

Elevating our profession

In this issue, we present a joint letter from APIC President Susan Dolan and APIC CEO Katrina Crist that highlights the many accomplishments of 2016. Susan concludes the message with her own thoughts as her year as president comes to a close.

MAKING A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE is a common theme that unites us all in our work. It is not about feeling comfortable day to day, but instead taking calculated risks to better understand, improve, and elevate the science while maximizing the value of our prevention efforts. APIC is strategically leading our profession to new heights, in partnership with our member volunteers, staff, federal and state partners, industry, and a cadre of key organizations such as the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America, the Association of periOperative Registered Nurses, and the American Nurses Association.

2016 has been a year of dynamic growth and change. Many ideas blossomed into full-fledged programs, providing value to front-line infection preventionists (IPs) and ultimately the patients we aim to protect. We share just a few of the highlights, which reflect the value of APIC and our dynamic profession:

- A new Advanced Designation Program recognized 165 exemplary APIC members during Annual Conference with status as a Fellow of the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (FAPIC). This distinction honors IPs who are not only advanced practitioners of infection prevention, but also leaders within the field.
- Public policy committee members, the board of directors, and APIC staff lobbied senators and representatives on Capitol Hill about the importance of continued National Healthcare Safety Network (NSHN) funding. In addition, we asked them to support a funding increase for the Antibiotic Resistance Solutions Initiative in FY2017. Both programs are crucial to our efforts to reduce HAIs and combat antibiotic resistance.
- APIC's highest honor, the Carole DeMille Achievement Award, was presented to Gigi Dash, RN, MS, CIC, FAPIC, at APIC's 43rd Annual Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina. We also celebrated the Heroes of Infection Prevention and the many other deserving scholarship and award recipients.
- APIC expertise and resources were referenced in more than 500 news stories.
- International Infection Prevention Week (IIPW) used a "Breaking the Chain of Infection" theme in podcasts, infographics, resources, Twitter chats, and online pledges to raise healthcare and consumer awareness about infection prevention.
- The APIC *MegaSurvey* has yielded rich data. Analysis of important research questions continues, with a compensation report prepared, and additional reports and manuscripts in process.
- Members took advantage of numerous novel and ongoing educational offerings and practice resources provided in 2016. APIC expanded efforts to "meet members where they are" by making learning more accessible and affordable.
- The APIC Text Online soared to new heights with increasing member adoption and usage.
- The Professional Practice Standards, published in the July 2016 issue of *AJIC*, provided a rigorous framework for our profession and established the core duties, responsibilities, and skill set of the IP, which can be used to foster professional growth and knowledge as well as provide usable criteria for our job descriptions and performance evaluations.

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BY SUSAN DOLAN, RN, MS, CIC, FAPIC, 2016 APIC PRESIDENT, AND KATRINA CRIST, MBA, CAE, APIC CEO

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