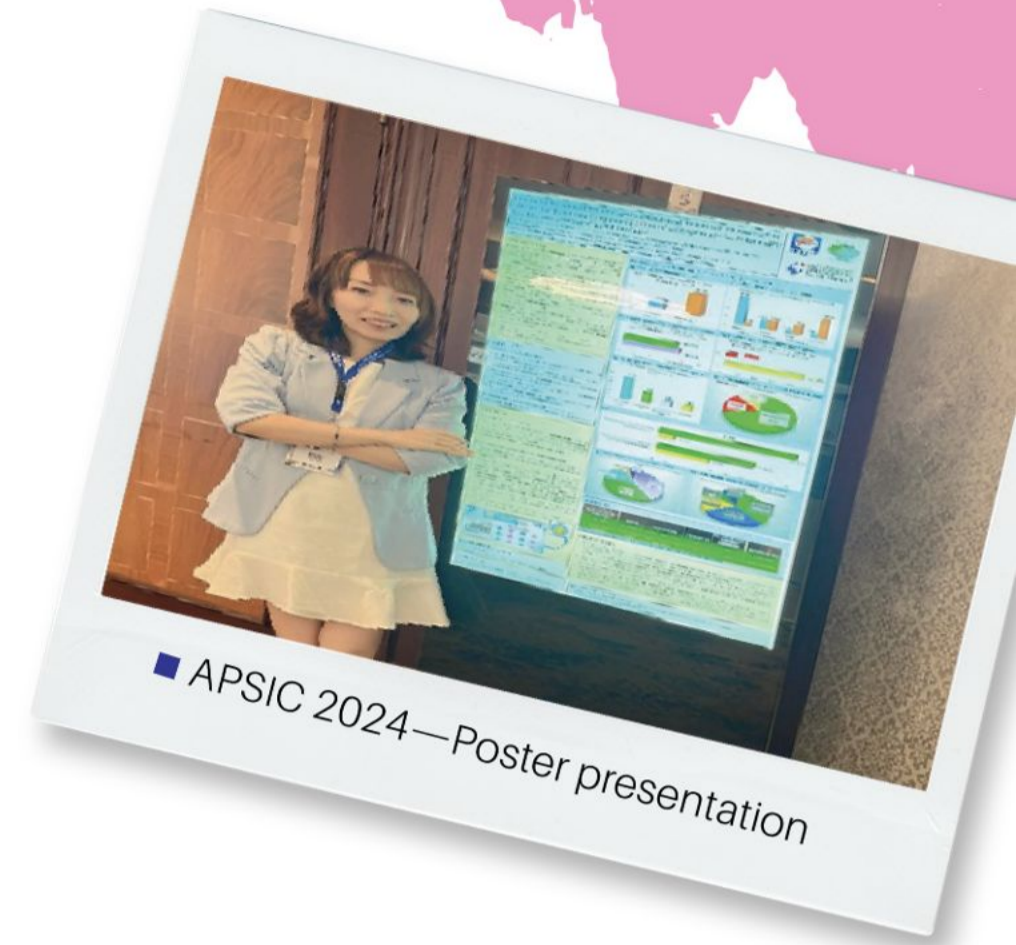
Shared by Ms. Sue PUN, Assistant Nursing Manager, Infection Control Department, Evangel Hospital

I submitted my study abstract "Community Hand Hygiene Awareness and Behavior Change after COVID-19 Pandemic Support Patients' Engagement in Enhancing Healthcare Workers' Hand Hygiene" to APSIC 2024 in March and was accepted to be presented as a poster in the APSIC 2024. The poster summarized two surveys and one campaign concerning hand hygiene which were conducted in Year 2023 and 2024. One of the surveys was conducted to examine the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on hand hygiene behaviors and the perception on patient empowerment in hand hygiene for members of the public. It is because during the COVID-19 pandemic, hand hygiene became an integral part of everybody's life in order to avoid the disease.

In addition to the raised awareness of personal hand hygiene, it may also affect their concern about the hand hygiene level of healthcare workers (HCWs). Most patients are interested in participating in their care, but many are hesitant because of different reasons.

This community survey aimed to examine the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on hand hygiene behaviors and the perception on patient empowerment in hand hygiene for members of the public. This was a cross-sectional survey study of community convenient samplings using an anonymous, self-administered questionnaire. The survey was distributed and promoted during World Hand Hygiene Activity Day Event held by Evangel Hospital. All survey participants were age 18 or older.

A total of 217 completed surveys were collected during the survey period from 5th May to 30th May 2023. The survey found that before the pandemic, there were 33.6% respondents had alcohol based hand rub. After the pandemic, the number increased to 92.6%. There was a significantly different in the daily frequency of AHR. Before the pandemic, there were 67.3% respondents had almost never using alcohol based hand rub in a day. After the pandemic, less than 7% respondents had almost never using alcohol based hand rub in a day. 46.1% respondents stated they were using AHR more than 7 times per day. Most of our respondents (98.6%) agreed with the importance of hand hygiene in stopping the spread of infection. Majority of them (89.4%) kept the awareness of the hand hygiene practice by HCWs in hospital or clinic. We found that respondents were more likely to ask a nurse (70.5%) rather than a doctor (65.9%) to perform hand hygiene. More than half of the participant (54.8%) felt comfortable to remind HCWs to perform hand hygiene.



Another survey was conducted to examine the attitude of clinical staff towards patient empowerment in hand hygiene. This was a cross-sectional survey study of targeted clinical staff samplings using an anonymous, self-administered questionnaire. A total of 109 completed surveys were collected during the survey period from 1st June to 9th June 2023. 77% agreed patients' reminder could improve hand hygiene compliance and 83.5% of them agreed patient's reminder could reduce hospital-acquired infection. Moreover, 89.9% of respondents would accept patient's hand hygiene reminder and 64.9% of them even would encourage their patient to give hand hygiene reminder.

In view of the promising results: public's hand hygiene recognition raised and HCWs were receptive to patients' hand hygiene reminder, Infection Control Department thus justified that it was feasible to start hand hygiene promotion campaign that involve patient engagement. It was a hospital-wide program, named "Patient Hand Hygiene Observation Campaign" which was held to serve as a positive approach and a multimodal strategy to promote both patient and HCWs' hand hygiene awareness.

The campaign was conducted wards and centres. We invited patients to observe the hand hygiene compliance of nurses, healthcare assistants, physiotherapists and phlebotomists. The participants gave stickers that corresponded to HCW's correct hand hygiene opportunities. The number of stickers to hand hygiene opportunity ratio indicated hand hygiene compliance. A pilot study was conducted from 14 to 16 March 2024 and the official campaign was conducted from 8 to 31 May 2024. As a result, 129 patients participated in the campaign, total observed hand hygiene observation opportunities were 238. All departments hand hygiene compliance rate were 100%. This patient engagement campaign served as a pioneer in hand hygiene promotion exercise. Undoubtedly, patient empowerment would become one of the rising trends in the medical community. In order to improve hand hygiene adherence, a multimodal strategy should be incorporated to raise the acceptance among general public and HCWs.



■ Nurse participants from Hong Kong Private Hospitals



■ Group photo with Professor Didier Pittet (Infectious disease expert of the WHO)

Upcoming Event

Mark your calendars for the 9th International Infection Control Conference,
Scheduled from 30 May to 1 June 2025 in Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre.

9th INTERNATIONAL INFECTION CONTROL CONFERENCE 第九屆控制感染國際會議

30th May - 1st June 2025

Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre, Hong Kong SAR, China
香港會議展覽中心

Connect, Inspire and Engage

Scan for
Conference information



www.hkicna.org

hkicna.hkicna@gmail.com

Organizer
主辦單位:



Hong Kong Infection
Control Nurses' Association
香港控制感染護士會

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CHIU Chor Shan Gloria
Vice- Chairman

CHENG Ka Lam Kaley
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Isadora WONG
HONORARY ADVISOR

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Founding Chair

For more detail and updated events, please access HKICNA Webpage:
<https://www.hkicna.org>