



## **PICNet’s 2009 Educational Conference “We’re All In This Together”**

Registration has now closed for PICNet’s 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual PICNet Educational Conference, to be held April 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Radisson Hotel in Richmond, BC. The theme of this year’s conference is “We’re All In This Together” with topics to include, amongst others: health care worker vaccination, infection control in construction and design, accreditation, reprocessing and sterilization, and First Nations perspectives on infection prevention and control issues. For a full agenda, please visit our [web site](#).

This conference is now fully booked, but we are maintaining a wait-list. If you have already registered for this conference but learn that you cannot attend, please do let us know as soon as possible so that we may clear the space for a waitlisted registrant.

## **Congratulations to the Successful 2009-2010 Education Resource Fund Applicants**

We would like to congratulate this year’s successful applicants for PICNet’s Educational Resource Fund awards, meant to support members of PICNet’s community of practice towards attending a conference, meeting, or other educational activity that will enhance the individual’s professional development and contribution towards the field of infection prevention and control in the province. Applications were blinded and selected through independent rating by a sub-committee of PICNet’s Advisory Committee. Factors taken into consideration were the applicants’ service to and involvement with PICNet, as well as the potential benefit to the infection control community of the activity/conference or meeting the applicant was hoping to attend.

Successful applicants for this year’s awards include: Leslie Forrester, Bonnie Henry, Terry Dickson, Linda Adam and Jackie Ratzlaff.

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

The PICNet team is now finalizing data quality assurance processes for the new provincial voluntary CDI surveillance system. Through this system, each Health Authorities (HA) is able to submit anonymized data from both regional and facility levels to a provincial data repository using a secure web portal.

With quality assurance processes in place, PICNet will begin to receive data from the HAs. Epidemiologists will then compile these CDI rates and trends that will be shared with the submitters. PICNet hopes to have preliminary results available in the summer of 2009. Provincial

aggregate rates will be made publicly available. This will enable benchmarks to be established, by which Health Authorities and facilities can measure themselves and apply interventions as necessary for improved infection prevention and control.

### **Needs Assessment for Infection Prevention & Control in Long Term Care**

This PICNet Working Group has now finalized the survey that will be used to perform a province-wide needs assessment for infection prevention and control resources in long term care settings. This survey will enable the groups to identify gaps in resources for infection control in these settings, in order for Health Authorities to be able to develop solid business cases towards attaining increased resources.

Currently, this group is finalizing the methodology around survey distribution and completion, and is hoping to have the survey sent out by the end of April.

### **Gastrointestinal Illness (GI) Outbreak Guidelines Working Group**

This Working Group met again on March 24<sup>th</sup> to discuss their next steps towards developing a set of provincial guidelines for GI Outbreaks in BC. Several months back, the group met to determine their scope, objectives and goals in developing these guidelines, which are intended to provide guidance to all health care settings when developing or updating policies and processes that pertain to the prevention, surveillance for, identification and control of gastrointestinal outbreaks.

Since then, PICNet has been working on the development of a new organizational process for guideline development, which it is now being finalized. With the development of this new process, there has been a necessary postponement of interim meetings for this GI Guidelines Working Group, as we determine how best to merge the work of this group with the new guidelines process. With the new guidelines process now nearing completion, we look forward to resuming work on this important set of guidelines.

### **Home and Community Health Care Guidelines**

We would like to thank the infection prevention and control Community of Practice for its feedback and comments on PICNet’s Home and Community Health Care Guidelines. The last of the revisions are now being made before these guidelines are finalized by the Working Group and approved. These guidelines focus specifically on the infection prevention and control challenges and practices as they pertain to the Home and Community Health Care setting. Once completed, the guidelines will be posted on the PICNet web site at <http://www.picnetbc.ca/>.

A big thank-you goes out to all Working Group members for their dedication to these Guidelines!

## **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, with more than 40 topics in the series so far. The link for the Teleclass Series schedule is: <http://webbertraining.com/schedulep1.php>

Below are the Webber teleclasses scheduled for April 2009.

## **Webber Training April 2009 Schedule**

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Topic of Interest:</b>	<b>Presenter:</b>
April 9, 2009	<a href="#">Strategies for Improving Cleaning and Disinfection of Environmental Surfaces in Healthcare Facilities</a>	Prof. John Boyce, Hospital of Saint Raphael
April 21, 09	<a href="#">(Free British Teleclass) Voices of the IPS</a>	Speaker TBD
April 23, 2009	<a href="#">Economic and Health Benefits of Universal MRSA Screening</a>	Prof. Stephan Harbath, University of Geneva Hospitals
April 29, 2009	<a href="#">(South Pacific Teleclass) Clostridium difficile in the Southern Hemisphere</a>	Dr. David Hammer, Canterbury District Health Laboratories
April 30, 2009	<a href="#">Finding the Gaps: Health Care Associated Infection Surveillance in British Columbia</a>	Bruce Gamage, Provincial Infection Control Network of BC

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