



ACIPC

Australasian College
for Infection Prevention and Control

IPC News

MAY 2024

ACIPC President Stéphane Bouchoucha

Welcome to the May 2024 Edition of IPC News.

First, I want to thank Donna Cameron, Leanne Houston, Liz Orr and Deborah Rhodes (please forgive me if I omitted anyone) for organising the first event for the Victorian SIG at the beginning of May. Sadly, I was unwell and couldn't attend but heard that the event was very well attended and enabled members to discuss a study recently published and network. We have just signed off on the proposal for the WA SIG and I encourage Western Australian members to keep an eye out for details of upcoming events. I want to remind you all that we welcome State and interest-based groups, and you can find information here on how to get a Special Interest Group (SIG) going [here](#).

ACIPC's conference committee has been busy over the last few months preparing the scientific program for this year's annual conference. The theme this year is: **Succession, sustainability, and the advancement of infection prevention and control**, and we have started announcing keynote speakers for the event. I would like to encourage you to attend face to face or virtually as it is shaping to be one of the best IPC events in the Asia Pacific region this year. If you have some research or practice improvements/challenges that you would like to present, the call for abstract/poster is now open. If you are not sure about how to write an abstract, we have you covered! A/Prof Holly Seale recently presented a lunchtime webinar on 'How to write an abstract,' and members can view the recording [here](#). ACIPC also acknowledges that cost of living pressures can mean that attending the conference is a costly exercise for many.



While we try to keep costs as low as possible, the College also offers a limited number of scholarships to facilitate attendance. You can find more information [here](#).

It would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the significant increase in activity in health services, aged care sectors, and the community that we are seeing at the moment. Alongside the continued effort to vaccinate health workers and the community against seasonal flu, many have been faced with increased numbers of COVID-19 cases and new variants. The ABC published an investigative piece at the beginning of the month on Healthcare Associated COVID-19 in Victoria. No doubt this is not just a Victorian issue. I was interviewed and quoted in the article, **Hundreds of patients died after catching COVID in Victorian hospitals, new data shows**. The data reported in the article is very concerning. We know how to prevent COVID-19 from spreading and patients should be able to attend health services without the fear of catching COVID-19 when receiving care. ACIPC will continue to advocate for health settings to be free of any avoidable infections.

As always, if you have any feedback (good or bad), feel free to reach out to me at: president@acipc.org.au

Until next month, thank you for your leadership and advocacy in the Infection Prevention and Control space.

Best wishes

Stéphane Bouchoucha



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ACIPC INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

SUCCESSION, SUSTAINABILITY, AND THE ADVANCEMENT OF INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL

On behalf of the Board of Directors, it gives us great pleasure to invite you to attend the 2024 ACIPC International Conference.

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 is the peak event for infection prevention and control professionals (ICPs) in the region and includes Australasia's largest trade exhibition dedicated to showcasing IPC industry suppliers.

Delegates include nurses, IPC managers, and consultants, aged care workers, scientists, academics, educators, policymakers, medical practitioners, hospital managers, and those responsible for managing and delivering IPC programs in non-healthcare settings.

More information regarding the conference including invited speakers, social events, and engagement initiatives can be found on the conference website here.

Registration

This year's conference will feature new registration categories designed to make attendance easier for delegates whether joining us in Melbourne or online.

These initiatives include:

- **Onsite Shared Registrations:**
This option grants access for three individuals to attend, with each person allotted a single-day entry, allowing multiple team members to benefit from the event without separate registrations.
- **Online Day Registration:**
Attendees can choose specific conference days aligning with their interests, focusing on sessions most relevant to their professional goals.
- **Dinner Inclusive Registrations:**
Delegates can opt to include dinner with their registration, customising their conference experience according to their preferences.

An early registration discounted fee will be offered and will be available until the 1st of October 2024.

You can find out more about conference registration here.

17-20 NOV 2024

MELBOURNE CONVENTION
AND EXHIBITION CENTRE,
VIC & ONLINE



ACIPC
Australasian College
for Infection Prevention and Control

Call for Abstracts - closing Friday 14 June!

We invite you to showcase your achievements, innovations, quality assurance, and research activities, by submitting an abstract and presenting at the 2023 ACIPC International Conference. **Abstract submissions are invited for the following presentation types:**

- **Scientific Presentations:** Presentations may be original research, case presentations, divisional projects, or analytical studies.
- **Case Studies and Quality Improvement Presentations:** Structured presentations from Front Line Workers and Carers, Policy Makers, Healthcare Managers, and Consumers.
- **Lightning Talks:** 5-minute presentations designed to give novice presenters and early career researchers the opportunity to develop their presentation skills by delivering an abbreviated oral presentation at the conference.
- **Industry Presentations:** Conference sponsors and exhibitors are invited to submit an abstract for presentation at the Pop-Up Stage during conference breaks. Presentations can be interesting case studies or research initiatives.

**For more information and to submit,
visit the conference website here**

Abstract submissions close on
Friday 14 June 2024.

Conference Sponsors

PLATINUM SPONSOR



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MAY LUNCH & LEARN WEBINAR

How to submit an abstract



In May, we learned about how to submit an abstract, with presenter A/Prof Holly Seale. Here is a summary of the webinar, which members can view on our website.

**ACIPC 2024 International Conference
17 – 20 November 2024
Melbourne Convention and
Exhibition Centre, VIC and online**

The call for abstracts for the 2024 ACIPC International Conference will close on 14 June, but there is still time to submit an abstract.

Why submit an abstract to ACIPC 2024?

- You do great work!
- Contribute to knowledge
- Skill development
- Professional and portfolio development...credentialling
- Career advancement
- Peer review
- Networking (collaboration, job opportunities)
- Personal achievement

Important dates

Calls for abstracts close – 14 June
Notification of acceptance – August 2024
Presenter Registration closes – 1 October 2024

Types of abstracts

Scientific Presentations: 15 minutes plus 3 minutes question time.

Case Study and quality improvement presentations: 15 minutes plus 3 minutes question time

Lightning talks: 4-minute presentations designed to give novice presenters and early career research the opportunity to develop their presentations skills by delivering an abbreviated oral presentation at the conference.

Posters: Presenting a poster at the conference offers the opportunity to share research findings, insights, or innovative projects with a diverse audience, fostering networking, collaboration, and valuable feedback from peers, experts, and professionals in the field.

Abstract guidelines

- Abstracts must be no longer than 250 words.
- Abstracts need to be written in English.
- Abstracts must be original and unpublished.
- You must declare a potential conflict of interest.
- Ensure that your abstract is grammatically correct and free of other errors.
- Use single spacing for all text.
- Do not use abbreviations in the title of the abstract.
- When using abbreviations in the abstract, spell them out in full at the first mention.
- Capitalize the first letter in trade names.
- Abstracts should NOT contain references, tables, or figures.
- Accepted abstracts will appear exactly as submitted.

An online template is available in word format on the conference website. It has all the correct fonts, spacing and text size.



Coming up with an abstract idea

The first – and possibly hardest – part of the process is choosing which project, case study, or research to turn into an abstract submission.

This is where the conference guidelines come in! It is vital to carefully read the abstract guidelines for the conference you are submitting to.

Each conference has different guidelines, which typically outline the conference themes, topics and presentation types being accepted.

Purpose of an abstract

- Short summary of a longer work
- Fully understandable on its own
- Briefly outline all parts of the paper/report
- Concisely report the aims and outcomes so that readers know exactly what the paper/presentation is about

What makes a good abstract?

- Suitable for the audience – the background, methods, outcomes and conclusion should be of interest to ACIPC conference delegates
- Readability – your abstract should be easy to read (for any person familiar with the IPC discipline) with no errors in punctuation, spelling and grammar
- Clear content – the abstract should offer relevant context and study/methods details to ensure the reader know what you have done, and why.

Abstract structure

1. Background

A description of the research problem or workplace situation, study objective or hypothesis tested.

Why the research topic is important and why you chose to investigate it.

Aims/purpose: this needs to clearly give the reader an impression of the aim/purpose of the research.

2. Methods

Key information regarding the methods used/proposed to be used should be highlighted here.

Typically this would include some mention of the participants involved (the sample), equipment and procedures and timescales over which the study took place .

3. Results

The key results are often presented in this section. Statistical support is preferred where possible but endless lists of mean values and associated p-values should be avoided.

Be selective and make sure that the results selected for presentation fit well with the general story conveyed withing the abstract as a whole.

4. Conclusion

This section is used to wrap up the story, to convey the most important interpretation of the results and to make any important suggestions for relevance to the field is further work that now needs to be carried out.

Include a brief description of the main outcome.

Avoid finishing with 'further research is now required,' as often this is obvious and superfluous to the overall story.

What is the assessment panel looking for?

- Clarity of purpose and objectives
- Appropriateness of methodology and design
- Significance of contribution

Final tips from Holly:

- Go ahead and reach out to a colleague to look at it before submitting, a second set of eyes can often help.
- If you are submitting as a team, make sure that everyone has had a look, once submitted to the portal it can't be withdrawn.
- Reach out to the College, we are always happy to support you.
- Adding a catchy title can help improve your chances of getting an oral presentation. Visit the conference website and take a look at past conferences for examples and inspiration.
- Make sure your abstract conforms to all requirements, put up a conflict of interest statement if necessary.
- Submit via the portal on the conference website:
<https://acipcconference.com.au/abstracts/#presentationformats>

JUNE LUNCH & LEARN WEBINAR



Topic: How to write a successful research grant

Presenter: Amanda Corley **Date:** Wed 26 June at 12.00pm AEST

Abstract: Learn how to increase your chances of success when writing a research grant. Get some quick tips on how to craft a grant proposal which is clear, compelling, appeals to the funder and sets you up for success. This session will be particularly useful for anyone considering applying for the ACIPC Seed or Early Career Researcher grants which are currently open to ACIPC members.

About the presenter: Amanda is a critical care nurse and researcher of over 25 years' experience. She is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow with the School of Nursing and Midwifery at Griffith University and is based at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital. She holds a PhD and has a strong national and international track record in patient-focused clinical and health services research. She has published over 90 peer-reviewed publications and 4 book chapters, with career funding of around \$2.5m in competitive and industry grants. Her research interests include respiratory management in ICU and vascular access devices, particularly haemodialysis catheters and extracorporeal membrane oxygenation cannulae.

**CLICK HERE
TO REGISTER**

RESEARCH GRANT APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN!

RESEARCH GRANTS

A key strategic focus of the College is to enable members to identify areas for research that will lead to improved knowledge, evidence-based education and practice, and improved outcomes. In alignment with this strategy, the College provides opportunities for our members to undertake research with the assistance of research grants.

Early Career Research Grant

The aim of the Early Career Research Grant is to support Early Career Researchers (ECR) undertake research relevant to infection prevention and control. ECRs are researchers who are within five years of the start of their research careers.

Applications will close at 9am on Monday 19 August.

FOR FURTHER
INFORMATION
INCLUDING THE
APPLICATION
PROCESS
CLICK HERE

Seed Grant

The aim of the Seed Grant is to support members who wish to undertake high quality pilot, exploratory, or small-scale infection prevention and control research. This grant aims to address a gap between early concepts and large-scale funding provided by larger bodies such as the National Health Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and the Australian Research Council (ARC). The grant is also aimed at providing support to researchers who have not yet had success with specific national category 1 competitive funding NHMRC and ARC grants.

Priority Areas

Applications that address one of the three priority areas will be highly regarded, however, those that focus on other topics are also eligible to apply:

- Low and Middle income settings
- Indigenous Health
- Aged Care

BOOK NOW
FOR THE COURSE
COMMENCING
12TH JULY 2024

*LIMITED
SPACES
LEFT*

Blood Borne Virus

TESTING COURSE



The course has been designed for healthcare practitioners involved in undertaking testing in all healthcare settings including midwifery, acute care, community health, women's health, correctional health, rural and remote health, refugee health, sexual health, and infection prevention and control practitioners.

DURING THE COURSE YOU WILL LEARN ABOUT:

- ✓ Epidemiology, transmission, management options and prevention of HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C
- ✓ Different tests available to correctly diagnose, testing intervals post exposure and window periods for testing
- ✓ Post incident pre- and post-test discussion for both the recipient and the source following the incident
- ✓ The personal impact and medical consequences of HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C
- ✓ Conducting a risk assessment for HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C
- ✓ Strategies and resources for effective health promotion and prevention education
- ✓ Basic counselling skills including listening, questioning, reflecting and summarising

COST: \$350

If you have any questions,
please email learning@acipc.org.au
or go to our website for more
information acipc.org.au



**MORE
INFORMATION**



Congratulations Perri Waddell

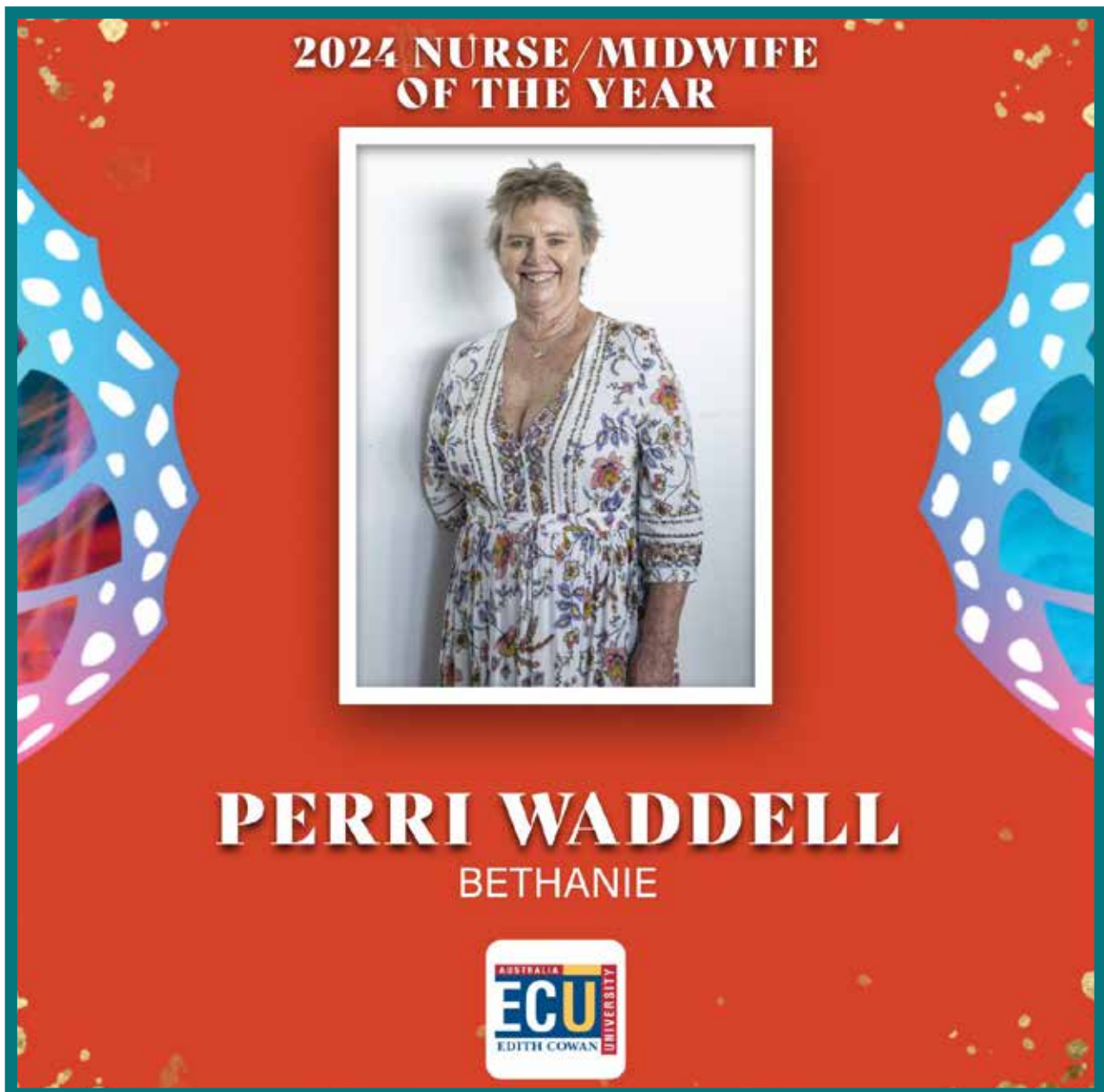
2024 NURSE/MIDWIFE OF THE YEAR

ACIPC extends warm congratulations to Perri Waddell, who was recently awarded the 2024 Nurse/Midwife of the Year in the WA Nursing and Midwifery Excellence Awards.

Perri is an ACIPC course facilitator, as well as an experienced RN, with over 30 years' experience and a special interest in Aged Care Nurse development.

She is also a credentialed primary infection control practitioner (CICP-P).

Well done, Perri!



Aged Care Community of Practice Webinar

Navigating the role of the IPC Lead

27 JUNE 2024

12PM AEST



ACIPC
Australian College
for Infection Prevention and Control

with Carrie Spinks



[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR THIS WEBINAR](#)

Topic: Navigating the role of the IPC Lead
Presenter: Carrie Spinks, ACIPC IPC Consultant

In 2021 we saw the introduction of the Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Lead into every residential aged care facility across Australia, as a requirement of accreditation.

The Department of Health and Aged Care provide an outline of general requirements for the role, enabling providers to determine the role based on individual facility need, environment and capability.

The session will provide suggestions for role and task descriptions, how to promote and enable the role and collaborative approaches with facility managers. We will look at templates and resources to guide this process. The floor is open for comments, input and sharing ideas and concerns.

About the presenter:

Carrie is an experienced infection control consultant, holding a BSc (RN), a Master of Science (Advanced Nurse Practitioner) and a Master of Advanced Practice (Infection Prevention and Control), Nurse Immuniser and Training and Assessment, along with other post graduate courses. Carrie also facilitates ACIPC's Foundations of IPC course, and the Short Course in Infection Prevention and Control in Aged Care Settings.

Carrie has a passion for aged care, and has worked in roles in management, quality and infection control. She's particularly interested in the development of infection control programs, resources and education in aged care settings.



AGED CARE CONNEXION FORUM

Have you checked out our Aged Care Connexion Forum yet?

ACIPC's online forums are the College's platform to facilitate communication, share ideas, seek advice from peers, and benefit from the experience of other members.

Our Aged Care Connexion Forum allows members to post and answer questions, subscribe to email notifications, and search online archives suitable to their specialty.

We invite members working in aged care (residential and home care) to join the Aged Care Connexion Forum and participate in IPC conversations and network with those in the industry.

**FIND OUT
MORE ABOUT
AGED CARE
CONNEXION
HERE**

MEMBER PROFILE MAE SIA

This month, we chat with Mae Sia, who is a Clinical Nurse Consultant for Northern Sydney Local Health Districts Infection Prevention and Control & Physical Health (MHDA). Mae has recently been nominated for a NSW Health Exceptional People Award.

Congratulations on your nomination for the Exceptional People Awards! What does this honour mean to you personally and professionally?

Personally, I feel an immense sense of fulfilment that years of hard work is recognised. With the challenges and sacrifices of the recent years, a nomination like this goes a long way in reinforcing my drive and passion and encourages me to do better every day for my patients, colleagues and organisation. I also hope that it serves as an inspiration to my daughter.

Professionally, it was both an honour and privilege to be part of the frontline team in providing support, and a great achievement knowing I was able to contribute towards implementation of infection prevention and control protocols and strategies towards safe and connected care to the consumers.



What led you to IPC as a career?

I was once a very curious IPAC Champion in the unit and that led me to do secondment roles in the North Sydney Local Health District (NSLHD) IPC Team. I'm lucky to be supported by senior mentors who generously imparted their knowledge, skills, and expertise. I am thankful for the trust of NSLHD IPAC Director, Jo Tallon, through these years and working under her impressive leadership.

How is IPC different in a mental health, drug and alcohol setting different from say, an acute care setting? Are their challenges you could share with us?

It is very challenging due to the uncontrolled environment of Mental Health Drug and Alcohol (MHDA). In the time of the pandemic, we implemented flexible IPAC strategies to risk mitigate where isolation is a standard requirement. We needed to address communication gaps and build connection with the MHDA multidisciplinary team. This helped bridge the gap to reiterate compliance, protecting and supporting the patients' mental health and keeping everyone safe in the facility.



What are you most passionate about in your IPC work?

I am passionate about patient safety and better outcomes. These can be achieved by focussing on:

- Quality improvement and safety
- Risk mitigation
- Awareness campaigns
- Surveillance and audit of data trends and results

Are there any future trends or research in your field that are exciting you right now?

I'm very interested in methods of balancing Net Zero Sustainability with the implementation of IPAC processes. There's always a challenge, and we certainly have work to do in this area, in my opinion.

Lastly, at the end of a busy week, how do you like to relax and unwind?

Any hobbies or interests you'd care to share with us?

It is important to have a good work-life balance. I usually kick off the weekend joining the local park run and walking clubs. I also play paddle or head on a beach-side trail walk to simply enjoy the scenery with a cuppa and photography on the side. I love art, painting and creating photo collages, reels, and collecting souvenir pieces whenever I travel.



ACIPC PRESIDENT'S ABC NEWS INTERVIEW



Aim for zero COVID-19 infections in healthcare, says A/Prof Stéphane Bouchoucha.

ACIPC President Stéphane Bouchoucha has called for greater consistency between health services in mandating N95 masks, amid concerns about the high number of patients catching COVID-19 in Victorian hospitals.

In an interview with ABC News, A/Prof Bouchoucha said, ***“there’s no consistency between health services, and there doesn’t seem to be leadership from the Department of Health.”***

With one in 10 patients who caught COVID in hospital in a 24-month period dying, the ACIPC President expresses concern about the complacency shown compared to golden staph or tuberculosis infections.

“Any hospital acquired infection is concerning,” he told ABC News. ***“There isn’t an acceptable number...with golden staph, we aim for zero. Why don’t we do that with COVID?”***

TO READ THE
FULL ABC
NEWS ARTICLE
CLICK HERE

READ ACIPC'S
POSITION
STATEMENT
CURRENT AND
CONTINUING IMPACT
OF COVID-19 HERE
CLICK HERE



GAMA & ACIPC IPC TOUR 2024 HIGHLIGHTS

ADELAIDE



MELBOURNE



GAMA & ACIPC IPC TOUR 2024 HIGHLIGHTS

BRISBANE





PERTH



GAMA & ACIPC IPC TOUR 2024 HIGHLIGHTS

SYDNEY





Introducing our latest IPC campaign, 'Stay a Step Ahead' of winter infections

Don't let hidden pathogens catch you off guard this winter! Dive into our comprehensive Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Winter campaign. It is designed to help you manage threats lurking on surfaces, patient and resident hands, and tackle the challenges of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR).

Scan the QR code to be part of the action

Uncover Hidden Pathogens: Download FREE IPC winter resources – including educational posters, crossword puzzles, Zoom backgrounds & screensavers!

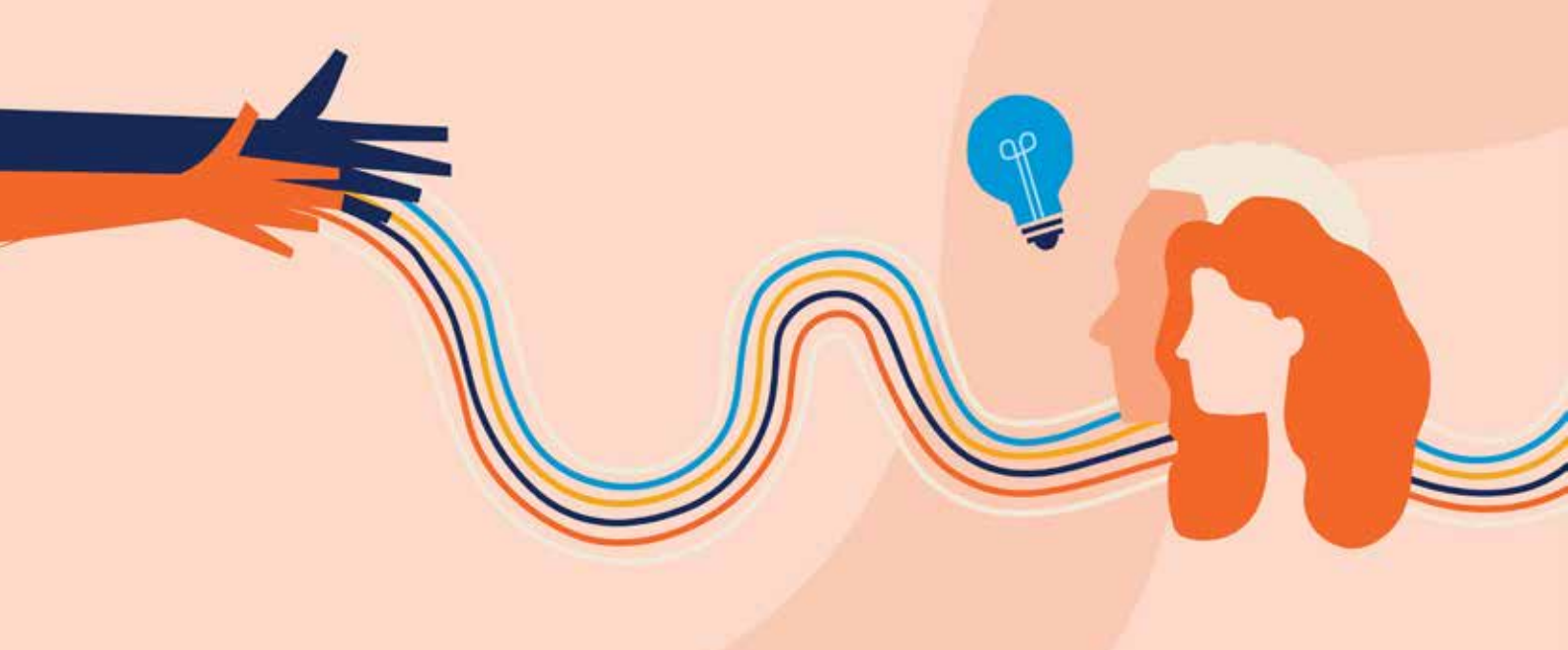
Enter our IPC Hot Tips Competition: Share your best IPC strategies and tips for a chance to WIN! Whether it's a clever technique to increase compliance of surface decontamination or a unique approach to promoting hand hygiene, your insight could make you a winner!

Educational Webinar: Register for the 'Stay a Step Ahead' educational webinar.



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WORLD HAND HYGIENE DAY

5 MAY
2024

World Hand Hygiene Day was celebrated on 5 May 2024.

This year's theme was:

Promoting knowledge and capacity building of health and care workers through innovative and impactful training and education, on infection prevention and control, including hand hygiene.

ACIPC developed a suite of resources for use in the workplace or community, including:

- A3 posters for your noticeboard tailored to a variety of different healthcare specialties
- Puzzles and games to download
- An email signature banner – free for you to download and use in your professional communication

Thanks to everyone who entered our competition to win a copy of Healthcare-Associated Infections in Australia signed by Professor Ramon Shaban. Calamvale Parklands were the lucky winners, and as you can see below, it was all hands on deck for the celebrations, with staff and residents all joining in the fun!

We hope you enjoy the photos from some of our other competition entrants too.

Our Hand Hygiene resources are still available on our website by clicking on the link [here](#) (and yes, we've put up the crossword puzzle answers!):



CALAMVALE PARKLANDS, QLD



WORLD HAND HYGIENE DAY 2024

GORDON LODGE, WA



ST VINCENTS, SYDNEY, NSW



ST VINCENTS HEATHCOTE, NSW





NATIONAL REFERRAL HOSPITAL, HONIARA, SOLOMON ISLANDS



WORRABINDA MULTIPURPOSE HEALTH SERVICE, QLD



BUG OF THE MONTH

JAPANESE ENCEPHALITIS



This month ACIPC IPC Consultant Carrie Spinks explores the Japanese Encephalitis virus (JEV).

JEV is a mosquito-borne flavivirus, it belongs to the same genus as dengue and yellow fever. Japanese encephalitis (JE) is caused by the JEV. The first documented case was in 1871 in Japan (where it gets its name); Australia's first documented case was in 1995.

In Australia mainland, Japanese encephalitis (JE) remains rare, however is endemic in Asia and Torres Strait region. Australia only had 15 cases notified between 2012 and 2021 – all but one acquired overseas. In 2022 parts of Australia experienced a JE outbreak which was declared by the Australian Government as a Communicable Disease Incident of National Significance. A One Health approach was taken collaborating health, agriculture, water and environment– government state and territory counterparts coordinated responses.

TRANSMISSION

JEV is spread through mosquito bites. JE life cycle is commonly between water birds and mosquitoes, however if wild pigs or piggeries are within infected mosquito locations, transmission can also occur to pigs. Horses can also be infected.

Transmission does not occur between humans or between mammals (pigs/horses) and water birds to humans, its also not spread by consuming infected animals. Humans and horses are considered dead end hosts; while pigs and wild birds are deemed amplifying hosts, able to produce sufficient viral blood levels, to infect mosquitoes.



HUMAN HEALTH - SYMPTOMS

Infections are usually asymptomatic, and severe illness and death are rare. Symptoms can include sudden onset of fever and headache. The small proportion of people who experience severe illness (less than 1%) have symptoms of neck stiffness, altered consciousness, focal neurological signs, convulsions, paralysis, and death – indications of encephalitis and meningitis. Symptoms usually present 5-15 days after a person is bitten by an infected mosquito.

JEV TESTING

Signs and symptoms can guide testing as well as enquiry into recent travel or visits to areas of JEV exposure. Blood tests and lumbar puncture are used to test for JEV.

Laboratory diagnosis of JE is obtained by testing serum or cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) to detect virus specific IgM antibodies. JE virus IgM antibodies are usually detectable 3 to 8 days after illness onset and persist generally for 30 - 90 days.

PROTECTION AGAINST JEV

Two ways to best protect oneself from JEV: avoid being bitten by infected mosquitoes and vaccination. Protection from mosquito bites minimises exposure to JEV and other mosquito borne viruses. **This includes:**

- Using insect repellent approved by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) on all exposed skin.
- Wear long loose-fitting, light-coloured clothing when outdoors
- Ensure accommodation (including tents) is properly fitted with mosquito netting and/or screens.
- Cover all doors, windows, vents and openings with insect proof screens
- Remove water holding containers where mosquitoes may breed
- Use insecticide sprays, vapour dispensing units (indoors) and mosquito coils (outdoors) to repel mosquitos from the area

VACCINATION:

High risk groups for the vaccination include:

People who work, reside near or visit piggeries including:

- Farm workers and their families, transport workers, veterinarians and others involved in care of pigs.
- Pork abattoir or rendering plants

People who work directly with mosquito through:

- Surveillance (field or lab based) or control and management
- Indirectly through management of vertebrate mosquito-borne disease surveillance systems (e.g. sentinel animals) such as:
 - > Environmental health officers/workers
 - > Entomologists.
- Diagnostic and research lab workers at risk of exposure and transmission through working with JEV cultures or mosquitoes

Available vaccines:

- Imojev (Sanofi Pasteur) is a single dose, live attenuated virus vaccine (not for pregnant women or those immunocompromised)
- JEspect (Seqirus) is a two dose (inactivated) vaccine which requires a 28-day interval between doses

Resources:

Japanese Encephalitis Virus (JEV) resources

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/collections/japanese-encephalitis-jev-resources>

References:

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International Nurses' Day

12 May 2024



YOU CAN VIEW
THE WEBINAR
RECORDING
HERE

INTERNATIONAL NURSES' DAY

International Nurses' Day is celebrated every May 12 on the anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth, and ACIPC joined in by recognizing nurses for the vital work they do every day.

This year's theme was:
Our Nurses. Our Future. The economic power of care.

According to the International Council of Nurses, despite being the backbone of health care, nursing often faces financial constraints and societal undervaluation. IND 2024 aimed to reshape perceptions, demonstrating how strategic investment in nursing can bring considerable economic and societal benefits.

The International Council of Nurses held a webinar chaired by ICN President Pamela Cipriano, launching their 2024 IND publication "Our Nurses, Our Future: The Economic Power of Care."

CONGRATULATIONS DURGA

Congratulations to Bene Aged Care Clinical Nurse Durga Pant (pictured with ACIPC Board Director Catherine McGovern, Manager Governance, Strategy and Clinical Development at Bene Aged Care).

Durga recently completed the Foundations of IPC Course and is the IPC Lead at Bene St.Clair in South Australia.

Well done Durga - great achievement



SOLID ROCK
AS A
2024



IPAC Canada National Conference June 9-12, 2024 • St. John's Newfoundland & Labrador

IPAC CANADA 2024 NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Join IPAC Canada at their annual conference which attracts infection prevention and control professionals of all backgrounds, including nurses, physicians, epidemiologists, environmental services managers, medical laboratory technologists, dental professionals, pre-hospital/emergency services professionals, and many other healthcare sectors across the spectrum of care.

For more information about the program, and to register, click the link [here](#).



FLUTRACKING AUSTRALIA & NZ

FluTracking is a surveillance system that uses online volunteer surveys to monitor influenza and COVID-19.

It has been running for 17 years in Australia and 5 years in New Zealand, and currently has over 110,000 participants per week contributing data, which contributes to scientific research and helps track COVID-19 and influenza in communities.

How does it work?

After registering, volunteers are sent a weekly online survey to complete. The survey takes about 30 seconds.

The FluTracking program aims to develop a system that can provide:

- Community level influenza-like and COVID-like illness surveillance
- Consistent surveillance of influenza and COVID-19 activity across all jurisdictions and over time; and
- Year-to-year comparison of the timing, attack rates, and seriousness of COVID-19 and influenza in the community.

TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE PROGRAM,
OR TO BECOME A FLUTRACKER, **CLICK HERE**



FEDERAL BUDGET 2024 – WHAT'S IN IT FOR HEALTHCARE?

On 14 May, the Australian Federal Treasurer delivered the 2024-25 Budget. Here are some of the highlights for healthcare.

Medicare

In prior Budgets, 58 Medicare Urgent Care Clinics were established. This Budget expands on that by introducing an additional 29 Medicare Urgent Care Clinics, allocating \$227 million to ensure broader accessibility for Australians across various locations, enabling them to access urgent care services promptly, with full bulk billing, and without enduring lengthy waits in crowded hospital emergency departments.

Additionally, the Budget allocates \$882.2 million for bulk billing, aiming to encourage medical practitioners to offer older Australians comprehensive medical assistance.

Hospitals

More funding will be provided to state public hospitals from 2025-2030, which will increase the Commonwealth contribution to the cost of care to 45 per cent over the next 10 years (it has been around 40 per cent until now).



Mental Health

The Government has committed \$361 million over the next four years to expand the range of free mental health services and plan to:

- Launch a new national early intervention service so people can get support before their distress escalates to needing higher intensity services or crisis care.
- Provide free mental health services through a network of 61 walk-in Medicare Mental Health Centres staffed by psychiatrists, psychologists and GPs on call.
- Fund Primary Health Networks in partnership with GPs to recruit mental health nurses and other allied health professionals. They will deliver free care coordination and assistance to patients with complex needs, bridging the gap between GP and specialist appointments.

Aged Care

- The Government is committed to delivering the new rights-based Aged Care Act. Although dates have yet to be confirmed, it's expected to commence in 2025.
- Funding of \$531.4 million has been allocated to releasing an extra 24,100 Home Care Packages in 2024-25.
- The Government has pledged \$110.9 million over four years to increase the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission's regulatory capabilities.
- Technology systems upgrade funding of \$1.2 billion has been announced, to support the introduction of the new Aged Care Act and IT systems.
- The My Aged Care Contact Centre is to receive \$37 million to lower waiting times.
- Funding of \$88.4 million has been allocated to attract and retain the aged care workforce.
- The Fair Work Commission decision to increase the award wage for direct and indirect aged care workers will be funded by the Government once the final determination is made.

Other

- The Government is working to finalise the Eighth Community Pharmacy Agreement to deliver cheaper medicines, improve patient health outcomes and support a strong community pharmacy sector, and has allocated an additional \$3 billion in funding to this.
- The Government plans to make Australia a destination for clinical trials, allocating \$18.8 million to attract more medical research and give Australians earlier access to life-changing medicines.
- An additional \$1.4 billion over 13 years has been committed to the Medical Research Future Fund. This includes an extra \$411.6 million for low-survival rate cancers and to reduce health inequality.

TAKE A LOOK AT BUDGET 2024-25 BY CLICKING [HERE](#)

RECENTLY CREDENTIALLED & RE-CREDENTIALLED MEMBERS

The board of directors would like to congratulate the following members who has received credentialling this month:

Expert Credentialling - Nicola Isles

Expert-Recredentialling - Philip Russo

For information on how you can become credentialled, visit the ACIPC website:

<https://www.acipc.org.au/credentialling/>





ACIPC 2024/25 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

ACIPC membership is a valuable resource for anyone interested in infection prevention and control. Membership gives you access to the latest IPC news, research, and evidence-based practice, as well as opportunities to share resources and network with your peers.

Membership benefits include:

- Opportunity to become a Credentialed IPC professional
- A subscription to the College's highly regarded journal, Infection, Disease & Health
- Access to the members-only email discussion forum, Infexion Connexion
- Discounted rates on educational courses
- Discounted registration to the ACIPC Conference in Melbourne
- Access to member-only resources and webinars
- Voting rights and eligibility to hold office
- Opportunities to connect with your peers within infection prevention and control

The next twelve months will see the College develop and further invest in supporting our members and IPC more broadly. The College appreciates the ongoing support of our members.

Emails will be sent out in June for membership renewal for 2024/2025

We look forward to continuing to support our members over the next 12 months.

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INFECTION CONTROL MATTERS PODCAST

Reflections on the first morning at ECCMID 2024

In our first episode from ECCMID Global 2024, Martin and Brett reflect on the session on design of the healthcare environment sessions from Profs Hilary Humphries and Cath Noakes and a flash poster session featuring VRE Reservoirs in the environment and a tremendous piece of Burkholderia sleuthing from the UKHSA

ECCMID 2024 - The year in infection control

In this podcast, Brett and Martin reflect on the “Infection Control Papers of the Year” presented at ECCMID (AKA ESCMID Global) 2024.

Here are a selection of some of the papers mentioned:

- Decolonization in Nursing Homes to Prevent Infection and Hospitalization <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37815935/>
- Reducing Hospitalizations and Multidrug-Resistant Organisms via a Regional Decolonization in Hospitals and Nursing Homes <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/38557703/>
- Prevention of non-ventilator-associated hospital-acquired pneumonia in Switzerland: a type 2 hybrid effectiveness-implementation trial <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/36893785/>
- Skin Antisepsis before Surgical Fixation of Extremity Fractures <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa2307679>



- Trial of Vancomycin and Cefazolin as Surgical Prophylaxis in Arthroplasty <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa2301401>
- Investigation of individual nurses' relative hand hygiene performance using an anonymous automated electronic hand hygiene monitoring system and a nursing assignment schedule [https://www.ajicjournal.org/article/S0196-6553\(22\)00468-0/abstract](https://www.ajicjournal.org/article/S0196-6553(22)00468-0/abstract)
- Environmental cleaning to prevent hospital-acquired infections on non-intensive care units: a pragmatic, single-centre, cluster randomized controlled, crossover trial comparing soap-based, disinfection and probiotic cleaning <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37089619/>



Discussing the new WHO infectious respiratory particles paper at ECCMIDD (with Prof Cath Noakes)

In this episode, Brett, Martin and Phil mull over the newly published WHO discussion document on respiratory particles and Martin catches up with Prof Cath Noakes from the School of Engineering in Leeds, UK to get her take on it.

You can download the document we are discussing here:

<https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/global-technical-consultation-report-on-proposed-terminology-for-pathogens-that-transmit-through-the-air>

Reflection on Day 2 of ESCMID Global 2024

In this episode, Phil, Brett and Martin discuss more sessions from ESCMID Global (Barcelona, 2024). We talk about sessions on cleaning the occupied bed space, SSI prevention and the difficulty of designing and executing good studies in IPC.

We were particularly interested in papers from Italy on the use of probiotics in IPC and some papers from Prof Cassini's group are highlighted below.

- Calabro GE, Caselli E, Rognoni C, Laurenti P, Moscato U, ML DIP, et al. [Health Technology Assessment of the introduction of the Probiotic Cleaning Hygiene System (PCHS) in the Italian healthcare setting: update]. *J Prev Med Hyg.* 2023;64:E1-E35. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/37881619>
- D'Accolti M, Soffritti I, Bini F, Mazziga E, Cason C, Comar M, et al. Shaping the subway microbiome through probiotic-based sanitation during the COVID-19 emergency: a pre-post case-control study. *Microbiome.* 2023;11:64. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/36991513>

- D'Accolti M, Soffritti I, Bini F, Mazziga E, Mazzacane S, Caselli E. Pathogen Control in the Built Environment: A Probiotic-Based System as a Remedy for the Spread of Antibiotic Resistance. *Microorganisms.* 2022;10. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/35208679>
- Caselli E, Purificato I. Could we fight healthcare-associated infections and antimicrobial resistance with probiotic-based sanitation? Commentary. *Ann Ist Super Sanita.* 2020;56:263-6. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/32959791>
- Caselli E, D'Accolti M, Vandini A, Lanzoni L, Camerada MT, Coccagna M, et al. Impact of a Probiotic-Based Cleaning Intervention on the Microbiota Ecosystem of the Hospital Surfaces: Focus on the Resistome Remodulation. *PLoS One.* 2016;11:e0148857. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26886448>

Reflections on Day 3 at ESCMID Global 2024

It was day 3 at ESCMID Global 2024 and Phil, Brett and Martin mull over the day.

Amongst the items we discuss are:

- What does endogenous really mean?
- AI in the IPC space - friend or foe?
- Fungal outbreaks - epidemiological challenges and tracing the source
- Automated bloodstream infection surveillance
- The Euro PPS survey results - data in action (or inaction)

Subsequent to the podcast recording the ECDC PPS results have been published and can be found here:

<https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/healthcare-associated-infections-antimicrobial-use-point-prevalence-survey-2016-2017.pdf>

Latest articles from Infection, Disease & Health

Attitudes to cross infection, nebulizer hygiene and antimicrobial resistance in people with cystic fibrosis: Results of an international survey

Beverley C. Millar, Jacqueline C. Rendall, John E. Moore

[https://www.idhjjournal.com.au/article/S2468-0451\(24\)00024-5/fulltext](https://www.idhjjournal.com.au/article/S2468-0451(24)00024-5/fulltext)

Daily COVID-19 employee attestations at a large quaternary hospital in Melbourne, Australia – Limitations and lessons learnt

Vivian K.Y. Leung, Elizabeth Orr, Caroline Marshall

[https://www.idhjjournal.com.au/article/S2468-0451\(24\)00025-7/fulltext](https://www.idhjjournal.com.au/article/S2468-0451(24)00025-7/fulltext)

Knowledge and attitudes of healthcare workers about influenza vaccination

Oussama Kaddour, Asma Ben Mabrouk, Sondess Arfa, Najoua Lassoued, Olfa Berriche, Jihene Chelli

[https://www.idhjjournal.com.au/article/S2468-0451\(24\)00027-0/fulltext](https://www.idhjjournal.com.au/article/S2468-0451(24)00027-0/fulltext)

Key lessons from the establishment of a nurse-led infection prevention and control program for COVID-19 in an Australian hotel quarantine and isolation service

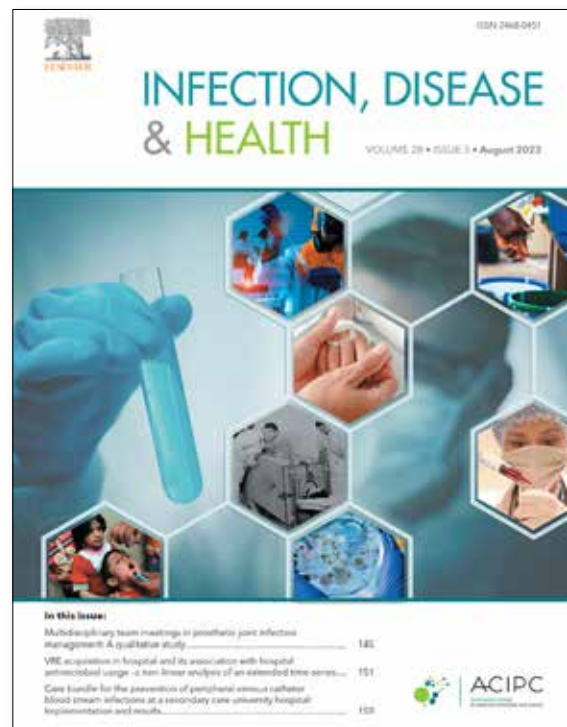
J. Petty, A. Peacock-Smith, E. Dawson, ... A. Ganesh, B. McEntee, R. Einboden

[https://www.idhjjournal.com.au/article/S2468-0451\(24\)00021-X/fulltext](https://www.idhjjournal.com.au/article/S2468-0451(24)00021-X/fulltext)

N-95/P2 respirator compliance with fit testing recommendations and respirator satisfaction amongst hospital staff

Liam Hackett, Melanie (Meilun) Zhang, Matthew Casey, Emogene Aldridge, Patrick J. Owen, Paul Buntine

[https://www.idhjjournal.com.au/article/S2468-0451\(24\)00023-3/fulltext](https://www.idhjjournal.com.au/article/S2468-0451(24)00023-3/fulltext)



Oral care practices and hospital-acquired pneumonia prevention: A national survey of Australian nurses

Peta Ellen Tehan, Katrina Browne, Georgia Matterson, Nicole White, Rhonda Wilson, Brett G. Mitchell

[https://www.idhjjournal.com.au/article/S2468-0451\(24\)00028-2/fulltext](https://www.idhjjournal.com.au/article/S2468-0451(24)00028-2/fulltext)

From basic research to clinical practice: The impact of laminar airflow filters on surgical site infection in vascular surgery

Albert González-Sagredo, Albert Castellà Durall, Thiago Carnaval, Sebastián Videla, Ramon Vila, Elena Iborra

[https://www.idhjjournal.com.au/article/S2468-0451\(24\)00026-9/fulltext](https://www.idhjjournal.com.au/article/S2468-0451(24)00026-9/fulltext)



Selected publications of interest

Comparison of an algorithm, and coding data, with traditional surveillance to identify surgical site infections in Australia: a retrospective multi-centred cohort study - Journal of Hospital Infection

[https://www.journalofhospitalinfection.com/article/S0195-6701\(24\)00113-0/fulltext](https://www.journalofhospitalinfection.com/article/S0195-6701(24)00113-0/fulltext)

CARAlert Annual Report: 2023

<https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/publications-and-resources/resource-library/caralert-annual-report-2023>

Rethinking Airborne Pathogens: WHO Proposes New Terminology for Disease Spread

<https://www.infectioncontroltoday.com/view/rethinking-airborne-pathogens-who-proposes-new-terminology-disease-spread>

Understanding what leaders can do to facilitate healthcare workers' feeling valued: improving our knowledge of the strongest burnout mitigator

<https://bmjleader.bmj.com/content/early/2024/04/21/leader-2023-000921> knowledge of the strongest burnout mitigator

Assisting the infection preventionist: Use of artificial intelligence for health care-associated infection surveillance

[https://www.ajicjournal.org/article/S0196-6553\(24\)00077-4/abstract](https://www.ajicjournal.org/article/S0196-6553(24)00077-4/abstract)

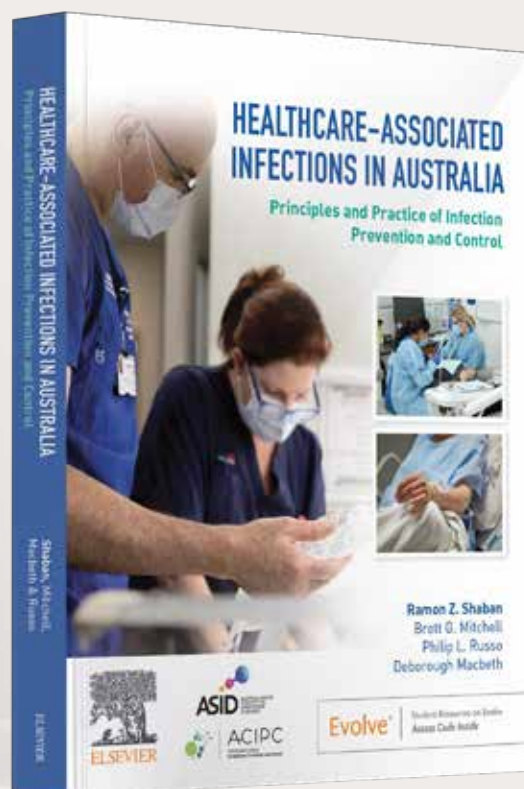
Automated traffic monitoring of neurosurgical operating room

[https://www.ajicjournal.org/article/S0196-6553\(24\)00055-5/abstract](https://www.ajicjournal.org/article/S0196-6553(24)00055-5/abstract)

Impacts of lid closure during toilet flushing and of toilet bowl cleaning on viral contamination of surfaces in United States restrooms

[https://www.ajicjournal.org/article/S0196-6553\(23\)00820-9/fulltext](https://www.ajicjournal.org/article/S0196-6553(23)00820-9/fulltext)

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