

## “PICNet 2007 Educational Conference” Summary

This year, the Provincial Infection Control Network of BC (PICNet) was pleased to welcome over 90 delegates to our 2007 Educational Conference, held May 3-4 at the Radisson Hotel in Richmond, B.C. This successful event brought together members of our wide-spread community of practice from across the province, and we were delighted to welcome national guests to this year’s event as well. The following conference summary provides a brief overview of the two-day event, and with permission from authors, provides links to the presentations given at the conference.

The morning sessions highlighted PICNet’s current work and achievements over the last year, including updates on all of our working groups and committees. Thursday afternoon was the first of PICNet’s interactive educational sessions on the theme of surveillance, with Dr. Bonnie Henry, Felicia Laing, Leslie Forrester and Karen Hope facilitating. On Friday afternoon, Linda Kingsbury, Dr. Elizabeth Bryce, Gordon Burrill and Dr. Karen Bartlett facilitated informative and engaging presentations and discussions around infection prevention and control in construction.



*Bernada Clarke, Darlene Spence and Tracy Lanier (left to right) at the Registration Desk.*

PICNet would like to sincerely thank all those involved in the planning and facilitation of the conference, including Tracy Lanier, Joanne Archer, Janice DeHeer, Darlene Spence, Cathy Munford, Bruce Gamage, Linda Adam, Bernada Clarke, Margaret Litt, Sarah Pugh, Judy-Isaac-Renton and Elizabeth Bryce. We would also like to thank all conference delegates for attending and supporting this event.

## Exhibitors:

For the first time, this year's event also included exhibition tables, with 17 exhibitors from across the country in attendance. Posters and "Showcasing Excellence" tables were also on display, highlighting some of the important work being undertaken in infection prevention and control around the province.



*PICNet Conference delegates browsing in the Exhibition hall*

Exhibitors included Metrex, Butchers, Johnson-Diversey, PriMed, MedicalMart, Bowers, Ansell, DebCanada, Bayers, TSL Aerospace, Lynx Medical, Tyco, Stevens Company, Source Medical and Sage.

PICNet would like to offer a special thank-you to our sponsors for their generous contributions towards the conference:



## Thursday Morning: PICNet Projects and Progress: Part 1

Dr. Elizabeth Bryce, PICNet Co-Chair and Regional Medical Director, Infection Control for Vancouver Coastal Health, set the tone of the conference with a welcome, an overview of the goals and objectives for the two days, and a brief review of the agenda.

[http://picnetbc.ca/sites/picnetbc2/files/PICNet\\_Conference\\_2007/Final\\_PICNet\\_2007\\_Educational\\_Conference\\_Agenda.pdf](http://picnetbc.ca/sites/picnetbc2/files/PICNet_Conference_2007/Final_PICNet_2007_Educational_Conference_Agenda.pdf)

Following this, Dr. Judy Isaac-Renton, PICNet Co-Chair and Director, Laboratory Services, BC Centre for Disease Control gave the first presentation of the day, discussing the highlights of PICNet activities from 2006-2007. To view the full presentation, follow this link:

[http://picnetbc.ca/sites/picnetbc2/files/PICNet\\_Conference\\_2007/PICNet\\_Overview\\_Final.pdf](http://picnetbc.ca/sites/picnetbc2/files/PICNet_Conference_2007/PICNet_Overview_Final.pdf)



*Dr. Elizabeth Bryce welcomes delegates to the conference.*

After this broad introduction to the work that PICNet has been busy with over the past year, Felicia Laing and Dr. Fred Roberts expanded on one of the main PICNet projects mentioned by Dr. Isaac-Renton in her presentation – the proposal for the Surveillance of Healthcare Associated Infections program for British Columbia (SHAIP-BC).

Dr. Roberts and Ms. Laing discussed both the background and need for an effective and standardized provincial surveillance system for healthcare associated infections, as well as specific tenets of the recommendations put forward by the Surgical Site Infection Surveillance working group in their strategic options paper submitted to the Ministry of Health in early 2007.

PICNet is currently awaiting a response from the Ministry of Health regarding the options presented in the SHAIP-BC proposal.

*Felicia Laing discusses the SHAIP-BC proposal.*



After a short coffee break during which conference delegates had their first opportunity to browse the exhibitor booths, Valerie Schall gave a very important and engaging presentation exploring the process by which PICNet's Respiratory Illness Outbreak Guidelines were developed.

The success of the collaborative network model used to develop these guidelines means that in future, PICNet will be able to expand and develop this model for all future guidelines development work it undertakes. In fact, the current Antibiotic Resistant Organism guidelines working group is already embarking on a similar process to update the current BC Centre for Disease Control guidelines.

To explore this collaborative process through Valerie's presentation, follow this link:

[http://picnetbc.ca/sites/picnetbc2/files/PICNet\\_Conference\\_2007/V\\_Schall\\_RI\\_guidelines\\_May\\_2007.pdf](http://picnetbc.ca/sites/picnetbc2/files/PICNet_Conference_2007/V_Schall_RI_guidelines_May_2007.pdf)



***Valerie Schall explores PICNet's collaborative model for guidelines development.***

Following Valerie's presentation, Sarah Pugh, Project and Communications Manager for PICNet, presented on the Communications activities underway within the PICNet Management Office. Highlights included a discussion of communications and media around the release of the Office of the Auditor General's report on infection prevention and control in BC (<http://www.bcauditor.com/AuditorGeneral.htm>) and the development and launch of PICNet's new web site in February, 2007. Also new in PICNet's communications toolkit is the PICNet display boards that greeted delegates at the registration desk of the conference.

Sarah's presentation on PICNet's communications work is available at

[http://picnetbc.ca/sites/picnetbc2/files/PICNet\\_Conference\\_2007/Communications\\_Sarah\\_Pugh.pdf](http://picnetbc.ca/sites/picnetbc2/files/PICNet_Conference_2007/Communications_Sarah_Pugh.pdf)

The PICNet overview and exploration of some of the key PICNet projects made Thursday morning pass quickly, and delegates broke off at noon for a lunch break. As usual, at conferences, this break time provided some of the best opportunities for networking, informal meetings and catching up with colleagues from across the province.

### **Thursday Afternoon's Educational Workshop: Surveillance of Healthcare Associated Infections**

At this year's conference, PICNet decided to move away from its previous "Stakeholder Summit" format towards a more education and workshop-focused agenda. The conference planning committee decided that two of the most relevant and timely topics of discussion that could be usefully explored through this conference would be surveillance of healthcare associated infections, and infection prevention and control in construction. Speakers and presentations were organized for these afternoons that would explore these topics from various angles, with a special emphasis placed on audience engagement and involvement.

The afternoon began with a presentation jointly given by Dr. Bonnie Henry and Leslie Forrester, entitled "Surveillance: What's in it for you?" followed by a very timely and relevant presentation by Karen Hope, from the Calgary Health region, about what to expect from the CCHSA accreditation process. Dr. Bonnie Henry, Leslie Forrester and Felicia Laing rounded out the afternoon with a look at what it takes to put surveillance protocols into practice. The afternoon's presentations are listed below.

"Surveillance: What's in it for you?" Dr. Bonnie Henry and Leslie Forrester

[http://picnetbc.ca/sites/picnetbc2/files/PICNet\\_Conference\\_2007/Surveillance\\_B\\_Henry\\_L\\_Forrester.pdf](http://picnetbc.ca/sites/picnetbc2/files/PICNet_Conference_2007/Surveillance_B_Henry_L_Forrester.pdf)

"Accreditation Nation: Do your surveillance programs meet the bar?" Karen Hope

[http://picnetbc.ca/sites/picnetbc2/files/PICNet\\_Conference\\_2007/Accreditation\\_Nation\\_Karen\\_Hope.pdf](http://picnetbc.ca/sites/picnetbc2/files/PICNet_Conference_2007/Accreditation_Nation_Karen_Hope.pdf)

"Hands-on Surveillance: Putting Protocols into Practice" Dr. Bonnie Henry, Leslie Forrester and Felicia Laing

[http://picnetbc.ca/sites/picnetbc2/files/PICNet\\_Conference\\_2007/PICNet\\_Surveillance\\_Workshopfinal.pdf](http://picnetbc.ca/sites/picnetbc2/files/PICNet_Conference_2007/PICNet_Surveillance_Workshopfinal.pdf)

After the last presentation of the day, conference delegates gathered in the foyer for a wine and cheese event.

### **Friday Morning: PICNet Projects and Progress, Part 2**

The second day of the conference, like the first, began with updates on various PICNet working groups and projects. After a brief review of the day's agenda by Dr. Judy Isaac-Renton, the morning's discussions began with an introduction to one of PICNet's new working groups, struck to update the existing BCCDC guidelines on antibiotic resistant

organisms. Bruce Gamage spoke about the overwhelming interest in and response to the call out for working group members, and the collaborative process (similar to that piloted in the design of our Respiratory Illness Outbreak guidelines) that will be followed to reach the end goal.

Following Bruce's discussion, Leslie Forrester, lead for the PICNet *C. difficile* working group, updated the audience about this group's developments, strategies and work. Leslie

discussed the purpose, scope, timeline and achievements of this group, to date, and provided a clear outline of their future directions and goals.

Finally, Dr. Elizabeth Bryce gave a presentation outlining the work of the Needs Assessment working group in developing a framework for staffing ratios and core competencies in infection prevention and control. This document grew out of the work of the first phase of the Needs Assessment working group mandate, and is available on PICNet's web site at <http://www.picnetbc.ca>

Friday morning's presentations are available below:

"Update from the Antibiotic Resistant Organism Working Group" Bruce Gamage

[http://picnetbc.ca/sites/picnetbc2/files/PICNet\\_Conference\\_2007/PICNet\\_AROWG\\_Presentation.pdf](http://picnetbc.ca/sites/picnetbc2/files/PICNet_Conference_2007/PICNet_AROWG_Presentation.pdf)

"Update from the *Clostridium difficile* Associated Diarrhea Working Group" Leslie Forrester

[http://picnetbc.ca/sites/picnetbc2/files/PICNet\\_Conference\\_2007/PICNet\\_CDAD\\_WG\\_Update\\_May\\_2007.pdf](http://picnetbc.ca/sites/picnetbc2/files/PICNet_Conference_2007/PICNet_CDAD_WG_Update_May_2007.pdf)

"Update from the Needs Assessment Working Group" Dr. Elizabeth Bryce

[http://picnetbc.ca/sites/picnetbc2/files/PICNet\\_Conference\\_2007/Needs\\_Assessment.pdf](http://picnetbc.ca/sites/picnetbc2/files/PICNet_Conference_2007/Needs_Assessment.pdf)

## Friday Afternoon

Infection prevention and control in construction and design was the timely theme of Friday afternoon's educational workshops.

To launch the session, Dr. Elizabeth Bryce and Linda Kingsbury took delegates through a session entitled "The Devil is in the Details," about infection prevention and control considerations and requirements for renovation and construction in health care facilities. After covering the theory, participants came face-to-face with actual blueprints and proposed designs for facilities, and discussions ensued around what was missing, or impractical, or simply unfeasible with these plans, from an infection prevention and control perspective.



This presentation is available at:

[http://picnetbc.ca/sites/picnetbc2/files/PICNet\\_Conference\\_2007/The\\_Devil\\_is\\_in\\_the\\_Details.pdf](http://picnetbc.ca/sites/picnetbc2/files/PICNet_Conference_2007/The_Devil_is_in_the_Details.pdf)

Gordon Burrill, a professional engineer and consultant from Fredericton, NB, followed this presentation with a very engaging and well-received discussion of standards and guidelines for infection prevention and control in construction, and the infection control professional's role in construction and design. Gordon Burrill's presentation "Construction in Health Care: What's Next for the ICP?" is available by following this link:

[http://picnetbc.ca/sites/picnetbc2/files/PICNet\\_Conference\\_2007/Construction\\_in\\_Health\\_care.pdf](http://picnetbc.ca/sites/picnetbc2/files/PICNet_Conference_2007/Construction_in_Health_care.pdf)



To end the afternoon, Dr. Karen Bartlett brought boxes of props and equipment, which she passed around for all delegates to examine, to help illustrate her discussion entitled "Stalking the Wild Microbe: Why, When and How to Sample." Dr. Bartlett's show and tell was an excellent and engaging way to close the afternoon's discussions, and to end the conference.

## Conference Evaluations: Building and Moving Ahead

Comments and formal evaluations from the PICNet 2007 Educational Conference have now been compiled by the PICNet Management Office. We would like to thank all delegates who took the time to fill out the evaluation, as your suggestions and comments will help us continue to improve upon our conference and make it an increasingly valuable experience for our Community of Practice. 33 respondents filled in the evaluations, with an overwhelmingly positive response to the presentations and the overall structure of the conference. Particular highlights, according to respondents, were Karen Hope's presentation on accreditation and Gordon Burrill's presentation on construction guidelines and infection control.

One very practical suggestion from multiple respondents was that we make handouts of the presentations available for participants at next year's conference. We also received some useful ideas for potential panels or themes at future events. One of the strongest indicators of a successful conference is that everyone who responded either agreed or strongly agreed that they would attend future PICNet educational conferences, and that they would recommend future PICNet conferences to others.

Thank-you to everyone who attended this year's event, and to those who worked so hard to make it happen. We look forward to building on your feedback and ideas, and to seeing you again at next year's event.

*PICNet Management Office*