



PICNet Management Office Transitions

PICNet is pleased to welcome Shalyma Cambridge into her new role as Office and Communications Coordinator. Shalyma comes to us from the City of Burnaby – most recently working as the Marketing and Sponsorship Coordinator for the Shadbolt Centre for the Arts. We are excited to have Shalyma join our team and look forward to helping her transition into her new role. Shalyma can be contacted at scambridge@phsa.ca or (604) 707-2667.

It is with mixed emotions that we need to say good bye to Sarah Pugh, PICNet’s Projects and Communications Coordinator for the past three years. Sarah is leaving us to return to her studies towards a PhD in Political Science and International Development at the University of Guelph. Sarah has been a crucial member of our PICNet team and has played a huge role in helping PICNet become a success. We wish to thank Sarah for all her great work. We will miss her calm strength and quirky sense of humour. We are sad to lose Sarah but are excited for her as she moves on to the next phase of her chosen career.

Just released! PICNet Infection Control Guidelines: Providing Health Care to the Clients Living in the Community

We are pleased to announce the release of the PICNet Best Practice Guidelines for Infection Prevention and Control in Home and Community Health Care Settings in BC. We would like to thank project lead, Joanne Archer and the entire working group for their hard work towards the completion of these guidelines. The guidelines are now available for download from our website at http://picnetbc.ca//sites/picnetbc2/files/PICNet_Publications/Home_and_Community_Care_FINAL_August_2009.pdf

PICNet Annual Report 2008-2009: Now Available

PICNet has just released its 2008-2009 Annual Report. This report outlines all of PICNet’s key activities over the 2008-2009 fiscal year, and also maps out some future directions for our projects and work. The Annual Report highlights the important contributions to PICNet’s work made by every Health Authority and so many individuals in the infection prevention and control Community of Practice across British Columbia. To read the Annual Report, please visit our web site at www.picnetbc.ca.

PICNet Provincial Mask/ Respirators Working Groups for Pandemic Influenza

In June, PICNet was asked by the Ministry of Health to convene two separate mask/respirator-related working groups, one to look into issues of mask/respirator inventory in Health Authorities (HA's) in BC, and one to probe issues of mask/respirator usage.

The inventory working group is collecting data to further discussions on mask vs. respirator units to be stocked and regular vs. pandemic inventory requirements. Each HA has been asked to apply a modified formula, based on number of health care workers per shift, to calculate their anticipated respirator usage requirements in areas such as emergency departments, intensive care units, and influenza assessment units. Once these numbers have been compared for consistency this information will be shared with the Ministry of Health.

The mask/respirator usage group met in the beginning of July. A sub-group of the mask/respirator usage group is currently examining alternate sources for N95 equivalent respirators. The possibility of using N95 equivalent respirators found within in other industries directly addresses concerns surrounding supply shortages and the requirement to re-fit-test health care workers for N95 respirators.

Updates on the Roll-Out of Provincial Surveillance Program for *Clostridium difficile* Infections (CDI)

Four Health Authorities (HA's) have gone live with PICNet's new provincial voluntary CDI surveillance system. Our Surveillance Coordinator, Ellie Sheng, continues to work closely with the remaining HA's to bring them online before the end of the summer at which time we are also aiming to have the first provincial aggregate report completed.

The CDI surveillance system allows each participating HA to submit anonymized data from both regional and facility levels to a provincial data repository. Once provincial aggregate rates are compiled, HA's and facilities can measure themselves against established benchmarks and apply interventions as necessary for improved infection prevention and control.

PICNet's Surgical Site Infection Prevention E-module

PICNet continues to work with technical designer Carrie Spencer from Vancouver Coastal Health's Educational Technologies Department towards the development of the on-line surgical site infection prevention educational module. The final chapter is currently in review and beta testing of the entire module is anticipated to begin in September.

Vaccine Preventable Diseases Occupational Health Collaboration

In 2008, an outbreak of mumps occurred in BC. Cases occurred mainly in the Fraser Health region. Since the fall of 2008 PICNet has facilitated an expert group of Occupational Health, Public Health, Laboratory and Infection prevention and Control specialists. This group was tasked with developing

guidelines for what constitutes adequate protection to mumps infection and recommendation for managing healthcare workers who, through their work or in the community are exposed to cases of mumps. This work is complete and the document is now available for download from our web site at www.picnetbc.ca. PICNet wishes to thank the members of this group for their dedication to this project and their excellent work.

Needs Assessment for Infection Prevention & Control in Long Term Care

An on-line survey assessing infection prevention and control in long term care settings was launched in early July. The survey was sent to 150 different facilities within five health authorities however, the response rate to date has been low. Participation in the survey will allow the Health Authorities to identify areas of need for infection prevention and control resources and provide the ability to develop an accurate business case towards attaining additional funding to develop infection prevention and control programs in long term care settings. Further actions to increase participation will be made once target personnel return from summer holidays.

Gastrointestinal Infections (GI) Outbreak Guidelines Working Group

Work towards the development of a set of provincial guidelines for GI Outbreaks in BC is progressing. The working group reports reaching the halfway point in completion of work to be done and will be meeting again on August 18, 2009. The guidelines are intended to provide guidance to all health care settings when developing or updating policies and process that pertain to the prevention, surveillance for, identification and control of gastrointestinal outbreaks.

Webber Training Debrief

Since February 2006 PICNet has purchased and hosted educational classes offered by Webber Training. These classes address topics of interest to infection control professionals and other health care professionals worldwide.

The topics and faculty of the **2009 Teleclass Education** lecture series are available on the Webber Training web site at <http://webbertraining.com/schedulep1.php>

There are four Webber teleclasses scheduled for August 2009.

Webber Training August 2009 Schedule

Date:	Topic of Interest:	Presenter:
August 6, 2009	(Free Teleclass) How Professional Associations Can Best Contribute to Infection Prevention Globally	Speaker: Dr. Cathryn Murphy, Bond University, Australia
August 11, 2009	(Free British Teleclass) Fitness for Purpose in Infection Control	Speaker: Martin Kiernan, Southport and Ormskirk NHS Trust

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“Debugging Health Care Together!”

August 13, 2009	(Free Teleclass) Safe Childbirth: What Can Infection Prevention Contribute?	Speaker: Patricia Lynch, Chair, IFIC Safe Childbirth Special Interest Group
August 27, 2009	(Free South Pacific Teleclass) Live Broadcast from the NZICND Conference, New Zealand – Topic: to be Announced	Speaker: To Be Announced

Provincial Infection Control Network of BC

picnet@phsa.ca

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