



ACIPC

Australasian College  
for Infection Prevention and Control

# IPC News

**APRIL 25**





# President's report

Stéphane Bouchoucha

Welcome to the April 2025 edition of IPC News.



This month has seen the College release two new Position Statements, *Advocacy for the inclusion of IPC in the Australian CDC*, and *The use of particulate filter respirators (PFR) masks for the management of COVID-19 in healthcare settings*.

The development of the Australian Centre for Disease Control (Australian CDC) is something ACIPC strongly supports. However, it is extremely concerning that the framework for the new centre does not include formal IPC involvement. Without IPC embedded in the new CDC, responsiveness and preparedness for future pandemics will be severely hindered. ACIPC recommends that IPC expertise be included in the Australian CDC not only to enhance preparedness, but to establish a national surveillance program for Healthcare Associated Infections, as Australia is one of the few OECD countries without one.

The College's other Position Statement calls for the consistent use of PFR masks over surgical masks in healthcare environments with suspected or confirmed COVID-19. ACIPC disagrees with current Australian IPC guidelines which recommend surgical masks as standard PPE in healthcare settings. The spread of COVID-19 through airborne/inhalation transmission is well documented, and we also know that PFR masks provide much higher protection than surgical masks. ACIPC is calling for revised national guidelines and enhanced training, as well as improved ventilation and infection control measures.

The College also collaborated with ASID and AVAS this month to produce some interim guidance on the use of alternative antiseptic products, in the wake of a recall of some product recalls.

ACIPC Board Directors Sally Havers and Janine Caruccan were part of the Expert Group who worked on this project. You can read more about this collaboration and the guidance we developed [here](#).

Registrations have opened for the ACIPC International Conference 2025, to be held from 16 – 19 November 2025 in Hobart, Tasmania and online. This year's gathering promises to be another interesting and stimulating event, and we have a range of registration options for you to take advantage of. Don't forget to get your abstract submission to us, as the cut-off date for these is 30 May 2025, and remember that all accepted abstracts will be published in a special online edition of *Infection, Disease and Health* – what a great opportunity to get your research project publicised! Early bird registration will be available until the 1st of October 2025, and you can find out more at the ACIPC2025 website [here](#).

We have also been gearing up for World Hand Hygiene Day (WHHD) on 5 May 2025, and ACIPC has produced a great range of resources to help you and your colleagues celebrate and spread awareness in your healthcare communities. We have posters, games, puzzles and email banners, and will once again be running a photo competition. It's always wonderful to see how everyone celebrates WHHD, and we'll feature photos of the celebrations in next month's IPC News. In the meantime, do take a look at our resources, print them out and use them in your workplaces all year round. Please see [page 11](#) for more details.

Best wishes,

Stéphane Bouchoucha



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**ACIPC INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2025**

# **CIRCLES OF INFLUENCE: EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE AND PRACTICE-BASED EVIDENCE**

**16-19 NOV 2025 | HOTEL GRAND CHANCELLOR, HOBART, TASMANIA & ONLINE**

**On behalf of the Board of Directors and Scientific Conference Organising Committee, it gives us great pleasure to invite you to attend the 2025 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. We encourage delegates travelling to Hobart to extend their trip either side of the conference so you can visit the many wonderful sights and attractions the city and Tasmania has to offer.

An early registration discounted fee will be offered and will be available until the 1st of October 2025.

Find out more about registration [here](#)



## CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

We invite you to present your research, innovative practices and programs, to an engaged audience of Infection Prevention and Control professionals. You can nominate to present your work as an oral presentation, a poster, or a lightning talk.

**This year, authors will need to nominate on of the following two types of abstract when submitting:**

- Practice and Policy - abstracts submitted under practice/policy must have a clear problem/issue identified, what was done to rectify the problem/issue, the results, conclusions, and lessons learnt.
- Research - abstracts submitted under research must use the Introduction, Methods, Results and Conclusion format.

**Presentation formats are:**

- Oral presentations
- Lightning talks
- Posters

Want to know more about how to submit an extract? We have abstract templates and a handy step-by-step video guide to help you.

The call for abstracts closes on 30 May 2025.

To view all of the information about abstract submission, visit the conference website [here](#)

## PARTNER WITH US

Interested in showcasing your solutions and supporting the sector? Sponsorship and exhibition opportunities are now available and selling fast – connect with your audience and position your brand at the forefront of infection prevention and control innovation.

For more about sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities, click [here](#)

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# INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL IN AGED CARE SETTINGS

## WHAT IS THE COURSE FOR?

This course is designed to provide staff with the fundamental principles and concepts of infection prevention and control practice as they apply to various Aged Care settings in particular Residential and Community Aged Care settings. This course is for all aged care staff, including (but not limited to) RNs and EN/EENs supporting aged care IPC clinical leads, and facility managers needing up-to-date best-practice IPC knowledge and skills.

The modules can be undertaken over a six-to-eight-week period and a certificate of completion will be issued to students who complete the course.

## MODULES INCLUDE:

- ✓ Principles of Infection Prevention and Control
- ✓ Management of the environment, resident and staff health
- ✓ Management of invasive devices, hygiene and aseptic techniques
- ✓ Management of outbreaks
- ✓ Organisms of significant AMS
- ✓ Governance and leadership

**COST: \$500**

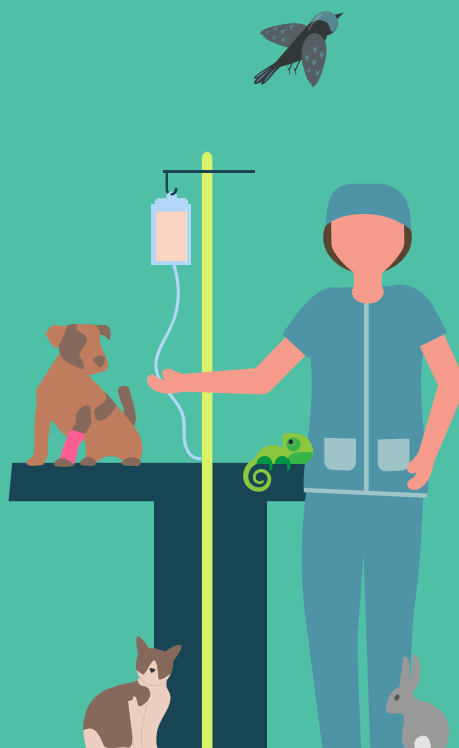
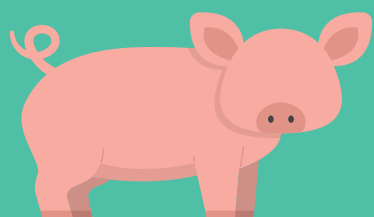


If you have any questions,  
please email [learning@acipc.org.au](mailto:learning@acipc.org.au)  
or go to our website for more  
information [acipc.org.au](https://acipc.org.au)



**MORE  
INFORMATION**

# Veterinary Foundations of Infection Prevention and Control



## Next course commences 6 August 2025

**We are pleased to announce that in 2025 we will once again be offering – Veterinary Foundations of Infection Prevention and Control (VFIPC).**

This groundbreaking course is designed for all veterinary staff worldwide and aims to provide students with a broad understanding and introductory skills to enable them to assess, plan, implement and evaluate infection prevention and control activities within their veterinary workplace.

With 11 self-paced modules running over approximately six months, VFIPC allows participants to apply knowledge to their own practice, and is a key component to achieving the ACIPC Primary Credential (CICP-P).

The program has been designed to accommodate busy work schedules, with a series of self-directed learning units supported by a structured online curriculum.

### **Topics include:**

- environmental hygiene
- outbreak management
- employee health
- surveillance
- epidemiology and microbiology

This course reflects recent evidence, guidelines and standards.

### **Cost**

- \$1520 for ACIPC members
- \$1820 for non-members

**BOOK NOW  
FOR COURSE  
COMMENCING  
6 AUGUST  
2025**

If you have any questions,  
please email [learning@acipc.org.au](mailto:learning@acipc.org.au)  
or go to our website for more  
information [acipc.org.au](http://acipc.org.au)



**APPLY  
HERE**

# 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**

**Course updated in response to new guidelines, epidemiology data, and emerging evidence.**

**BOOK NOW**  
FOR COURSE  
COMMENCING  
20 JUNE 2025

*LIMITED SPACES LEFT*

If you have any questions,  
please email [learning@acipc.org.au](mailto:learning@acipc.org.au)  
or go to our website for more  
information [acipc.org.au](http://acipc.org.au)



**MORE  
INFORMATION**



## Credentiailling

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

**Primary credentiailling:** Mark Scanlon

**Advanced credentiailling:** Gemma Mallin

*For information on how you can become credentiailled, visit the [ACIPC website](#).*

FOR MORE  
INFORMATION  
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INFORMATION  
ABOUT THE AWARD,  
ELIGIBILITY AND  
HOW TO APPLY,  
**CLICK HERE**

## Dr Joan Faoagali Award

**Interested in completing the Foundations of Infection Prevention and Control course? You could have your course fee reimbursed.**

Dr Joan Faoagali made a significant contribution to the education of members of the College over many years with her involvement in both State and National Infection Prevention and Control activities. Joan showed great resilience, tremendous vision, and was a true leader inspiring all those whose lives she touched – working towards achieving something greater than themselves. Joan's passion and influence was key to the development of the ACIPC Foundations of Infection Prevention and Control Course. Joan, whilst battling her cancer made time to write and develop modules for the initial ACIPC Foundations of Infection Prevention and Control course. Joan was well known in the Australian Infection Prevention and Control community. Joan was particularly interested in the education of clinicians, the prudent use of antibiotics, Infection Prevention and Control and the intelligent use of pathology services. Joan was a passionate teacher and service development advocate in both high-level referral centres in Australia and New Zealand and in developing countries including our Pacific neighbours. After initially qualifying in Microbiology in Dunedin, Joan was Director of Microbiology at Christchurch Hospital in New Zealand and then the Royal Brisbane and Princess Alexandra Hospitals in Queensland. She held multiple adjunct academic appointments, including Griffith University, University of Queensland and Queensland University of Technology. She will be remembered as a warm generous leader and mentor of students and senior colleagues alike. The Dr Joan Faoagali Award recognises the significant and valuable contribution Joan made to Infection Prevention and Control Professionals and especially members of ACIPC. The Dr Joan Faoagali Award allows Infection Prevention and Control Professionals to engage in ongoing learning through participation in the ACIPC Foundations of Infection Prevention and Control course.

### **Please include with your application:**

- A brief statement (no more than 500 words) describing the importance of completing the ACIPC Foundations of Infection Prevention and Control Course
- A current brief curriculum vitae highlighting Infection Prevention and Control involvement

**Application open on 3 April and close at 9AM AEST Monday 5 May 2025.**

**Please note you need to be a member of ACIPC to apply for this scholarship.**

# WORLD HAND HYGIENE DAY

## 5 MAY 2025

# It might be gloves. It's always hand hygiene.

**World Hand Hygiene Day will be celebrated on 5 May 2025.**  
**This year's theme is: It might be gloves. It's always hand hygiene.**

Take a look at our great new resources for you to use in your workplace or organisation to help share the knowledge about the importance of hand hygiene.

### This year we have:

#### A3 posters

- Acute
- Aged Care
- Allied Health
- Children and Carers
- Clinical
- Consumer
- Veterinary

#### Printable puzzles and games

- Quiz – test your knowledge
- Word Find – find the hand hygiene words
- Snakes and Ladders Game – print out and play with colleagues

#### Worlde

We'll be putting up a hand hygiene themed Wordle all week from Monday 5 May.

**Email signature banner** for use in your professional communication.

### Enter our competition to win!

We want to see your Hand Hygiene Day celebrations!

Tag us in to your social media posts using #ACIPC, or email us your photos as [office@acipc.org.au](mailto:office@acipc.org.au).

This year's winner will receive a beautiful custom-engraved eco-wood trophy to show off in your office, lunchroom, front desk, or prominent place of your choice!

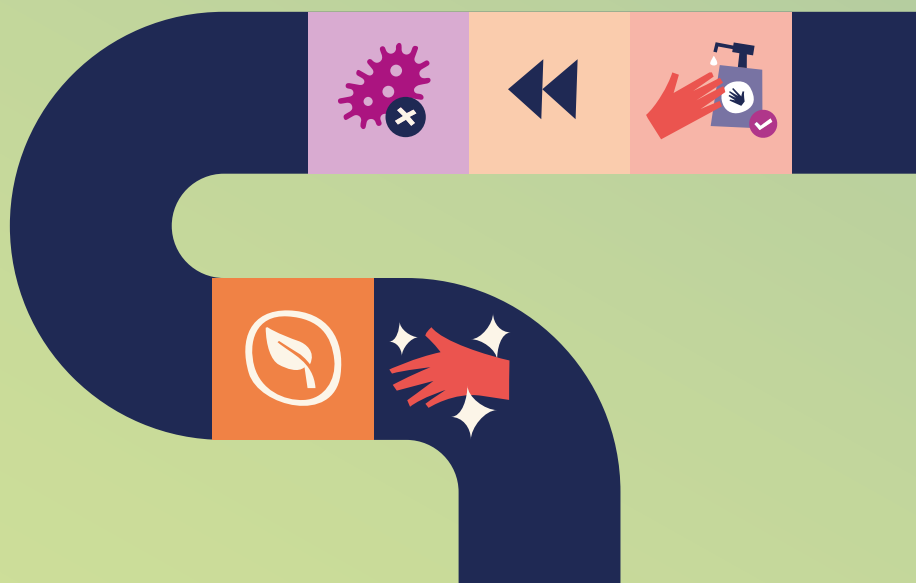
Competition closes Friday 16 May 2025. We'll publish a selection of your photos in the May edition of IPC News, as well as sharing on our social media channels.

Good luck!

### Follow us on



CHECK OUT  
OUR **WHHD**  
RESOURCES!





# MEMBER PROFILE:

## Danielle Engelbrecht



### Can you tell us about your career background and what led you to a career in IPC?

I have always had an interest in infectious diseases and microbiology. Even from a young age I was fascinated by one of my mum's medical books on infectious diseases (well before the internet!)

When I first started university, I enrolled in a Bachelor of Science with the intention of studying microbiology and undertook work experience in the Royal Perth Hospital microbiology department.

Life had other ideas, and I moved into a nursing and midwifery career. Whilst working as a labour and birth suite midwife, I had the opportunity to do a leave relief stint for our hospital's Clinical Nurse Consultant, Cathy Jones. I was hooked!

That was now 18 years ago. I have implemented IPC programs in several Western Australian (WA) public and private health settings over this time. I had some great IPC mentors in Rosie Lee, Terri Orrell and Rebecca McCann over this time.

### What fascinates you about IPC and what are you passionate about?

I am passionate about building strong IPC teams and building relationships with stakeholders. I am motivated to grow the standing of IPC at national, state and institutional levels.

I love the application of IPC principles in neonatal and paediatric care across the various divisions of my organisation ranging community to tertiary settings.

One particular goal this year for our service is around improvements to line insertion and management practices. Another is to finesse our preparedness procedures for high consequence infectious diseases (HCID), including viral haemorrhagic fevers (VHF), as Perth Children's Hospital (PCH) is Western Australia's paediatric quarantine centre.

### **Are there particular challenges for IPC in WA and what are they?**

Western Australia is quite remote from the rest of the country. I am particularly pleased to support the Western Australian Special Interest Group (WASIG) to improve access of WA IPC professionals to IPC education, research and networking.

### **Tell us about a typical day for you**

I am the Coordinator of Nursing for Infection Prevention and Control at the Child and Adolescent Health Service (CAHS) in Perth. CAHS is a comprehensive health service for children and young people in Western Australia. It includes Perth Children's Hospital and Neonatology, Community Health and Mental Health. PCH is Western Australia's specialist paediatric hospital and trauma centre, providing medical care to children and adolescents who are 15 years old or under.

I support an amazing IPC team across these services who provide a proactive IPC consultancy. Each day is different, but there are often a lot of meetings! I chair the services Standard 3 Committee and sit on a number of state IPC related committee also.

### **What has been your career highlight so far?**

I love the unpredictability of IPC, especially the adrenaline rush of outbreak management. I had the opportunity to support the state response during the COVID-19 pandemic alongside a team of passionate and talented IPCs in the WA Public Health Emergency Operations Centre (PHEOC).

One of the highlights was a deployment to our north with the WA Medical Assistance Team (WAMAT) to provide assistance in the management of an outbreak of COVID-19 on a merchant ship. I love being able to give back to our professional community and have also had the opportunity to act as a mentor via the ACIPC Mentor Program and our Mentor program here at CAHS.

### **How do you like to relax and unwind? Any hobbies or interests you'd like to share with us?**

I love being active and up until last year was an avid field hockey player. I love to run and do yoga. I have two teenage children who keep me busy as their taxi service! Also, as a result of my children's interests, I now watch a lot of water polo!! We are big supporters of the UWA Torpedoes!

# NEW POSITION STATEMENTS

## *Advocacy for the inclusion of IPC in the Australian CDC*

ACIPC is advocating for infection prevention and control expertise to be included in the new Australian Centre for Disease Control (CDC).

The College is concerned about the lack of IPC expertise within the proposed Australian CDC and is urging formal representation and permanent inclusion of IPC as a specialty.

**We have released a position statement urging the Australian Government to embed IPC expertise within the Australian CDC structure to ensure:**

- expert IPC guidance during future pandemics
- healthcare facilities and community settings can implement standardised IPC protocols and guidelines
- future and emerging infectious disease prevention and control is effective across the entire community
- an effective national surveillance program for Healthcare Associated Infections (HAIs)

The integration of IPC as a core function within the Australian CDC will enable Australia to build a One Health framework and strengthen our ability to prevent, control, and respond to infectious disease threats in the future. It is critical for consumer and employee safety, quality improvement, prevention of antimicrobial resistance and improving outbreak preparedness and responses that IPC be an integral part of the new CDC.

To view and download the Position Statement, please click the link [here](#)



# NEW POSITION STATEMENTS

## *The use of PFR masks for the management of COVID-19 in healthcare settings*

ACIPC is calling for the consistent use of PFR masks over surgical masks in healthcare environments with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.

In its latest Position Statement, The use of particulate filter respirators (PFR) masks for the management of COVID-19 in healthcare settings, the College disagrees with Australian infection prevention and control guidelines which recommend surgical masks as standard PPE in healthcare settings.

### **The statement explains:**

COVID-19 transmission through the air is by both respiratory droplet (direct deposition) and airborne particles (airborne/inhalation). Evidence demonstrates that COVID-19 is capable of airborne/inhalation transmission, particularly in enclosed spaces, where there is high viral loading and during aerosol-generating procedures (AGPs). Healthcare workers and individuals are at heightened risk due to frequent close contact with patients/individuals and the potential for exposure to aerosolized viral particles. As such, appropriate PPE—especially PFR masks—is crucial in reducing transmission risks.

### **The College recommends:**

- Recognising the significant risk of airborne/inhalation transmission of COVID-19 in healthcare settings.
- The use of PFR masks over surgical masks to better prevent airborne/inhalation transmission.
- Consistent use of PFR masks in healthcare environments with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.
- A revision of national IPC guidelines to reflect evidence on airborne risks and support PFR mask usage.

To read the full Position Statement, please click the link [here](#)

To view all of ACIPC's Positions Statement, follow the link [here](#)

# ACIPC Aged Care IPC Webinar

## Companion animals in aged care

14 MAY 2025  
2PM AEST



ACIPC

Australasian College  
for Infection Prevention and Control

with Carrie Spinks &  
guest speaker Sam Jewell



**Topic:** Companion Animals in Aged Care

**Presenter:** Carrie Spinks

**Guest speaker:** Sam Jewell, CEO – Lifeview Aged Care

**CLICK  
HERE TO  
REGISTER**

We know the human-animal bond is special but traditionally when someone moved into aged care their beloved pet could not come with them, causing further heartbreak for both. This situation is however slowly changing (18% of providers now accept pets), and this presentation will explore Lifeview's experience of having pets move into care with their owners – overcoming objections, changing the narrative and improving resident wellbeing.

Our guest speaker will be Samantha Jewell from Lifeview Aged Care. Samantha has a passion for equality, older Australians, their rights and delivering the best quality care possible for all who chose to live with Lifeview. Samantha is also keen on changing the narrative and showcasing all that is great and innovative about aged care. Samantha's modern leadership style sees Lifeview at the forefront of specialist partnerships with organisations such as Dementia Australia, the Victorian Pride Centre and CANA.

Missed an ACIPC Aged Care webinar? You can watch recordings of the entire series [\*\*here\*\*](#)

# IPC Tour



ACIPC and GAMA Healthcare invite you to the Infection Prevention & Control Tour.

National and international insights include:

- Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) in Broader Healthcare Settings
- CLEEN Study: Cost-Effectiveness Insights and Clinical Implications
- Aged Care Standards: What They Mean for Your Facility
- The Hidden Threats of Pathogens and Biofilms: A Call for Enhanced Decontamination

An opportunity to discuss local challenges is provided while networking with peers.

## Brisbane



**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2025**



Royal Brisbane & Women's Hospital

## Melbourne



**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2025**



Rendezvous Hotel

## Sydney



**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025**



Novotel Sydney Olympic Park

## Launceston



**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2025**



The Tramsheds

## Adelaide



**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2025**



Rydges Adelaide

## Perth



**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2025**



Bentley Technology Park

Registration:



[gamahealthcareau.eventbrite.com](https://gamahealthcareau.eventbrite.com)

Keynote speakers:



Martin Kiernan



Brett Mitchell



# May Lunch & Learn Webinar



**Title:** The cost of CLEEN: how improving cleaning and disinfection saves lives and costs.

**Presenter:** Kate Browne

**Date:** Friday 23 May, 12:00PM AEST

**CLICK  
HERE TO  
REGISTER**

## Abstract:

The CLEEN (CLEaning and Enhanced DisiNfection) study is the first randomised controlled trial to assess the effect of enhanced cleaning and disinfection of shared medical equipment on healthcare-associated infections (HAIs). In the control phase, there was no change to environmental cleaning practices. In the intervention phase, a multimodal cleaning bundle included an additional 3 h per weekday for the dedicated cleaning and disinfection of shared medical equipment, ongoing education, audit, and feedback.

The findings revealed that the intervention not only improved the thoroughness of cleaning but also significantly reduced HAIs. Importantly, a cost-effectiveness analysis showed that the cleaning intervention was cost-saving. The reduction in infections translated to reduced length of stay, outweighing the modest investment in enhanced cleaning measures.

The CLEEN study highlights the dual benefits of environmental cleaning: better patient safety and substantial financial savings for healthcare systems. This evidence underscores the importance of prioritising cleaning interventions as a core component of infection prevention programs. By adopting the CLEEN study's approach, hospitals can achieve sustainable improvements in care quality while optimising resource use.

This webinar will explore the study's findings, providing actionable insights to empower healthcare facilities to implement cost-effective cleaning interventions.

## About the presenter:

Dr Kate Browne is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Avondale University, Australia. Kate completed her PhD at UNSW Sydney where she focused on antimicrobial strategies to prevent healthcare-associated infections. In her role as Clinical Trial Coordinator for the CLEEN study, Kate helped to implement a multimodal intervention to improve the cleaning and disinfection of shared medical equipment. Kate has established a strong publication record, with her work featured in high-impact scientific journals, including The Lancet Infectious Diseases. Her expertise spans broadly across infection prevention strategies with a particular interest in antimicrobial resistance and biofilm research.

# BUG OF THE MONTH

## *Leptospira*

Karen McKenna



### What is it?

Leptospirosis is a disease caused by infection with the bacteria *Leptospira*, that can be found in contaminated water or soil and affects both animals and humans<sup>1,2</sup>. Leptospirosis can occur worldwide, but is most common in tropical and sub-tropical climates with high rainfall, humidity, and an increased risk after flooding or cyclones<sup>1,2</sup>.

Leptospirosis is a notifiable disease in both Australia and New Zealand.

### Symptoms

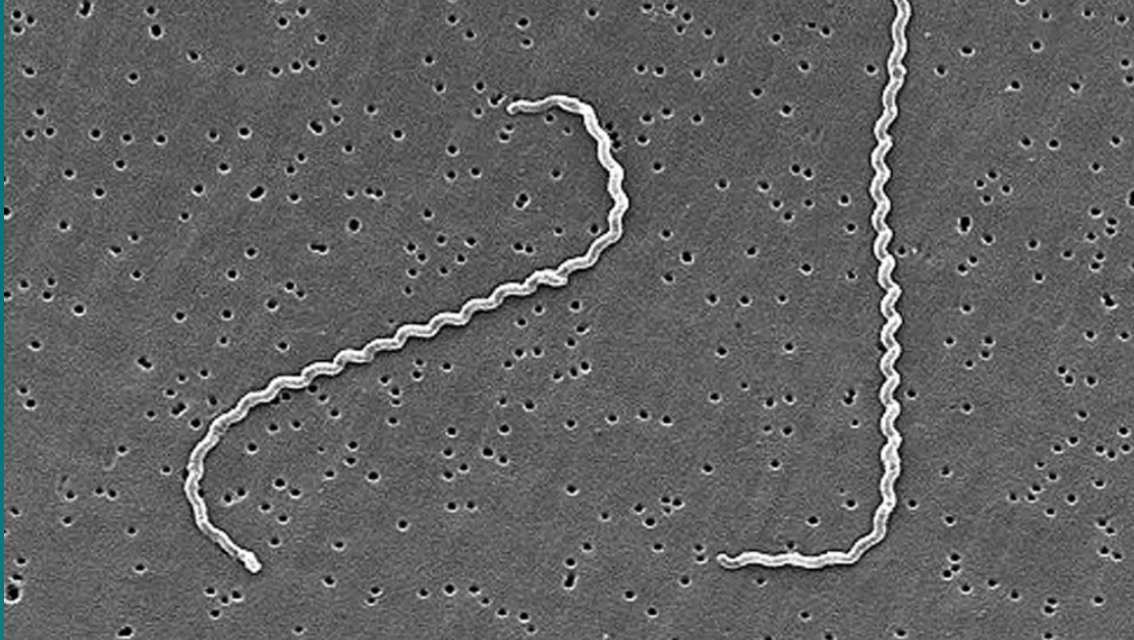
Symptoms can be wide ranging and include flu like symptoms (fever, chills, headaches, muscle aches, sore throat), red eyes, vomiting, diarrhoea and abdominal pain<sup>1</sup>. Between 5-15% of people who are infected develop severe symptoms causing an illness known as Weil's disease that may require hospitalisation, symptoms include jaundice, kidney failure, liver failure, heart disease and meningitis<sup>1,3</sup>.

Symptoms usually start around 5-14 days after infection and can last from a few days to three weeks<sup>1,3</sup>.

### How is it transmitted?

*Leptospira* bacteria are spread through the urine of infected animals, that can survive in contaminated water or soil from weeks to months<sup>2</sup>. Both wild and domestic animals can carry the bacteria and may have no symptoms, including, livestock, dogs, cats, possums and rodents<sup>1,2</sup>.

People become infected with *Leptospira* bacteria through direct contact with the body fluids of infected animals, through eating or drinking contaminated food or water, and through contact with water or soil that contains the urine or body fluids from infected animals<sup>2</sup>. The risk of transmission is increased after heavy rainfall, flooding or cyclones when the contaminated animal urine in the soil gets into flood or rainwater, and contaminates natural water sources, causing outbreaks<sup>1,2</sup>. Human to human transmission is very rare<sup>3</sup>.



### At risk groups

People are at risk of leptospirosis if they have close contact with animals or are exposed to water, mud/soil or vegetation that has been contaminated with animal urine or body fluids<sup>3</sup>.

Occupations that put people at a high risk includes farmers, veterinarians and abattoir workers, and people undertaking activities of higher risk including swimming and water sports, camping and gardening<sup>1,3</sup>.

### Prevention

General prevention measures include avoiding contact with water that may be contaminated, wearing appropriate footwear when near muddy or wet areas, covering wounds when potential contact with contaminated water or soil is likely, using gloves when gardening, controlling pests and rodents, and hand washing before and after eating<sup>1</sup>.

Vaccinating animals is an important step in leptospirosis prevention, however there is no human vaccine<sup>3</sup>.

### References

1. March, 2025. <https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/conditionsandtreatments/leptospirosis>
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. About Leptospirosis. CDC. <https://www.cdc.gov/leptospirosis/about/index.html>
3. Health Direct. Leptospirosis. Healthdirect Australia Limited, . Updated April 2024. Accessed 11 March, 2025. <https://www.healthdirect.gov.au/leptospirosis>



# Infection Control Matters Podcast

## The Sinkbug Survey: Antibiotics, AMR, Chemicals and Plumbing

In this episode of *Infection Control Matters*, Martin Kiernan speaks with Dr. Nicole Stoesser about a large-scale, multi-centre study exploring the role of hospital sink infrastructure in antimicrobial resistance and pathogen dissemination. Representing the collaborative NITCAR-led "Sinkbug Consortium" we discuss surprising findings from 29 UK hospitals—including widespread antibiotic residues in sink traps—and reflect on the implications for sink design, waste disposal practices, and infection prevention strategies

The paper we discuss is here:

Rodger G, Chau K, Aranega Bou P, Moore G, Roohi A, The SinkBug Consortium, et al. Survey of healthcare-associated sink infrastructure, and sink trap antibiotic residues and biochemistry, in 29 UK hospitals. *J Hosp Infect* 2025. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhin.2025.02.002>.

Information on Nitcar: <https://nitcollaborative.org.uk/wp/>

Other papers of interest:

Aranega-Bou P, George RP, Verlander NQ, Paton S, Bennett A, Moore G, et al. Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae dispersal from sinks is linked to drain position and drainage rates in a laboratory model system. *J Hosp Infect* 2019;102(1):63-9. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/30571992/>

Grabowski M, Lobo JM, Gunnell B, Enfield K, Carpenter R, Barnes L, et al. Characterizations of handwashing sink activities in a single hospital medical intensive care unit. *J Hosp Infect* 2018;100(3):e115-e22. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhin.2018.04.025>

## Use of AI to create a podcast discussion - are we out of a job?

In this episode of *Infection Control Matters*, we explore the potential of AI tools to support education and professional dialogue in infection prevention and control.



We used **NotebookLM**, an experimental tool from Google designed to help users interact with their documents in new ways—summarising, clarifying, and even generating structured discussions based

on uploaded content. Using research and guidance documents, we demonstrate how NotebookLM can be used to create a voice-generated conversation on key themes in IPC.

The paper that we uploaded was the recently published cost-effectiveness research that relates to the CLEEN study that we have previously highlighted. A link to the open access paper can be found below.

The main part of this podcast was a dialogue created by NotebookLM following the upload of the paper. None of the voices are human (apart from Martin at the beginning and Brett at the end).

This episode offers a glimpse into how AI might be used to support reflection, training, and knowledge sharing across the healthcare community... but with caveats!

The paper we discuss can be found here: Brain D, Sivapragasam N, Browne K, White NM, Russo PL, Cheng AC, et al. Economic Evaluation of Enhanced Cleaning and Disinfection of Shared Medical Equipment. *JAMA Netw Open* 2025;8(4):e258565. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2025.8565>  
NotebookLM: <https://notebooklm.google/>

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# Latest articles from Infection, Disease & Health

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Ibtissam Kahina Bedaida, Esma Bendjama, Widad Chelaghma, Achwak Zouzou, Hind Benabderrahmane, Jean-Marc Rolain, Lotfi Loucif

## Surgical implant sterilization in the Asia-Pacific region: A survey of current practices

Wing Hong Seto, Patricia Tai Yin Ching

## Optimizing infection control: Evaluating nurses' knowledge and practices for preventing infections in mechanically ventilated patients

Safar awadh alotaibi, Maha AlOtaibi, Hadiya Nassar Alrashedi, Huda Ali S Alasmari, Abdelaziz Hendy, Rasha Kadri Ibrahim

## Educational needs for infection prevention and control during outbreaks: A qualitative study with health workers in Sri Lanka

Victoria Haldane, Niranjala Perera, Savithiri Ratnapalan, Sudath Samaraweera, Xiaolin Wei

## Molecular investigation of a furunculosis outbreak at a penitentiary in southern Brazil

Mayara Rodrigues Bicca, Eduarda de Oliveira Pinto, Walter Paixão de Sousa Filho, Gerson Fernandes de Brum, Thalita Camilo da Silva, Bruno Stefanello Vizzotto



## A comprehensive review of current status of infection prevention and control program in low- and middle-income countries

Saima Asghar, Muhammad Atif, Imran Masood, Madiha Khan

## Australian infection prevention and control leads' perceptions of their roles and responsibilities in residential aged care during the COVID-19 pandemic: A qualitative study

Hyunji Lee, Thea F. van de Mortel, Peta-Anne Zimmerman

## Bacterial bloodstream infections in a pediatric population: A 7-year experience at a tertiary care center in Saudi Arabia

Faten Basnawi, Ruba Abo Essa, Aeshah Alosaimi, Bandar Alrshaid, Sabah Alshuhri, Afnan Almazrua, Ohoud Alyabes, Mohammed Alsuhaibani, Ibrahim Bin Hussain, Esam Albanyan, Sami Alhajjar, Suliman Aljumaah, Salem Alghamdi

# Infection Disease and Health Associate Editor

## Expression of Interest for Associate Editor, Infection, Disease and Health

### Background

Infection Disease and Health is the official journal of the Australasian College for Infection Prevention and Control (ACIPC). The journal aims to be a platform for the publication and dissemination of knowledge in the area of infection and disease causing infection in humans. Further information regarding the journal can be found at [www.idhjournal.com.au](http://www.idhjournal.com.au)

### Associate Editor position

The journal has seen massive growth in readership and submissions for several years. To support the continued expansion and the Editor-in-Chief, we are seeking expressions of interest for the role of Associate Editor. The Associate Editor would assist in the handling of manuscripts and report to the Editor-in-Chief. This position is a great career opportunity for an up and coming researcher or clinician researcher.

The initial appointment will be for two years, with a possible extension. The journal has three Associate Editor positions, but only one current vacancy. To balance existing expertise, we are seeking a medical doctor with infectious disease or microbiology expertise to fill the current vacant Associate Editor position.

### Further information

For the full position description and selection criteria, please contact ACIPC via email [office@acipc.org.au](mailto:office@acipc.org.au)

After reviewing the position description and selection criteria, if you have questions or wish to discuss the position further, please contact the Editor-in-Chief, Professor Brett Mitchell via email [brett.mitchell@avondale.edu.au](mailto:brett.mitchell@avondale.edu.au)

### How to apply

To apply for the position, we request you submit cover letter outlining your interest and a brief response to the selection criteria.

Interviews or discussions with potential candidates may follow. Please submit the two documents in one PDF file to ACIPC ([office@acipc.org.au](mailto:office@acipc.org.au)) by 30 May 2025. We reserve the right to close the EOI at any time or earlier, should a suitable candidate be found or we receive a number of EOIs.

### Note

To avoid conflict of interest and in support of editorial independence, Board members of the Australasian College for Infection Prevention and Control are ineligible to apply.



# Selected Publications of Interest

**A Day in the Life of a Pathogen: From Your Hands to Stethoscopes and Beyond**

**Herpes and Dentistry: A Silent But Serious Concern**

**Environmental Hygiene: Air Pressure and Ventilation: Negative vs Positive Pressure**

**COVID-19 outbreak management in Western Sydney residential aged care homes: A mixed-methods Donabedian evaluation**

**Patient and Family Engagement in Infection Prevention During the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Q-Methodology Study with Stakeholders from a Canadian University Health Care Center**

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