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CBIC News

A Newsletter Sponsored by the Certification Board of Infection Control and Epidemiology



MESSAGE from the President

By Sheila MacDonald, RN, BN, CIC



As I begin my term as President of the Certification Board of Infection Control and Epidemiology (CBIC), I am profoundly honored. First of all, CBIC is celebrating its 25th Anniversary this year, and secondly, I am most honored to be the first Canadian President.

I became acquainted with the certification board in 2002 when I was the CHICA-Canada CBIC Liaison. From the outset, I was impressed with the professionalism, with the strict adherence to the highest standard of examination development, and with the obvious commitment of the Directors in advancing the profession of infection control through the certification process. In 2004, I once again joined CBIC as the official Canadian representative, and my initial opinions and perceptions of the Board have not wavered! Although CBIC was established by APIC in 1982 with a mandate to develop and administer a certification examination for infection control professionals, it remains a completely separate and autonomous organization.

I would like to acknowledge all the former CBIC board members for their contribution in making CBIC the solid organization it has become. Without these dedicated individuals there would be no certifying examination for IPCPs. Please take a moment to review the names of the individuals whose dedication and volunteerism have helped to shape the organization (see sidebar). We have used available historical records, so please forgive us if we have missed anyone.

Accomplishments

Expanded the reach of its certification

CBIC has accomplished much since its inception. Although the U.S. and Canada continue to have the largest number of Infection Prevention and Control Professionals (IPCPs) writing the certification exam, we have certificants in approximately 20 other countries.

Maintained Accreditation and Gold Standards of Exam Development

The organization has also achieved NCCA Certification, (National Commission of Certifying Agencies), which means we have achieved the highest possible standard granted to certifying agencies. The exam development process adheres to NCCA standards, under the guidance of a Test Development Specialist from Applied Measurement Professionals (AMP). This helps to ensure that our exams are statistically sound and legally defensible. The Board works continuously to improve the examination process and to ensure that the candidate has a positive experience. CBIC is a charter member of the National Organization for Competency Assurance (NOCA) and its exam program has been continuously accredited since 1985. In part, because every five years a practice analysis is completed to ensure that the examination is based on current practice, and a valid examination that reflects core practices common to the majority of IPCPs regardless of the practice setting. The newest practice analysis was completed in 2006 with new content to be implemented in mid-2007. Look for the new examination content outline and effective date on our website (cbic.org).

Computerized Test Administration

CBIC has progressed from administering the examination in paper format several times per year to administering only computer based testing, with secure testing sites throughout North America, and other countries.

Expanded Services

In the last two years, a Practice Exam has been developed to assist IPCPs to acclimatize themselves to the computer based test arena. The Practice Exam is set up in exactly the same way as the actual certification examination using the same software in which the actual examination is administered. In addition, the practice exam provides feedback by examination content area on how well an individual performed on the practice exam allowing them to better use preparation time and tools.

Where we are today is the culmination of all the efforts of those who have served on previous boards, of those who currently serve, as well as the contributions of the management company, AMP. To all who have contributed, past and present, the current board extends a sincere and grateful thank you!

CBIC held its first Board meeting of 2007 in January. On behalf of the Board, I would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest Directors – Joanne Laalo, the CHICA Liaison, Paul Field, the Consumer Director, and to Directors Terrie Lee, and Rick Wray. I also welcome back Pat Rosenbaum, as APIC Liaison again this year, as well as returning members Rita Tjoelker and Sharon Krystofiak. It also gives me great pleasure to acknowledge our outgoing President, Linda Laxson. Linda worked relentlessly last year to begin to plan for the possibility of an international credential, and was instrumental in the development of a survey to assess international IPCP interest in such a venture. Surveys were distributed to international attendees at several conferences including IFIC in South Africa, the Hospital Infections Society (HIS) in Amsterdam, and the Middle East Conference in Dubai. We will continue to display at some of the international conferences again this year, to garner interest, to network with our colleagues around the world, and to promote the value of certification.

Domestically, CBIC attended the NAHQ, AONE, CBIC and APIC conferences to continue to promote the certification exam here in our own part of the world. In the U.S. and Canada, we still have a long way to go to encourage and promote certification for all eligible IPCPs who are not yet certified. Certification elevates the profession, it elevates the professional, and it elevates the quality of infection control.

I look forward to a full and productive 25th Anniversary Year. Our Board members, in concert with our Marketing Committee, are planning some activities to celebrate the occasion of the Silver Anniversary of the CBIC! Stay tuned.



New Examination Content

Set to Go Online July 2007

CBIC will implement its new examination content based on the 2006 practice analysis report. The candidate handbook currently on the website lists only the examination content in effect until June 30, 2006. There will be a link placed on the home page of the CBIC website that will link you to the updated detailed content outline **scheduled for implementation July 1, 2007**. However, the major content areas changed very little. **The major content areas effective July 1, 2007 are:**

- I. Identification of Infection Disease Processes
- II. Surveillance and Epidemiologic Investigation
- III. Infection Prevention and Control
- IV. Program Management and Communication
- V. Education
- VI. Infection Control Aspects of Employee Health

Visit the website to download the complete detailed content outline for July 2007 and beyond at cbic.org.

What to Know More on CIC Examination Development?

CBIC has submitted a manuscript to AJIC that has been accepted for publication regarding the most recent practice analysis project. A more in-depth review of the examination development and processes included in a professional credentialing examination measuring competency is included in this article.

CBIC will also be presenting this process for continuing education units at the 2007 APIC Annual Conference in San Jose, California! Don't miss this opportunity to demystify the examination!



CBIC

wishes to acknowledge the following individuals for their past service to CBIC

Thank You!

Founding Board Members

Patricia Lynch	N. McGuire
Patricia Schlegel	Trish Barrett
Steve Weinstein	B. McArthur
Gina Pugliese	



Additional Board Members throughout the years since 1982

Marguerite Jackson	Patricia Flynt	Janice Treston-Aurand	Linda McDonald	Sandra Callery
Carolyn Langewisch	Julie Jacobson	Carol Whyman	Carolyn Sanders	Betty Dunaway
Brenda Bouvier	Karen Moellering	Patricia Miller	Vicky Zelenka	Ruth Curchoe
Shirley Brandt	Jerri Bryant	Nancy Bjerke	Frank Montgomery	Nora Boyd
Julie Garner	Tina Baker	Janice Fetter	Ona Baker	Jeanette Daniel
Rodney Kusumi	Brian Cooper	Bruce Hamory	Clare Barry	Robert Hotchkiss
Elaine Larson	Georgia Phelps Dash	Patricia Miller	Gayle Gilmore	Sheila MacDonald
Claire Lipschultz	Ann Jaeger	Maria Ninivaggi	Angella Goetz	Pat Rosenbaum
Jerrie Kennicott Bryant	Jole Mowrey-Hanley	Helen O'Brien	H. Bradford Hawley	Ziad Memish
Margot Charles	Betsy Palmer	Robert Sharbaugh	Patricia Piaskowski	Linda Laxson
Gretchen Dahlen	Tina Baker	Susan Smythe	Marge Gallagher	Mary McNaughton
Candance Friedman	Brian Cooper	Lisa Docken	Don King	Sharon Krystofiak
Barbara Soule	Kathleen Eisenach	Patricia Hinson	Mary LeBlanc	Rita Tjoelker
Carol Williams	Pamela Newsome	Patrick Joseph	Nancy Alfieri	Kathy Arias
Walter Hierholzer	Jack Berens	Anne Maher	Darnell Dingle	Adrienne Brown
Hala Fawal	Nancy Haberstich	Harriet Pitt	Barbara Cochrane	Jacqueline Butler
Annette Godsey	R. Belongie	Terri Kirkland	Ginette Herbert	Deanie Lancaster
Teresa Horan	S. Slavish	Anna Mills Wagoner	Kathleen Roye Horn	Pam Vaccaro
Lee Illing	Jane Stephens	Paula Bullock	Joseph Marzouk	Matthew Wallace
Shirley Pitts	Sandy Pirwitz	Mary "Dee" Miller	Keith St. John	Jeanne Pfeiffer
Carol O'Boyle Williams	Becky Horan	Joan Turner	Barbara Goldrick	Richard Wray
Laura Ashton	Genevieve Thompson	Frances M. Slater	Patricia Kulich	