

ACIPPC
Australasian College
for Infection Prevention and Control

IPC News
March 2022

ACIPC President Kristie Popkiss

Welcome to the March issue of Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) News.

Lately I've been reflecting about what I call IPC burnout in the context of the last two years and the pandemic. It's that somewhat overwhelming feeling of physical and mental exhaustion, fatigue from making difficult decisions and delivering bad news, as well as the constant risk of infection to patients, staff, ourselves and our families. There also seems to be a culture of 'everyone is an expert' which has created an almost daily scrutiny of both our service delivery and advice.



Maybe this is something that resonates with you? I know for many of us, IPC burnout can lead to feeling "over it" and questioning the value of the work we do. We are in the middle of a massive, global cultural change where IPC is becoming a part of everyday life. We and workers in this field, are central to driving this change. I want to encourage you all to know that you are valued, and the work we do is so incredibly fundamental to keeping patients and communities safe, now and into the future.


There have been some ACIPC highlights this month that I'd like to share with you.

Recently, ACIPC member Louise Laurie was deployed to work in health facilities across Kiribati. This was organised through the College's partnership with the World Health Organization, Global Outbreak Alert Network (GOARN). Louise worked with local experts and health workers to deliver training and share advice on infection prevention and control during the COVID-19 surge. We will be catching up with Louise about her GOARN experiences in the next issue of IPC News.

It was recently brought to my attention that Credentialling has been with the College for 25 years. The framework has undergone a number of revisions and the College is currently looking at how we can best support the Credentialling and Professional Standards Committee with this critical part of the College's work. We will also be looking at ways to promote the value of credentialling, which will help raise awareness of the value of our profession.

All Foundations graduates are eligible to apply to become credentialled at the Primary level and I encourage you to contact the team in the office to be sent a package to apply.

The theme for this year's conference is: *Leading through the expanding horizons of IPC*. The conference will provide an opportunity to reflect on the lessons learnt during the pandemic, our remote leadership, pivoting and adapting the past to deal with the present and future and the innovations that have occurred in IPC along with other developments in industry and research. By attending the conference, you will learn from national and international experts, network with likeminded professionals, and meet with Australasia's largest collection of IPC industry suppliers.



The conference will take place in hybrid format to help accommodate ongoing changes to COVID rules and restrictions. Attendees have the flexibility to change their registration in the lead up to the event.

Registration is now open on the conference website: <https://acipcconference.com.au/>

We are also calling for conference abstracts and the deadline for submission is 17 June. I invite you to showcase your achievements, innovations, quality assurance and research activities, by submitting an abstract and presenting at the conference. For more information and to submit, please visit the website.

Until next month, warm regards,



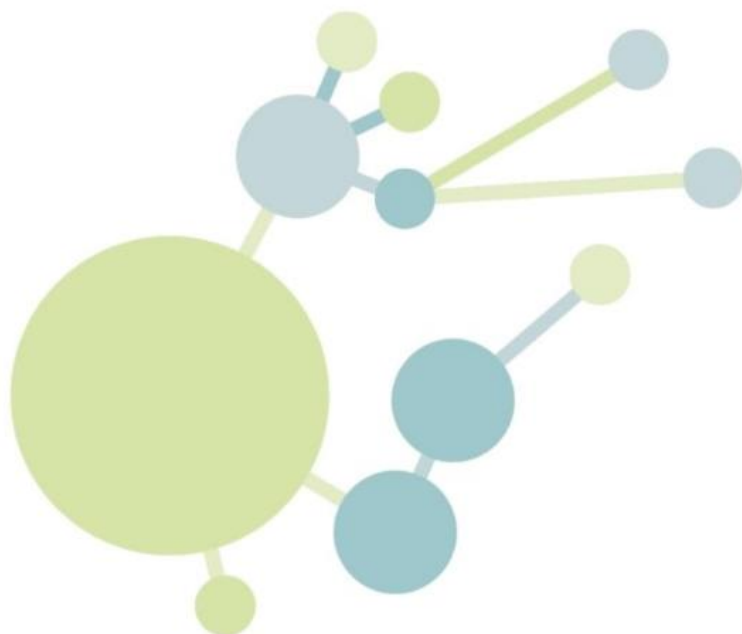
Kristie Popkiss

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Head to Health

Head to Health has a number of resources and 24/7 support if you, or someone you know is going through a difficult time.

<https://www.headtohealth.gov.au/crisis-links>



Recently Credentialed & Recredentialed Members

This month we celebrate the following members for becoming credentialed or recredentialed through the College.

- Sandra Roodt
- Belinda Andrews
- Madelaine Flynn
- Irene Barron
- Mary Willimann

For more information on Credentialling visit: <https://www.acipc.org.au/credentialling/>

Antimicrobial Resistance Collection: *Infection Disease & Health*

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is global health threat. The causes and contributors to AMR vary, but include selective pressures by the overuse of antibiotics, genetic elements and substandard infection prevention and control practices. Infection Disease & Health is primarily concerned with the prevention and control of infections in human health. In this virtual special issue of the journal, the editors have compiled a selection of articles that are related to one of the biggest challenges of our time – AMR. The articles include a broad range of topics, from antimicrobial stewardship, knowledge and attitudes towards antibiotics, prescribing practices and cost. Articles cover a diverse range of health settings, including hospitals, general practice and broader public health considerations. This collection of articles provides a great example of how the journal serves as an important platform for health research and uniquely contributes to the infection prevention and control agenda internationally.

[A survey of the antibiotic prescribing practices of doctors in an Australian Emergency Department](#)

Maya C.S. Clemence, Andrew Henderson, Charles B. Greenbury, Robert E.L. Norton, Jeremy Furyk

Vol. 23, Issue 2, p67–73

[Antibiotic prescribing in primary healthcare: Dominant factors and trade-offs in decision-making](#)

Elaine P.M. Lum, Katie Page, Jennifer A. Whitty, Jenny Doust, Nicholas Graves

Vol. 23, Issue 2, p74–86

[How much do superbugs cost Australian hospitals? An evidence-based open-access tool](#)

Teresa M. Wozniak, Nicholas Graves, Adrian G. Barnett

Vol. 23, Issue 1, p54–56

[Clinical management of drug-resistant bacteria in Australian hospitals: An online survey of doctors' opinions](#)

Teresa M. Wozniak

Vol. 23, Issue 1, p41–48

[Knowledge, practices & attitude toward antibiotics use and bacterial resistance in Jordan: A cross-sectional study](#)

Dawood Yusef, Ahmad I. Babaa, Alaa Z. Bashaireh, Haitham H. Al-Bawayeh, Kenan Al-Rijjal, Maisa Nedal, Sajeda Kailani

Vol. 23, Issue 1, p33–40

[Review of the epidemiological data regarding antimicrobial resistance in Gram-negative bacteria in Australia](#)

Teresa M. Wozniak, David Paterson, Kate Halton

Vol. 22, Issue 4, p210–218

[Individual care versus broader public health: A qualitative study of hospital doctors' antibiotic decisions](#)

J. Broom, A. Broom, E. Kirby, A.F. Gibson, J.J. Post

Vol. 22, Issue 3, p97–104

[Nurses are underutilised in antimicrobial stewardship – Results of a multisite survey in paediatric and adult hospitals](#)

Mona Mostaghim, Thomas Snelling, Brendan McMullan, Pam Konecny, Stuart Bond, Suman Adhikari, Adriana Chubaty, Cathy Lovell, Beata Bajorek

Vol. 22, Issue 2, p57–64

[Multidrug resistant gram-negative bacteria in Tasmania: An audit based pilot study](#)

Thomas G. Heazlewood, Kathryn Ogden, Damhnat McCann

Vol. 21, Issue 1, p41–50

[Evaluating antimicrobial therapy: How reliable are remote assessors?](#)

Menino Osbert Cotta, Tim Spelman, Caroline Chen, Rodney S. James, Danny Liew, Karin A. Thursky, Kirsty L. Busing, Caroline Marshall

Vol. 21, Issue 1, p3–10

Short Course for IPC in Aged Care

ACIPC's Short Course in Infection Prevention and Control in Aged Care Settings is a self-paced 18-20 hour online course for staff who work alongside IPC Clinical Leads. The course is recommended for Registered and Enrolled Nurses working in the aged care sector.

The course will be open for registration soon with the first group of students commencing on 24 May. The College will be contacting Residential Aged Care Facilities directly with an invitation to enrol staff in the course throughout the year.

The short course will increase the IPC knowledge and skills of RNs and EN/EENs working in aged care settings leading to:

- increased quality and safety in care delivery
- improved supervision and education of care workers
- implementation of AMS and other IPC strategies
- support for the IPC Clinical Leads and Facility/Clinical managers

The course cost is \$500 per staff member and more details including a link to register interest in the course can be found on the ACIPC website – <https://www.acipc.org.au/education/short-course>

Please note, if staff have already completed the Foundations of Infection Prevention and Control course, there is no need to complete the short course.

FIPC Course Availability

The College is running Foundations of IPC on demand. Visit the ACIPC website for upcoming courses and to book a course.

Visit: <https://www.acipc.org.au/education/>

FIPC Graduate Pins

Anyone who has successfully completed the Foundations of Infection Prevention and Control course can apply for a FIPC Graduate Pin via the ACIPC website. Pictures of our graduates are featured in the gallery - <https://www.acipc.org.au/acipc-fipc-graduate-pin-gallery/>.

Research, Grants and Scholarships Committee Update

The ACIPC Research Grants and Scholarships Committee is a newly formed committee that will facilitate and promote the College's investment in Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) research.

The committee is currently seeking representation from members who have had experience assessing grants and funding opportunities, and who have expertise in any of the following or other relevant fields:

- Infectious Diseases Physician
- Microbiologists /Pathologist
- Residential and Aged Care
- Allied Health/Dentistry
- Social Science/Sociology/Psychology

If you are interested, please email office@acipc.org.au briefly outlining your field of work and experience assessing grants. Please include your CV. The deadline is Friday 15 April.

GOARN Request for Assistance: Ukraine Emergency, 2022



ACIPC is a member of The Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN).

This RFA aims to alert members, provide information, and strengthen coordination on a rapidly developing situation; and to seek early indications of members potential support to further strengthen the response in the technical areas described below:

- Coordination
- Data management
- Information management
- Epidemiology and surveillance
- Public Health
- Laboratory
- Case management
- Infection Prevention and Control
- Risk communication and community engagement
- Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

All deployment will work within the incident management teams, with WHO Offices, Ministry of Health and Operational Partners in the field.



In line with the usual GOARN procedures, WHO will cover the cost of travel and per diem (daily allowance) for staff deployed and provide logistics and security support in country.

Visit the ACIPC website for more information - <https://www.acipc.org.au/goarn-request-for-assistance-ukraine-emergency-2022/>

Harmful Superbugs Set to Make Common Drugs and Treatments Less Effective, says NZ Report

Dangerous microbes that can resist drugs are a major emerging problem for New Zealand, according to a report led by the Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor with input from more than 200 experts. The report says as resistance to widely-used antimicrobial drugs rises, infections will become less treatable, and treatments that compromise immunity - like chemotherapy - will become more risky. NZ is one of the biggest users of antimicrobials in human health in the OECD, and urgently needs a national approach to the issue across human, plant and animal health, say the authors. The report warns against losing focus on other infectious diseases in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, and calls for lessons to be learned from the pandemic, including the promotion of equitable health outcomes.

In a new report, the Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor is calling for action to combat infectious disease and antimicrobial resistance in Aotearoa New Zealand.

The report, *Kotahitanga: Uniting Aotearoa against infectious disease and antimicrobial resistance* details the rise of harmful microbes that can resist drugs previously used against them. Antimicrobial resistance makes it increasingly difficult to treat infectious diseases in humans, animals, and plants, potentially turning a simple scratch or routine surgery into a life-threatening event. Overuse and inappropriate use of antimicrobials is a major driver of antimicrobial resistance, so promoting antimicrobial stewardship is one of the keys to combatting this threat.

The report situates the threat posed by antimicrobial resistance in the broader context of infectious disease in Aotearoa New Zealand, where gastrointestinal diseases and rheumatic fever place a uniquely high burden on the community and where economically, socially, and culturally important animals and plants are vulnerable to infectious diseases too.

The panel makes a series of recommendations covering antimicrobial stewardship, disease surveillance and outbreak response, infection prevention and control, workforce and research capability, health literacy, and primary healthcare. The recommendations emphasise the importance of monitoring infectious disease trends, antimicrobial resistance, and antimicrobial use so that Aotearoa New Zealand can build a clear picture of its risks, design targeted interventions, and evaluate the effectiveness of those interventions.

With Māori and Pacific peoples disproportionately burdened by infectious disease, the recommendations work to promote health equity, including by calling for barriers to healthcare access to be tackled.

The *Kotahitanga* report highlights examples of good research and practice across human, animal, plant, and environmental health in Aotearoa New Zealand, including academic research, antimicrobial stewardship initiatives, and industry efforts to reduce antimicrobial use in agriculture. In noting this

work, the report highlights that Aotearoa New Zealand has a strong base to build from in pursuit of greater health and wellbeing for all New Zealanders.

The key messages, full report and launch video can be viewed here

<https://www.pmcsa.ac.nz/topics/antimicrobial-resistance-and-infectious-disease/>

Are Medicines Affecting our Response to Infections Like COVID-19?

A large global review by Australian pain researchers has found that some of the most common pain and fever medicines - such as morphine, paracetamol, ibuprofen, and aspirin - could increase vulnerability to infections like COVID, while others may hold hope for improving our immune response. The research was unplanned pre-pandemic and the academics were surprised by the findings, with lead author Dr Abdel-Shaheed saying they initially were interested in studying possible impacts of paracetamol (acetaminophen) when people hoarded the drug in the first months of COVID-19. The authors say clinical trials are needed to fully assess these common medicines, which could be repurposed to improve outcomes for people undergoing treatment for infectious diseases.

Key findings of the clinical review:

- * For pain: Morphine suppresses key cells of the immune system and increases the risk of infection, particularly after cancer surgery.
- * For fever: Antipyretics – e.g. Paracetamol, Ibuprofen, Aspirin – can reduce the desirable immune response when taken for vaccination.
- * Aspirin could be an affordable and accessible therapeutic option for tuberculosis – which mainly afflicts poor countries, with beneficial results shown in animals and humans.
- * Anti-inflammatory medicine indomethacin may reduce viral replication in Covid-19 but large-scale human trials are needed.

The largest clinical review of immune responses to paracetamol, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) and opioid analgesics, with a focus on infectious diseases, has provided insights into unintended impacts of these commonly used medicines.

The findings highlight the potential for some of these medicines to join the fight against old and new infectious diseases.

Although research into these drugs has focused on their effects on pain and fever management, until now, their impact on the treatment of infectious diseases specifically was unclear. The findings highlight the need for more studies in this under-recognised area of research, with wide-reaching implications.

Researchers led by the University of Sydney's Faculty of Medicine and Health opted for a 'clinical' review in order to have a broader scope to synthesise the available evidence, noting the importance of further research and trials regarding infectious disease responses.

Pain researcher Dr Christina Abdel-Shaheed, from Sydney Musculoskeletal Health, said the relationships uncovered with infectious diseases highlighted the need for rigorous clinical trials.

“Our review shows some of the common pain and fever medications may work with the immune system to fight infection, whereas others work against it and increase the risk of contracting or responding badly to infectious diseases,” Dr Abdel-Shaheed said.

“Taking paracetamol or ibuprofen before or immediately after vaccination – for example for COVID-19 – to try to prevent mild fever or headache is not recommended, because this could reduce the body’s desirable immune response to the vaccine.

“For chickenpox, use of ibuprofen is not recommended as it might increase the risk of secondary bacterial skin infections.”

Co-author Professor Ric Day from UNSW and St Vincent’s Hospital said research was still catching up in this new area of study.

“One of the problems is that widely used medicines –such as paracetamol, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs like ibuprofen, and corticosteroids such as prednisone – have been around for decades and in the past we didn’t tend to consider their impacts on the immune system because it has been an under-recognised area.

“From community use to hospital and acute care, these classes of pain and fever medications are among the most popular drugs worldwide but we need to consider the significant impact these can have on our immune system and our response to infectious diseases, including COVID-19.”

The findings are published in the British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology.

Link to research (DOI): [10.1111/bcp.15281](https://doi.org/10.1111/bcp.15281)

Webinar – Air Purification

If you missed the live event, a recording of GAMA Healthcare and ACIPC’s co-branded webinar can be found here: <https://www.acipc.org.au/air-purification-webinar/>

Speakers:



Martin Kiernan

Martin has worked in the field of Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) for 25 years. He has Masters Degrees in both Public Health and Clinical Research. He is also a visiting Clinical Fellow at the Richard Wells Research Centre, University of West London. Martin is involved with many government initiatives, IPC groups and advisory boards including the Department of Health (England) Advisory Committee on Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare-associated Infection (ARHAI) and is a past president of the UK Infection Prevention Society.



Brett Mitchell

Professor Brett Mitchell is Editor-in-Chief of Infection, Disease in Health. He is a Professor of Nursing at the University of Newcastle and has over 150 peer reviewed publications and conference presentations. Professor Mitchell is a Fellow of ACIPC and the Australian College of Nursing. Brett has worked in the area of infection control for many years, including leading infection control programs in hospitals and at a state level. His research interests in the area of infection control include environmental cleaning, pneumonia, surveillance and urinary tract infections.

Webinar: Lessons Learnt from COVID: Guiding Pandemic Preparedness and Response



On Tuesday, 1 March, the Australian Institute for Infectious Disease (AIID) and the Australian-French Association for Research and Innovation (AFRAN) held a joint symposium showcasing French and Australian research and co-operation on infectious diseases with a global impact.

Keynote speakers included Nobel Laureates Professors Françoise Barre-Sinoussi and Peter Doherty, along with the Director of the Doherty Institute, Professor Sharon Lewin, and Director and CEO of the Burnet Institute, Professor Brendan Crabb.

The session provided an unprecedented opportunity to hear from top infectious disease specialists from France and Australia who discussed research and shared experiences from past and present pandemics to guide future responses.

[Download the event program](#)

[Watch the symposium](#)



IPC Podcasts

Infection Control Matters – Infection Prevention Team Staffing Levels

Brett Mitchell and Martin Kiernan use a recent paper published in Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology to start a discussion about an relationship between IPC Team staffing levels and levels of healthcare-associated infections. How are staffing levels set and is it just a number or is there more to it?

Infection Control Matters - Surgical Site Infection (SSI) prevention with Charles Edmiston

In this episode, Phil Russo discusses strategies for prevention of SSI with Professor Charles Edmiston, Emeritus Professor at the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. Chuck has a longstanding interest in SSI prevention and a few of his papers are listed below. As ever, 'compliance' with interventions is a key issue.

NPS MedicineWise – Episode 39:

Prof Sarah Hilmer and Prof Josh Davis, members of the National COVID-19 Clinical Evidence Taskforce Guidelines Leadership Group give an update on the new antiviral treatments now available and answer some frequently asked COVID management questions.

IPC Job Opportunity

Clinical Nurse Educator – Infection Prevention and Control



Are you passionate about developing people? Do you have an understanding of contemporary adult and workplace learning principles and approaches?

We are searching for someone who is able to build productive working relationship not only with staff, but with education providers.

For starters we are after a confident and capable Nurse who has excellent clinical and bedside skills. An understanding of the requirements of ongoing education and development of a health facility is critical.

You must be able to design, develop, implement and evaluate education and training for nursing and midwifery staff to support and enhance their competency in areas critical to the organisation now and in the future.

Details of Appointments

Permanent full time day work position working 76 hours per fortnight commencing ASAP

Base Salary: \$102, 080 – \$108, 528 per annum + 10% superannuation

For more information on this position contact:

Karen Linegar

Position: Executive Director of Nursing and Care Redesign

Phone: (03) 6478 5275

E-mail: karen.linegar@ths.tas.gov.au

For more information and how to apply, please visit the below link:

<https://careers.pageuppeople.com/759/cw/en/job/1077778/clinical-nurse-educator-infection-prevention-and-control-525003>

Applications close 19 April 2022.



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