



Building Fields of IPAC Knowledge

November 13, 2014

Speaker Bios

Dr. Allison McGeer is a Microbiologist & Infectious Disease Consultant. Director of Infection Control and Infectious Diseases Epidemiology Research Program at Mount Sinai Hospital, Toronto Ontario. Allison is also Professor, Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology and Public Health Sciences at the University of Toronto. She trained in internal medicine and infectious diseases at the University of Toronto, then completed a fellowship in hospital epidemiology at Yale New Haven Hospital in 1989/90. Allison is currently a member of the Canadian National Advisory Committee on Immunization, and the Infection Control Subcommittee of the Ontario Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee. Her areas of research interest are the epidemiology of influenza infection, the prevention of healthcare associated infection, and antimicrobial resistance.

Helen Christou is an infection Control and Occupational Health Nurse at Municipality of Durham – Fairview Lodge. She has fifteen years of nursing experience in critical care and emergency response areas including front line SARS, CCU, ICU, ER, pre and post-operative care, surgery and medicine combined with, an Occupational Health and Safety Nursing diploma, and an impending Bachelor of Allied Health Sciences (BAHSc) degree. Recently, Helen returned from Saudi Arabia working with Accreditation Canada International conducting surveys and implementing infection control education and setting up infection control measures, particularly in outbreak management for MERS Co-V. Helen is the chair for the IPAC – LTC interest group in the last two years and is currently developing core competencies for the Canadian Infection Control Professional with IPAC Canada.

Kelly Holmes is a Registered Nurse in the Communicable Disease Control Department at the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit. She received her Bachelor of Science in Biology and Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Trent University in 1999 & 2004 respectively. Kelly worked in Surgical Services at Peterborough Regional Health Centre before joining the Health Unit in 2006. She has completed the Infection Prevention and Control Course at Queen's University and is involved in outbreak management, follow up of reportable diseases and infection prevention and control programs at the Health Unit. She currently resides in Peterborough with her husband and 2 children.

Lindsay Pollard is a Registered Nurse in the Communicable Disease Control Department at the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit. She holds her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Laurentian University. She previously worked for Victorian Order of Nurses, providing home care. She also worked in the CDC department at Peterborough County-City Health Unit and has recently come to HKPR District Health Unit this past spring. She is involved in outbreak management, follow up of reportable diseases, and infection prevention and control programs at the Health Unit and is currently completing her Non-Acute Care Infection Control Course through Public Health Ontario.

Keith Sopha is a Manager -Housekeeping and Linen Services at Homework Health Centre located in Guelph, Ontario. Keith started his career in Housekeeping management in 1974 at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto Ontario Canada. In 1980 Keith established Good Choice Cleaning Services Inc., a contract cleaning service specializing in health care cleaning and consulting service for the cleaning industry. Keith has participated and led several support services initiatives, including; President of the Canadian Association of Environmental Management – CAEM, Preceptor for Ontario Hospital Associations environmental services level 1 and level 2 correspondence courses for 12 consecutive

years, Environmental consultant for PIDAC environmental best practices document released in 2009, the second edition in 2012 and now the third addition which will be released in 2015. Keith is a member of Accreditation International, developing facility standards for the state of Qatar. He was part of the leadership team which developed the Environmental best practice educational tool kit with the Regional Infection Control networks. Keith is a member of Centennial College program advisory committee which developed the Health Care Environmental Management Program. He was co-leader of the Canadian Hospital Environmental Services Research Study with Dr. Dick Zoutman and Doug Ford through Queens University and is co-leader of the research project through Queens University on Environmental Cleaning Time Standards based on PIDAC's best practice cleaning.

Keith has published articles and research in Sanitation Canada, Hospital News, IPAC Canada Journal and the American Journal of Infection Control. He has presented at many seminars and conferences including live web casts. Keith has a passion for environmental best practice cleaning standards and infection prevention and as a result created CleanLearning, a training and certification program for the cleaning industry.

Heather Candon is the Infection Control Consultant for Public Health Ontario (PHO) Central East Infection Control Network. Heather received her M.Sc. in Microbiology and Immunology from the University of British Columbia. She has completed Masters-level courses in statistics and epidemiology through McMaster. She holds a certificate in Infection Prevention and Control and achieved her CIC in 2011. Heather has worked as a microbiological technician in private industry and in research laboratories. She has strong interest in infection prevention and control research in long-term care settings. She is the Course Coordinator for IPAC Canada Novice ICP course. She previously worked as an Infection Prevention & Control Practitioner at Baycrest Centre in Toronto, Ontario. Heather is a newly appointed member of the editorial Board of the Canadian Journal of Infection Control.

Dr. Dan Ricciuto, is an Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases specialist, Physician Lead for Antimicrobial Stewardship and Infection Prevention and Control and Chair of Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee at Lakeridge Health. Dan completed his undergraduate training in Microbiology and Immunology at the University of Western Ontario in 2002, his MD at the University of Toronto in 2006 and Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases specialty training in 2011, also at the University of Toronto. He is currently an adjunct Assistant Professor at the University of Toronto and Queen's University. His research interests have included molecular virology and host-pathogen interactions and biomarkers in sepsis. Ongoing research focuses on the microbiology and outcomes in Staphylococcus aureus bacteremia and risk factors for MRSA infection and more recently on outcomes of Infection Control and Antimicrobial Stewardship interventions on the transmission of antibiotic resistant organisms. Dan's main professional interest involves Patient Safety and Quality Improvement through Antimicrobial Stewardship and Infection Prevention and Control. He has been involved in developing Antimicrobial Stewardship programs on a local level at Lakeridge Health and on a Provincial level as a member of the Public Health Ontario Provincial Antimicrobial Stewardship Advisory Committee. Dan spends his spare time pretending to be a hockey player, in the Twitterverse (@Abx_ID_Doc), and most importantly, with his lovely wife and two young children.

Jim Gauthier is an Infection Prevention and Control Practitioner from Providence Centre – Mental Health Services Site, Kingston, Ontario. Jim is a medical laboratory technologist by training. He spent almost 19 years in laboratories in Calgary and Nelson BC. He also has been doing Infection Prevention and Control for 25 years now. Jim has presented at local, national and international conferences.