



Teaming up to ICE *C. diff*

Regional Workshops
July 2012

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Erica Abu-Ghallow, MSN, MPH, RN

Ms. Abu-Ghallow is the Healthcare Associated Infection Prevention Coordinator for the Illinois Department of Public Health, Department of Patient Safety and Quality. She earned a Master of Science in Community Health Nursing and a Master of Public Health from the University of Illinois at Chicago. She has been inducted to Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing and Delta Omega Honorary Society of Public Health.

Chinyere Alu, MPH

Ms. Alu is a Public Health Prevention Service fellow with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. She is currently assigned to the Illinois Department of Public Health's Division of Patient Safety and Quality, where she is lead for the Illinois Campaign to Eliminate *Clostridium difficile* (ICE *C. diff*). She obtained a Master of Public Health from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Previously, Ms. Alu worked as a Licensed Practical Nurse for 2 years in the outpatient and long term care settings. She served as a Health Educator and HIV/AIDS Advisor in Peace Corps Malawi where she conducted trainings, led several successful community initiatives on water and sanitation, HIV/AIDS, and nutrition, and established two income generating projects for orphans and vulnerable children.

Kathy Aureden, MS, MT(ASCP), SI, CIC

Ms. Aureden holds a Master of Science degree in Clinical Laboratory Science (medical microbiology and immunology) and a Certificate in Infection Control (CIC). In 1997 she accepted a position in Epidemiology and Infection Prevention with Sherman Hospital in Elgin, Illinois.

Ms. Aureden is an active member of the Association of Professionals in Infection Control (APIC), SHEA, IDSA and ASCP. She has served on the APIC Practice Guidance Council since 2006 and on the Chicago APIC board as Website Coordinator since 2007. She co-authored the APIC guidelines on MRSA (2006, 2008, 2010) and Multidrug resistant *Acinetobacter* (2010). She also co-authored the "Guideline for Animals in Healthcare Facilities," published in a professional journal in March 2008, and served as author, reviewer and editor for the APIC Text (2009). She is an APIC EPI faculty member and has given presentations at national and local conferences on MRSA and influenza.

As a member of APIC, Ms. Aureden currently co-chairs the national APIC Practice Guidance Committee, serves on the editorial board of the American Journal of Infection Control (AJIC). She has authored a number of articles and APIC publications and has presented and served as a panelist at a number of local and national APIC meetings.

Pamela Bierbaum, RN, BSN, CIC

Ms. Bierbaum, certified in infection control (CIC), has been an Infection Preventionist since 2004 and currently works at Advocate BroMenn Medical Center in Normal, Illinois. She is current chapter president of APIC-Central Illinois where she has served on the board for 6 years. Ms. Bierbaum is a member of the State of Illinois Advisory Council on HAI and Telligent Advisory Council on HAI. She earned the Brokaw Nurses Alumni Association Nursing Excellence Award for Leadership in 2005. Ms. Bierbaum has presented at various meetings on infection prevention and quality improvement. She is certified in infection control (CIC)

Stephanie R. Black, MD, MSc

Dr. Black has been the Medical Director of the Acute Disease Surveillance Communicable Disease Program at the Chicago Department of Public Health since 2008. In that role she has served as a consultant, providing advice on pandemic preparedness efforts and emerging infectious diseases. She was Chief Infectious Disease Fellow at Rush Medical Center and Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Section of Infectious Diseases at Rush Medical College. Dr. Black was a Co-Principal Investigator for OASPR Bioterrorism Training and Curriculum Development Program. Her academic career includes research, teaching, and public health and she has special interests in clinical epidemiology of infectious diseases, specifically related to pandemic influenza, nosocomial infections, emerging infections, and bioterrorism and disaster preparedness

Dr. Black has co-authored peer reviewed publications on *C. diff* outbreak strain BI, and book chapters on infectious diseases and healthcare associated infections. Dr. Black and her team recently convened the Chicago Department of Public Health Long-term Care Roundtable, which aims to improve collaboration between long term care and the local health departments.

Dr. Black received her MD in 1995 from Temple University School of Medicine, Philadelphia, and an MSc from Rush Medical College, Chicago. She is board certified in infectious disease.

Deborah Burdsall, MSN, RN-BC, CIC

Ms. Burdsall is an Infection Preventionist at Lutheran Life Communities in Arlington Heights, Illinois, an elder care community with a full continuum of care, including adult and child day services, assisted living, care within a complete memory support continuum, and sheltered, intermediate and skilled levels of resident care.

Ms. Burdsall is a John A Hartford Building Academic Geriatric Nursing Capacity Scholar at The University of Iowa College of Nursing where she is completing a doctoral degree with a focus in aging studies and epidemiology. She has board certifications in gerontological nursing (ANCC) and infection control (CBIC) and is actively involved with APIC (Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology).

Debbie Camacho, RN, BSN, MA

Ms. Camacho holds a BSN degree from Francis Payne Bolton School of Nursing, Case Western University and a MA from Teacher's College, New York. She has more than 35 years of nursing experience in a variety of clinical, leadership, and educational roles, and has served on the faculty of the Nursing Departments at InterAmerican University, San German, Puerto Rico and

the University of Puerto Rico. Ms. Camacho has over 15 years of experience in quality improvement, including oversight of hospital performance improvement and decision support programs, design and implementation of improvement initiatives, and staff education. She has presented nationally on Performance Improvement topics.

Ms. Camacho has worked with Telligen, the Illinois Quality Improvement Organization (QIO), since December 2008. In her role as QI Manager, she provides leadership to initiatives focused on improving patient outcomes and reducing drug errors. She served as a member of the Illinois Pressure Ulcer Coalition and collaborated on the development of tools to enhance skin-care related communication between hospitals and nursing homes at the time of transfer. Ms. Camacho is a TeamSTEPPS master trainer and has provided TeamSTEPPS training to hospitals throughout Illinois.

Philip Carling, MD

Dr. Carling is the Director of Infectious Diseases and Hospital Epidemiology at Carney Hospital in the Dorchester area of Boston. He teaches and is involved in clinical research at Boston University School of Medicine where he is a Professor of Clinical Medicine. In the past, his clinical research was related to the development of standardized epidemiologic tools to rapidly and accurately monitor antibiotic use in hospitals. These tools were then used to study patterns of antibiotic use in multiple hospitals to better understand prescribing practices. Subsequently, the same format was used to identify opportunities for improving antibiotic use and stewardship including the ways in which the clinical and economic impact of antibiotic management programs can be quantified to enhance patient care and decrease the incidence of resistant bacterial infections. While Dr. Carling has continued his involvement in antibiotic management issues, the ongoing escalation of hospital associated infections despite advances of hand hygiene and new isolation interventions led to his considering the need for new approaches to optimize hygienic cleaning of hospitals.

During the past decade Dr. Carling's research activities have primarily related to developing processes to evaluate and improve patient area surface disinfection cleaning. A substantial portion of his work has evolved around the use of a simple surrogate marking system to bypass the need for doing quantitative bacterial cultures to evaluate environmental hygiene. Using a targeting system specifically developed for this purpose, preliminary studies disclosed opportunities to improve disinfection cleaning in several pilot hospitals. When education and procedural interventions as well as standardized performance feedback using the surrogate testing system resulted in sustained improvements in hygienic cleaning, evaluation of the system was expanded to more than 100 hospitals in the U.S., as well as hospitals in Canada, Ireland Norway and Australia. There are currently ongoing projects related to evaluating and improving environmental hygiene in a range of inpatient and outpatient settings including O.R.s, general Intensive Care Units, Neonatal Intensive Care Units, Ambulatory Chemotherapy Suites, long-term care facilities, the Emergency Department, dialysis centers, emergency transport vehicles and dental operatories. Based on the success in improving hygienic practice and the evidence that this form of programmatic approach can decrease transmission of pathogens, further studies have been implemented in the hospitality industry and cruise ships both in the US and the United Kingdom.

Judith Conway, RN, BS, CIC

Ms. Conway joined the staff of the Illinois Department of Public Health in 2003, serving as Regional Emergency Response Coordinator, Division of Emergency Preparedness and Response and as Acting Regional Epidemiologist. Her current role is Infection Control Coordinator, Division of Infectious Diseases – Communicable Disease Control Section. Ms. Conway has over 35 years of professional experience, including pediatric, psychiatric, neonatal and long term care nursing, utilization review, quality improvement, and infection control.

Ms. Conway received her nursing diploma from St. John's School of Nursing, Springfield, Illinois and a BS from the University of St. Francis in Joliet. She is a Certified Infection Control Professional and a member of APIC.

Mary Driscoll RN, MPH

Ms. Driscoll is the Chief of the Division of Patient Safety and Quality at the Illinois Department of Public Health. In this role she is responsible for advising the Department on all issues of Patient Safety and Quality Health Care, as well as implementation of mandated patient safety and quality initiatives, including the Hospital Report Card and Consumer Guide to Health Care and Adverse Event Reporting. The Division of Patient Safety and Quality has also implemented several quality improvement initiatives including the 20-hospital Illinois *Clostridium difficile* Prevention Collaborative, implemented jointly with the state Quality Improvement Organization, and the Illinois Antimicrobial Stewardship Collaborative. The Division is currently leading the Illinois Campaign to Eliminate *Clostridium difficile*, a statewide education initiative targeting hospitals and nursing homes.

Ms. Driscoll serves as the Public Health Liaison to the Governor's Office of Health Information Technology (OHIT). She formerly served as the Chief Nursing Officer and the Director of Patient Care Services for the Cook County Health and Hospital System Ambulatory Services. She is one of the founders and an executive board member of the Illinois Maternal and Child Health Coalition. She has worked in community and public health for over 30 years, particularly around issues of service delivery, maternal and child health, quality and patient safety, inequalities in health, access issues, and safety net health care.

Tracey Durns, RN, BS

Ms. Durns is a Senior Quality Improvement Coordinator for the Telligen, the Quality Improvement Organization for Illinois. In this role she educates facilities on the quality tools and measures and facilitates their quality improvement processes. She has over 16 years of experience in long term care, serving in a variety of positions including staff nurse, QA nurse, unit manager, restorative nurse and staffing coordinator. During her career in long-term care and most recently Ms. Durns has developed and managed quality improvement systems and has established policy and procedures in accordance with state and federal regulatory agencies

Ms. Durns received her BS degree in spring of 2012 with a focus on health care leadership. She completed the LEAP program and has assisted facilities with implementation of culture change and person-centered care.

Sylvia Garcia-Houchins, RN, MBA, CIC

Ms. Garcia-Houchins has more than 25 years of experience in infection control in both hospital and long term care settings and has provided infection prevention and control consultation in a variety of healthcare settings, including hospitals, clinics, long-term care, and dialysis centers. She also has eight years of clinical microbiology experience. She is currently the Director of the infection control program at the University of Chicago Medical Center. She is an active member of the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC) and a past president of the APIC-Chicago chapter.

Ms. Garcia-Houchins serves on the APIC faculty for the basic training course, and is a member of the APIC National Program Committee. Ms. Garcia-Houchins has conducted hospital assessments and developed educational programs responsive to the needs of the community, geographic region and country and has authored articles and book chapters related to infection control, including a chapter in the APIC Text.

Ms. Garcia-Houchins earned a degree in biochemistry and molecular biology from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, and a master's of business administration from the Keller Graduate School of Management in Chicago.

Carol Hoffmann, MT, CIC

Ms. Hoffman has supervised and worked in Clinical Microbiology laboratories for 25 years and has been certified in Infection Control for over 10 years. She currently works in Infection Prevention and Control at Little Company of Mary Hospital, Evergreen Park, IL, where she served as team lead for the Illinois *C. diff* Prevention Collaborative. Ms. Hoffman received a BS in Microbiology from the University of Kansas and completed Medical Technology training at Northwestern University Hospital in Chicago, Illinois.

Kim Howell, R.N.

Ms. Howell has been employed at St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital, Effingham, Illinois for 32 years and has worked in the area of Infection Control for 17 years. She is currently the Infection Control Coordinator and manages Infection Control and Employee Health for the 146 bed hospital which staffs approximately 900 employees. Ms. Howell was the team lead for the Illinois *C. diff* prevention Collaborative.

Karen L Martin, RN, MPH, CIC

Ms. Martin has worked in the infection prevention field for 18 years and is currently the Director of Infection Prevention and Environmental Services at Advocate Christ Medical Center and Hope Children's Hospital in Oak Lawn, Illinois. She has infection control experience in a variety of healthcare settings, including acute care, ambulatory care and pediatrics.

Ms. Martin Karen is an active APIC member; she has served on the nominating committee and chaired the Chicago APIC Education Board. She is currently a member of National APIC faculty, responsible for teaching basic and advanced courses in Infection Prevention. She is published in several major journal articles and has presented several abstracts at National APIC. She is currently authoring a chapter in the JCAHO textbook on best practice. Ms. Martin has presented frequent lectures for local Chicago APIC, ASHES, the National Emergency

Preparedness Organization and various other organizations. She was named Educator of The year in 2010 for Infection Control Today Magazine based on her collaboration between Nursing, EVS and Infection Prevention.

Ms. Martin attended Michael Reese School of Nursing, and received a Bachelor Degree in Education and Management from National Lewis University. She received a Master's Degree in Public Health from St. Xavier University, Chicago, Illinois and is C.I.C. certified.

Marcy McGinnis, RN, BSN, CNOR

Marcy McGinnis has worked for Memorial Medical Center since 2009 in Infection Prevention and Control. She is responsible for the prevention of Surgical Site Infections and *C. difficile* infections. Ms. McGinnis was a leader in initiating the Illinois Department of Public Health *C. difficile* Collaboration at Memorial Medical Center and developing efforts to decrease Memorial's rates. As part of the Quality Department for Memorial Medical Center, Marcy has completed her Six Sigma White Belt training.

Prior to 2009 Ms. McGinnis worked as an Infection Preventionist for an Ambulatory Surgery Center for one and a half years. While at the Ambulatory Surgery Center, she conducted continuous quality improvement projects as well as root cause analysis process evaluations. Her background includes Nursing Management (5 years), Surgical Nursing (14 years), and Intensive Care Nursing (2 years). She got her Certification of Operating Room Nurse in 2000 and is working for her Certification in Infection Control. Marcy recently displayed a poster, "Managing *C.difficile* Using a Bundled Approach" at the 2012 APIC Convention in San Antonio, Texas.

Becky A. Miller, MD

Dr. Miller is Associate Hospital Epidemiologist, Division of Infectious Diseases and Infectious Disease Attending at NorthShore University Health System, Evanston, Illinois. She received her BS in Molecular Biology from the University of Wisconsin, Madison and her Doctor of Medicine from the Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. She completed an Internal Medicine Residency and Fellowship in Infectious Disease at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. Dr. Miller has published numerous peer-reviewed journal articles and has received various professional awards and honors. Dr. Miller is Board Certified in Infectious Disease and Internal Medicine and is a member of the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America and the Infectious Disease Society of America.

Carol Schultz, R.N., C.I.C.

Carol Schultz has been a registered nurse for more than 30 years and has more than 15 years of experience as an Infection Control Practitioner. Ms. Schultz is the current president of the Chicago Chapter of APIC. She served as team lead for the Illinois *C. diff* Prevention Collaborative.

Michelle Stuercke, RN, MPH, DNP

Dr. Stuercke is the Chief Nursing Officer of NuCare Management Corporation. In this role she is responsible for ensuring the clinical quality of care and managing the quality improvement process in 11 Illinois nursing homes. Previously, Dr. Stuercke served as Assistant Director of Nursing in a sub-acute facility, and has experience in hospital-based critical care nursing.

Dr. Stuercke received her BSN from Southern Illinois University, a Masters in Public Health from Roosevelt University, and a Doctor of Nursing from Rush University. She is on faculty at Rush University, has been involved in research projects and has given multiple professional presentations related to long term care.

Karen Trimberger, RN, MPH, NE-BC, CIC

Ms. Trimberger has over 28 years of experience as a registered nurse and has clinical experience in neurology, surgery and post-operative care. She also served as a nurse manager for several years. In 2006, Ms. Trimberger assumed the Director of Infection Prevention position and in 2011 she became the System Director for Memorial Health System. In this role she has responsibility for the Mental Health Center, Memorial Home Services, Memorial Physician practices, 2 Critical access hospitals (Taylorville Memorial and Abraham Lincoln Memorial) and Memorial Medical Center, a large tertiary care hospital in Springfield, Illinois. She participated in the Illinois *C. diff* Prevention Collaborative with IDPH and Telligon and successfully implemented the bundle for *C. diff* prevention.

Ms. Trimberger holds Master's degree in Public Health, is certified as a Nurse Executive and is certified in Infection Control. She is also a Certified Green Belt in Six Sigma Methodology.

Robert Weinstein, MD

Dr. Weinstein is the System Chair of the Department of Medicine for the Cook County Health and Hospitals System as well as Chair of the Department of Medicine of John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County. He is Chief Operating Officer of the outpatient Ruth M. Rothstein CORE Center for the Prevention, Care, and Research of Infectious Diseases, and the C. Anderson Hedberg MD Professor of Medicine at Rush University Medical College.

Dr. Weinstein is a past president of the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA) where he received the SHEA Leadership Award in 2005 and the SHEA Mentor Award in 2008. He is a recipient of the National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems "Clinical Research Award." Dr. Weinstein is the immediate past-chair of the CDC's Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC). During his tenure, HICPAC produced hand-hygiene guidelines and the first guidelines to prevent central-line-associated bloodstream infections. In March 2010, Dr. Weinstein won the CDC Lifetime Achievement award for infection control and prevention.

Dr. Weinstein's clinical and research interests focus on hospital-acquired infections (particularly the epidemiology and control of antimicrobial resistance and infections in intensive care units), rapid HIV testing, and health-care costs and outcomes of patients with HIV/AIDS. He has published over 260 scientific articles, 48 book chapters, 2 books, and 21 CDs and internet educational materials.