

# PICNet

## Provincial Infection Control Network – BC “Debugging Healthcare Together!”

### PICNet Management Office: Announcements

PICNet is very pleased to announce that Bruce Gamage, RN, BScN, CIC, has accepted the position of Network Manager for the Provincial Infection Control Network of BC effective January 1, 2008.

For the past ten years, Bruce’s career has been focused on the prevention and control of health care associated infections. Since 2000, he has taken a leadership role, both provincially and nationally, in shaping infection prevention and control policy and practice. Bruce has been a pivotal member of the PICNet team since its inception in 2005, and will bring this invaluable dedication and experience to the role of Network Manager. This position has been vacant for some months, and we are grateful to have had Bruce acting in this capacity for the interim.

As well, Sarah Pugh, BA, MA has accepted the position of Projects and Communications Coordinator for the Provincial Infection Control Network of BC effective January 2, 2008. Sarah brings to PICNet a strong background in social science, community development, communications and project management. Sarah has been working with PICNet since August 2006, under contract, and we are very pleased that she has chosen to continue her career with PICNet as a full time member of the PICNet Management Office team.

### **Now Hiring:**

PICNet is also filling a third full-time position within the Management Office. We are looking for an Infection Control Educator/Consultant to join our team. The deadline for applications for this position is **January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2008**. For a full job description, please visit:

<http://www.brainhunter.com/frontoffice/seekerViewJobDetailAction.do?sitecode=pl355&jobId=921487&page=search>

### Final Call for PICNet Project Proposals

The projects PICNet undertakes each year are identified by you – our Community of Practice. Every year, PICNet calls for infection prevention and control project proposals using our proposal template which can found on our web site (PICNet Project Proposal form:

<http://picnetbc.ca/page193.htm>).

If you, your facility, or your organization has a project in mind that you think fits within PICNet's mandate (visit <http://www.picnetbc.ca> for more information), we encourage you to send us your proposal. PICNet's Project Priority and Planning Committee carefully reviews and triages all project proposals before making recommendations to the Steering Committee about priorities for the coming 2008-2009 fiscal year.

The deadline for project proposal submissions is January 15, 2008, so we would encourage you to think about what kinds of projects you would like PICNet to undertake in 2008-2009. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the PICNet Management Office at [picnet@bccdc.ca](mailto:picnet@bccdc.ca)

### **Final Call-out for Home Healthcare Guidelines Working Group Members**

PICNet is issuing a call-out for healthcare professionals in our Community of Practice interested in contributing to the development of provincial guidelines for infection prevention and control in Home Healthcare settings.

Similar to the PICNet guidelines developed for Respiratory Illness Outbreaks and Antibiotic Resistant Organisms (currently being written), the Home Healthcare guidelines will be designed using a collaborative process that engages expertise from across regions, disciplines and facilities. If you are interested in participating on this working group, or looking for further details, please contact Bruce Gamage or Sarah Pugh at [picnet@bccdc.ca](mailto:picnet@bccdc.ca).

### **Education Resource Fund Call-out: Deadline March 31, 2008**

Consistent with its role in supporting infection prevention and control education and training, PICNet has established a \$20,000 "Education Resource Fund." The purpose of this fund is to provide educational grants to members of PICNet's community of practice (COP), which includes all health care professionals in British Columbia who are involved in the prevention and control of health care associated infections.

Members of PICNet's COP may submit their application to the PICNet Management Office by March 31, 2008 to receive up to \$2,000 to support their attendance at a national conference/meeting or other educational activity of their choice that is relevant to infection prevention and control. Applications will be reviewed by a Steering Committee-appointed selection committee, and successful applicants must use their funds within the 2008-2009 fiscal year.

For the full policy and application form, please see PICNet's web site at:  
<http://picnetbc.ca/page193.htm>

### **International Commission on Occupational Health Workshop Publication**

In late October, PICNet was proud to co-host a pre-conference workshop on Occupational Health and Safety in low-resource and developing countries, held prior to the International Commission on Occupational Health Conference at the Sheraton Wall Centre in Vancouver.

The all-day workshop was a great success, with participants from at least 10 different countries world-wide coming together to discuss challenges and strategies for achieving best practices in occupational health in low-resource settings. Since the workshop, participants continue to work together via email and telephone on the development of a publication that will delve into various themes explored over the course of the workshop. PICNet is leading the development of this publication, which will be published by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (CDC-Atlanta). The first draft is expected to be compiled by the end of January.

### **Antibiotic Resistant Organism Guidelines Development: An Update**

Work will continue this January on PICNet's Antibiotic Resistant Organisms (ARO) guidelines. Throughout December, consultant Phyllis Stoffman worked with members of the ARO Working Group, incorporating feedback and suggestions and knitting together the input from the various Working Group sub-groups. The document will be edited and formatted in early January, before being sent out once again to the Working Group, as well as to PICNet's Steering Committee for comments and edits.

### ***Clostridium difficile* Surveillance Working Group Update**

Work is steadily progressing on the development of a system to collect provincial *Clostridium difficile* surveillance data in BC. A sub-group of PICNet's CDAD Surveillance Working group will be meeting with IMIT experts in mid-January to work on the development of a database for surveillance data collection. A Memorandum of Understanding on data sharing between PICNet and the Health Authorities is also currently being drafted.

### **PICNet 2008 Conference, April 24-25, 2008: “*Building Bridges*” between Occupational Health, Infection Control and Public Health**

PICNet's 2008 Educational Conference will take place April 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at the Radisson President Hotel in Richmond, BC. The theme of this year's conference will be “*Building Bridges*” between Occupational Health, Infection Control and Public Health. Topics to be addressed over the two days of the conference include opportunities for collaboration between Occupational Health, Public Health and Infection Prevention and Control; Outbreak Management and Emergency Planning; Communication; Antibiotic Resistant Organisms and more.

PICNet's conference goal is “to strengthen PICNet's Community of Practice by bringing together professionals working in Occupational Health, Infection Control and Public Health to identify common issues, share knowledge and develop solutions for healthcare-associated infection prevention and control in British Columbia.”

Follow the PICNet web site at [www.picnetbc.ca](http://www.picnetbc.ca) for further details.

## **Educational Opportunity: CHICA-Canada MRSA Traveling Road Show**

On February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008, the Community and Hospital Infection Control Association of Canada (CHICA-Canada) will host a half-day “MRSA Traveling Road Show” at the Hyatt Regency hotel in Vancouver (8:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.). This event is part of a cross-country educational tour dealing with topics related to best practices for the screening, prevention and surveillance of MRSA, with speakers including Dr. Bonnie Henry, Dr. Elizabeth Bryce and Bruce Gamage.

For more information, see CHICA’s web site at [www.chica.org](http://www.chica.org)

## **Webber Training Debrief**

Welcome to the 2008 season of Webber Training teleclasses!

Since February 2006 PICNet has purchased and hosted educational classes offered by Webber Training (<http://webbertraining.com/schedule1.php>). These classes address topics of interest to infection control professionals and other health care professionals worldwide. There are two teleclasses scheduled for January.

## **Webber Training January 2008 Schedule**

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Topic of Interest:</b>	<b>Presenter:</b>
<b>January 10, 2008</b>	<b>The Global Problem of Antimicrobial Resistance: What Can the Public Hospitals and Government Do?</b>	Elaine Larson, Columbia University
<b>January 31, 2008</b>	<b>Patient Empowerment &amp; Measurement for Hand Hygiene</b>	Mary Anne Megukin, University of Pennsylvania

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