



ACIPC

Australasian College  
for Infection Prevention and Control

# IPC News

FEBRUARY 2023

# ACIPC President Kristie Popkiss



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

The year is progressing quickly already. I was listening to a podcast recently on the long term effects of COVID on our society. Not the effects of the virus on our bodies but the change in mindset and expectations of communities in general. It's changed our outlook and behaviour – in some situations for the better and from other perspectives, not.

For a while it appeared we were more generous, taking care for each other and our planet and support each other's mental health and boundaries. Now it seems we are as busy if not busier than ever.

More recently I've been observing the general effect it has had on the workforce – it seems roles are busier and people are still at capacity. Ongoing workforce shortages and challenges seem to be never ending. Those staff outside of IPC teams who used to be interested in sitting on committees and portfolio holder programs are dwindling, as well as those who would put their hands up to contribute to or own a policy cannot as their day to day priorities don't allow them the time and focus.

I must admit, I've been challenged myself with accomplishing things and even when I have finished things that have been on my ever-growing list, I can't say I've completed them with a positive growth mindset. In an attempt to reset, I've tried to change my thinking from "I don't like challenges" to "challenges make me better, I'll try a different way". The effect this can have not only on your own approach and success but on those around you is more impactful than you think.

Common causes of leadership burnout can be workplace politics, taking on your team's work, and owning an excessive overwhelming workload – all things I've both observed and experienced in the world of IPC.

**Effective and positive IPC leadership has an impact! You are in a position where you can influence and achieve great things. If you're struggling, try not to be discouraged, don't focus on the difficulties but on the steps you've already taken to improve IPC for our patients/clients and communities.**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K Popkiss". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Kristie Popkiss



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# VALE ELAINE GRAHAM ROBERTSON



**It is with great sadness that we advise members of the passing of Elaine Graham Robertson, a dedicated and compassionate professional who devoted her career to the field of infection prevention and control.**

Elaine became the first full time Infection Control Practitioner at Woden Valley Hospital (now The Canberra Hospital) in 1983 and remained in that position until her marriage to Paul Robertson and their move to Wollongong in 1999. Elaine became an Infection Control Consultant in the Illawarra and southern Sydney until her retirement and a move to Brisbane in 2004. In 1987 Elaine co-ordinated the writing of the first Infection Control Manual for the ACT. In 2004 Elaine drafted three sections of the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing Infection Control Guidelines (2004). With others, Elaine has been involved in research involving endoscopes.

In addition to Elaine's professional work, she was a highly active and dedicated member of the Infection Control Association ACT (ICA ACT), the Australian Infection Control Association (AICA) and the Australasian College for Infection Prevention and Control (ACIPC). In 1985 Elaine chaired the inaugural meeting of the Infection Control Association ACT (ICA ACT) and in 1985 Elaine was a member of the group that formed the Australian Infection Control Association (AICA).

In 1987 Elaine was convener for the first AICA conference held in Canberra. Elaine's role in shaping the direction of ACIPC and AICA were widely recognised by her peers and colleagues with her contribution honoured with as a Life Member of AICA/ACIPC.

The Elaine Graham Robertson Award for the best oral presentation is presented at the College's annual conference and is a result of a gift from Elaine Graham Robertson - a pioneer infection control professional. It is in Elaine's honour and to perpetuate her ideals that this award was established in 2005 by ICA ACT.

We extend our deepest condolences to her family and loved ones during this difficult time.

Elaine's legacy will live on through the countless lives she touched and her work to protect others through her commitment to infection prevention and control.

**Kristie Popkiss**  
President



# INFECTION CONTROL MATTERS PODCAST

## Surgical site infection surveillance by patient generated images

In this first episode of 2023, Martin talks to Melissa Rochon and Prof Judith Tanner about their recent paper in the Journal of Hospital Infection that reports on the use of patient-generated images in SSI surveillance.

TO LISTEN OR  
DOWNLOAD  
CLICK HERE



## RECENTLY CREDENTIALLED MEMBERS

The Board of Directors would like to congratulate the following members who have received credentialling this month:

### **Primary Credentialling: Hannah Newman**

For information on how you can become credentialled, visit the ACIPC website: <https://www.acipc.org.au/credentialling/>

# MEET THE BOARD

## **Dianne Smith** **Board Director /** **Consumer Representative**

**Dianne Smith is a business manager with 20 years of experience in the disability sector, marketing and business management.**

Dianne has extensive experience in leadership roles, managing not-for-profit organisations and community advocacy.

Having had cancer twice in the last 5 years, Dianne is passionate about healthcare and consumer issues and is committed to contributing to better health outcomes for all consumers.

As a current Board director and consumer representative Dianne is committed to the long-term sustainability of ACIPC and continues to meet the needs of our membership and their communities.



*Committee member  
of the Membership  
Communication and  
Engagement Committee*

*Committee member of  
the Governance, Finance  
and Risk Committee*



# ACIPC LUNCH & LEARN WEBINAR



**Topic:** Melioidosis – An environmental disease

**Date:** Monday 6 March 2023 12pm AEDT

**Presenter:** Dr Robert Norton is the Director of Pathology and Microbiology at Townsville University Hospital, Queensland. He has worked in a variety of clinical positions including remote Australian indigenous communities in the Top End of Australia. In his current capacity, he has collaborated with researchers locally and nationally on projects relating to Melioidosis, Q fever and Rheumatic fever.

**CLICK HERE  
TO REGISTER  
FOR THIS  
WEBINAR**

A webinar recording will be available to all ACIPC members.  
Past Lunch and Learn Webinars can be found in the members area:  
<https://www.acipc.org.au/members/lunch-and-learn-webinars/>

# GOT A MOMENT?

## GET READY NOW FOR WORLD HAND HYGIENE DAY 5TH MAY 2023

**With the 5th of May only two short months away, now is the time to start planning for your health setting's celebrations.**

In the upcoming editions of IPC News, we will be showcasing previous member initiatives that have promoted World Hand Hygiene Day across a range of diverse health settings - this is your chance to inspire your fellow ACIPC members and to make World Hand Hygiene Day 2023 the biggest yet!

We would like to hear your insights on how you have effectively promoted the goals of World Hand Hygiene Day in your health setting.

Were you involved in a World Hand Hygiene day project or activity? Did you have an ABHR stand in a prominent place that got some attention? Did you involve your consumers? Did you... create a short video that attracted a lot of attention or promote hand hygiene via social media?

Share your ideas with us on Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, or Facebook with the hashtag **#ACIPCHandHygiene** or **email them to us directly office@acipc.org.au**

We look forward to sharing your ideas to support the ACIPC community to continue to improve hand hygiene across all settings!

***This is a Membership Communication and Engagement Committee initiative.***

**The 'Save Lives: Clean Your Hands' global campaign was launched by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2009.**

World Hand Hygiene Day is held annually on 5 May and aims to maintain global promotion, visibility, and sustainability of hand hygiene in health care and to bring people together in support of hand hygiene improvement around the world.

**CLICK HERE  
FOR MORE  
INFO**







# SAVE THE DATE!

## IPC Tour – Infection Prevention and Control Seminar

**Brisbane:** Monday 12 June 2023

**Sydney:** Wednesday 14 June 2023

**Melbourne:** Friday 16 June 2023

**Perth:** Monday 19 June 2023

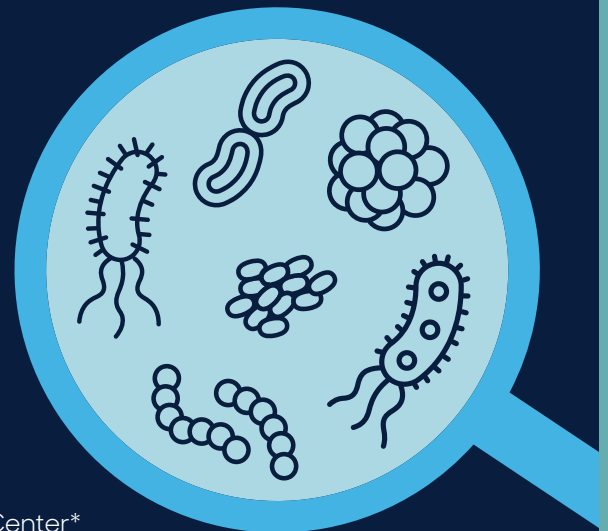
### Keynote Speakers:

Professor David Weber – University of North Carolina Medical Center\*

Visiting Professor Martin Kiernan – Richard Wells Centre, University of West London

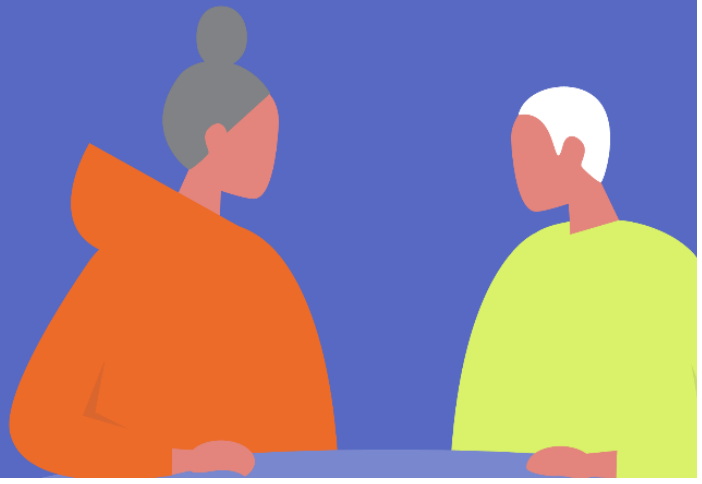
More information to come. If you have any questions, please email [eventsaustralia@gamahealthcare.com](mailto:eventsaustralia@gamahealthcare.com).

\*David Weber is attending Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney only.



# Blood Borne Virus

## TESTING COURSE



## INTERVIEW WITH COURSE PARTICIPANT

**This month President-Elect and Chair of the Education Committee, Stéphane Bouchoucha met with Mandy Davidson, Clinical consultant for Infection Prevention and Control in Townsville, to discuss her recent experience in completing the ACIPC Blood Borne Virus Testing course.**

### **What is your background and your current role?**

*I'm currently a clinical consultant for Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) in Townsville at the University Hospital. I cover the whole hospital and health service out to Richmond and down to Home Hill and out to Palmer Health Service and Magnetic Island, which I have done for the last five years.*

*For 11 years, I have worked in infection prevention and control, and I've always had a passion for the area.*



*Recently, I was working on a project on AS4187 compliance for the organisation which was interesting but then COVID came along. We have had to restructure our whole Staff Health service because we were providing COVID vaccinations for staff and consumers.*

### **What attracted you to the Blood Borne Virus Testing course?**

*I wanted to refresh my knowledge about blood borne viruses testing because our staff health hub now manages occupational exposures. We've always expected all our staff in the infection control team to participate across all areas including management of occupational exposures and vaccine-preventable disease assessments.*



*I also did this course to see what else had changed in the space. It's hard to remain an expert in all areas, so refreshing my knowledge was the main reason for enrolling in the course. The course provided information that had an Australian focus, as previously all my research was North American.*

### **What part of the course did you think was the most valuable?**

*It was great to refresh my knowledge of transmission for all the different blood borne viruses. As a society, I believe we often just push all Blood Borne viruses under one banner, but the course reminded me that each virus has its own idiosyncrasies and that they are all different and need to be treated as such. The course also provided me with more information about HIV, especially considering it is now being considered more of a chronic illness.*

*Going into the course, I was particularly focused on the staff health side of things, such as how to test and staff counselling after occupational exposure. The course provided different scenarios around occupational exposures which I found valuable.*

### **The Blood Borne Virus Testing course is delivered online, how did this affect your learning?**

*I enjoyed the online learning, I have previously completed online learning through Griffith University, and I enjoy online learning as you can set your own pace. I was able to set aside time in the evenings to do the course which made the course convenient for me.*

### **Who would you recommend this course to and why?**

*I chose to do this course, so it was self-funded because I found it important that as a Registered Nurse, that I maintain my knowledge and my skill set. I would recommend it to anybody working in IPC. Anybody who is wanting to know more about staff health. But even from a sexual health point of view, I could see that this course would have a lot of value. would recommend this course to our sexual health nurses as it has very relevant information for them.*

*There is a lot of opportunity to take key messages away about how we could better treat our patients and clients, and how, having a good understanding of transmission, and what the risks really are will help. The course will help staff educate patients on how to protect themselves and their partners and family.*

*The blood borne viruses discussed in the course, none of these are life sentences any more, and we need to take some of that stigma away and one of the ways to do that is through education.*

### **Is there anything else you want to tell us about the course?**

*I really enjoyed the course, I found the content easy to follow, and it made me think about how my workplace can do better. Because of the course my counselling strategy has changed slightly as well, I take more time to listen and find out what each individual person needs. The course has made the counselling not as daunting as I was worried about saying the wrong thing before, but the course has given me more confidence.*

# HELP SHAPE AUSTRALIA'S FRAMEWORK FOR CLINICAL QUALITY REGISTRIES

**Clinical quality registries support the delivery of better value care and improve patient outcomes, recognising the need for strengthened guidance on registry operations, the Commission has developed a second edition of the Framework for Australian clinical quality registries.**

The updated Framework provides national best practice principles and detailed guidance for establishing and operating Australian national clinical quality registries. These include guidance on governance, infrastructure, security and privacy compliance, technical standards, reporting, and more.

Greater clarity around local governance arrangements will help clinical registries increase efficiency, strengthen partnerships and collaboration, deliver better patient outcomes and reduce healthcare variation.

## HAVE YOUR SAY

Visit the ACSQ website <https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/health-and-human-research/national-arrangements-clinical-quality-registries> to review the draft Framework Second Edition and provide your feedback by responding to a short online survey and providing a written submission via the link

## UPDATES

To stay updated on the progress of the clinical quality registries Framework, visit [safetyandquality.gov.au/cqr](https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/cqr) and join the CQR mailing list by emailing your contact details to

**CQR@safetyandquality.gov.au**



THE  
CONSULTATION  
WILL CLOSE ON  
**31 MAR 2023**



# STANDARDS AUSTRALIA - CHANGES TO STANDARDISATION GUIDES

**As Standards Australia looks towards its next 100 years, they are excited to be looking at new ways of developing and adopting Australian Standards.**

To complement the model that's already in place and working well in many areas, they are looking to expand their development models to allow new and emerging industries to work within the standards environment, as well as helping them work better in cross-sectoral areas of activity.

**To make this happen, they are proposing changes to various Standardisation Guides to introduce:**

- An alternative path for the development of Australian Standards (including International Adoptions)
- A streamlined process for the adoption of International Standards (opt-in process); and
- The inclusion of a new publication type to help with the timeliness of publications and developments in particular circumstances

**Information about the proposed changes is available:**

- Read the consultation paper
- Listen to the podcast
- Watch this video on why and how we are making the changes
- View the changes and provide comment

**They are also holding stakeholder consultation forums so you can hear from Standards Australia leaders and team members on the why, what, and how, and contribute to this exciting change - a choice of dates and times are available:**

- **Wednesday 1st March:**  
2:00pm-3:00pm
- **Tuesday 7th March:**  
9:30-10:30am
- **Monday 13th March:**  
11:00am-12:00pm

**CLICK HERE**  
TO REGISTER  
TO ATTEND A  
STAKEHOLDER  
CONSULTATION  
FORUM ON  
STANDARDISATION  
GUIDES

# Featured Article:

## *Infection, Disease & Health*

### **Masking strategy to protect healthcare workers from COVID-19: An umbrella meta-analysis**

**Yijun Lu, Arnold Okpani, Christopher McLeod, Jennifer Grant, Annalee Yassi**

#### **Abstract**

##### **Background**

The burden of severe disease and death due to SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) pandemic among healthcare workers (HCWs) worldwide has been substantial. Masking is a critical control measure to effectively protect HCWs from respiratory infectious diseases, yet for COVID-19, masking policies have varied considerably across jurisdictions. As Omicron variants began to be predominant, the value of switching from a permissive approach based on a point of care risk assessment (PCRA) to a rigid masking policy needed to be assessed.

##### **Methods**

A literature search was conducted in MEDLINE (Ovid platform), Cochrane Library, Web of Science (Ovid platform), and PubMed to June 2022. An umbrella review of meta-analyses investigating protective effects of N95 or equivalent respirators and medical masks was then conducted. Data extraction, evidence synthesis and appraisal were duplicated.

##### **Results**

While the results of Forest plots slightly favoured N95 or equivalent respirators over medical masks, eight of the ten meta-analyses included in the umbrella review were appraised as having very low certainty and the other two as having low certainty.

##### **Conclusion**

The literature appraisal, in conjunction with risk assessment of the Omicron variant, side-effects and acceptability to HCWs, along with the precautionary principle, supported maintaining the current policy guided by PCRA rather than adopting a more rigid approach. Well-designed prospective multi-centre trials, with systematic attention to the diversity of healthcare settings, risk levels and equity concerns are needed to support future masking policies.

**Access the full article here:**

**[https://www.idhjournal.com.au/article/S2468-0451\(23\)00010-X/fulltext?dgcid=raven\\_jbs\\_aip\\_email](https://www.idhjournal.com.au/article/S2468-0451(23)00010-X/fulltext?dgcid=raven_jbs_aip_email)**



# Latest Articles from Infection, Disease & Health

## VRE acquisition in hospital and its association with hospital antimicrobial usage - a non-linear analysis of an extended time series

J.K. Ferguson, S. Chiu, C. Oldmeadow, J. Deane, S. Munnoch, N. Fraser

## Multidisciplinary team meetings in prosthetic joint infection management: A qualitative study

Jennifer Broom, Alex Broom, Katherine Kenny, Pamela Konecny, Jeffrey J. Post

# Selected Publications of Interest

Chadwick, P. R., Trainor, E., Marsden, G. L., Mills, S., Chadwick, C., O'Brien, S. J., Evans, C. M., Mullender, C., Strazds, P., Turner, S., Weston, V., Toleman, M. S., de Barros, C., Kontkowski, G., & Bak, A. (2023). Guidelines for the management of norovirus outbreaks in acute and community health and social care settings. *J Hosp Infect.* <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhin.2023.01.017>

Clinton, E., Turner, C., & Emanuel, R. (2023). Service evaluation on the use of Mouth Care Matters - Promoting good practice for oral care in inpatient settings. *BDJ Team*, 10(1), 16-18. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41407-023-1719-3>

Jain, S., Dempsey, K., Clezy, K., & Bradd, P. (2023). Preparing for the Next Pandemic: An After-Action Review of Infection Prevention and Control Audit Strategies Within Airport and Hotel Quarantine Program. *J Public Health Manag Pract.* <https://doi.org/10.1097/PHH.0000000000001713>

Mulchandani, R., Wang, Y., Gilbert, M., & Van Boeckel, T. P. (2023). Global trends in antimicrobial use in food-producing animals: 2020 to 2030. *PLOS Global Public Health*, 3(2), e0001305. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pgph.0001305>

Wild, C. E. K., Wells, H., Coetzee, N., Grant, C. C., Sullivan, T. A., Derraik, J. G. B., & Anderson, Y. C. (2023). End-user acceptability of personal protective equipment disinfection for potential reuse: a survey of health-care workers in Aotearoa New Zealand. *Lancet Planet Health*, 7(2), e118-e127. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2542-5196\(22\)00333-3](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2542-5196(22)00333-3)

Zay Ya, K., Win, P. T. N., Bielicki, J., Lambiris, M., & Fink, G. (2023). Association Between Antimicrobial Stewardship Programs and Antibiotic Use Globally: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. *JAMA Netw Open*, 6(2), e2253806. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2022.53806>

**Have you been involved with a recent publication that would be of interest to the wider ACIPC community?**

**If so, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact the office at [office@acipc.org.au](mailto:office@acipc.org.au)**



ACIPC

Australasian College  
for Infection Prevention and Control

Level 6  
152 Macquarie St  
Hobart TAS 7000

+61 (3) 6281 9239  
office@acipc.org.au  
www.acipc.org.au

ABN 61 154 341 036

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