Infection Prevention Society Awards 2016

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Once again in 2016, the Infection Prevention Society (IPS) presented a range of awards at the annual gala dinner held at national conference in Harrogate. In this issue of *JIP* we provide a summary of some of those awards, with the other awards planned to appear in the following issue.

Branch of the Year Award 2016

Trent Branch was the worthy recipient of this award, having been nominated by Paul Cryer. Susie Singleton is the Branch Coordinator, and the following branch achievements were highlighted as part of the nomination:

The Trent Branch has had another outstanding year and continues to grow – we now have over 130 members. Our meetings are especially multidisciplinary with regular attendance of members in mental health, community, Clinical Commissioning Groups, secondary care, private healthcare, commercial vendors, Public Health England and social care. Branch meeting topics have been identified by a canvas and vote by members so as to tune the content to that which best meets member interest and needs. We provide a broad spectrum of subject matter including news, patch-information, updates, lessons shared, support for new members in addition to scientific and operational infection prevention and control issues.

This year we have engaged with the Royal College of Nursing in relation to revalidation, had sessions on behavioural change, motivation and leadership, developed relationships with charities and external organisations such as Sepsis UK, strengthened our relations with corporate members and always provide a commercial firm with a speaking slot. Two of our members have gained further academic degrees during this period and have given lectures to the branch on their topic area. Additionally we have been delighted to welcome the IPS Vice President to the branch on two occasions.

The Branch Coordinator runs a new-member mentoring programme to ensure that those joining us are properly welcomed, included in our activities and feel integrated enough to express their own views. Our annual conference, ‘Darling Bugs of May’, has regularly attracted the highest quality of speakers and on the last occasion we had approximately 200 delegates and 30 commercial stands. This event provides us

with the useful opportunity to fundraise to support four members to attend the IPS national conference. We always strive to be innovative and became the first IPS branch to have CPD accreditation for our meetings/annual conference. We have continued with this and recently offered other IPS branches the opportunity to share this resource without charge.

We have commissioned a branch member to undertake a member survey to determine the resources upon which we can draw in relation to talent, skill sets, competencies and knowledge across our constituency. The aim of this survey is to identify untapped resources which will help further enhance and promote our education programme. We actively support our page on the IPS website through additional and useful content placement over and above branch meetings. We ask authors/presenters for permission that any presentations, updates, etc. can be shared on the website after a branch meeting. We always ask for any declarations of interest to be made prior to commencement of meetings. We actively and strongly support national IPS board activity in the form of the consultative committee, corporate members forum and such other duties as we may be called upon to undertake. Branch meetings are sponsored by a commercial organisation showing our close partnership with industry. Due to the geographical area covered and to gain high attendance, we aim to rotate our Branch meetings across the patch. A key priority of the Branch is also to plan ahead, with dates and venues to enable diaries to be scheduled well in advance.

IPS Team of the Year Award 2016; sponsored by Daniels Healthcare

This award was presented to North Yorkshire Community Infection Prevention and Control Team, who received the following nomination from Sonya Ashworth, Team Lead Community Infection Prevention and Control, Harrogate District NHS Foundation Trust:

We are a proactive, dynamic NHS Community Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Team based in North Yorkshire. Our 'can do, will do' attitude facilitates production of IPC educational resources which improve IPC standards and reduce the incidence of healthcare associated infection. The reach of these resources mirrors the IPS strategy as they influence practice locally, nationally and internationally. Wherever providers are, our team are here to help.

While also providing a county-wide commissioned Community IPC service, our multidisciplinary team works collaboratively, maximising everyone's strengths and skills to develop high-quality evidence-based educational resources. Because these resources are developed by clinically focused and competent IPC practitioners, health and social care staff find them easy to translate into practice.

The following examples demonstrate the extent to which our Team values and culture resonate with those of the IPS: our award-winning educational resources such as the Preventing Infection Workbooks, draw upon evidence-based information and national guidance to inform IPC Practice.

Our innovative IPC website is a 'one-stop shop' that informs and promotes IPC. This is the first independent NHS IPC website in the country. It is the gateway to our comprehensive range of resources, use of which assist organisations in achieving compliance with the (England) Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Code of Practice).

Our vision to be the market leader for IPC educational resources is sustained through regular review, refresh and update of existing resources alongside development of new resources. All members of the team are involved in this process utilising their specific skills from concept to delivery and if a gap is identified we find someone to help. For example the 'Preventing Infection Workbook for staff

providing care at home' (domiciliary care) was developed in collaboration with Devon County Council.

Our outcomes to date demonstrate our resources are in the right place to improve practice. Over 70,000 copies of the Preventing Infection Workbooks for General Practice and Care Homes have been issued/sold to staff working for County Councils, Clinical Commissioning Groups, Universities, training providers, as well as group and individual organisations. Use of the workbooks is viewed as best practice by local Care Quality Commission Inspectors because:

- They provide national guidance, evidence-based information
- Topics including standard precautions, environmental cleaning, *Clostridium difficile*, MRSA
- Each topic includes 'it's a fact' and 'test your knowledge'
- When 100% competency is achieved, managers sign the 'Certificate of Competency', providing evidence for CQC compliance
- The Workbook is kept by the member of staff for their portfolio of learning and as a reference tool

The above highlights our high level of success as a Team. We are a real example of the sum of the whole being more than the sum of individual parts. By utilising the skills of everyone and working together we are able to achieve our aim of developing high-quality award-winning resources which improve patient safety and reduce healthcare-associated infection. We believe we are the team with the 'biggest heart, best preparation, deepest passion, strongest togetherness and will to succeed'.

IPS Honorary Member Awards 2016

Honorary membership of the Society is awarded annually to a small number of practitioners who, in the opinion of the IPS Board, meet the criteria to be honoured with this prestigious category of membership. Successful recipients will have made a significant contribution to furthering the aims and goals of the IPS, often over a considerable period of their career.

In 2016, three members received awards, which were also presented at the IPS gala dinner in Harrogate.

Honorary Member: Judy Potter

Judy is presently Lead Nurse & Director of Infection Prevention and Control, Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust. She has worked in the speciality for 25 years and held a range of roles in the society. Judy was nominated by her team, who said the following:

As an infection prevention and control team, we feel that Judy meets the criteria to be honoured with this prestigious category of membership. Judy has been an Infection Prevention and

Control Nurse and member of the ICNA/IPS since the start of her specialist career in nursing. Judy has carried out a significant number of roles that have benefited the ICNA and now the IPS, such as Coordinator and NEC representative of the South West Regional Group. Judy spent two years as the National vice chair with a further year as the National chair of the organisation. During this time, she led the transition of the ICNA into the IPS, an organisation accessible to anyone working within the field of infection control not just infection control nurses.

Judy co-authored the IPS aims and goals in 2007 and has made a significant contribution to furthering these through input to national groups and committees on behalf of the society over the course of her career. These have included the Competencies Consensus Group for the ICNA Professional Competencies for Infection Control Nurses, Health Protection Agency/Department of Health Steering Group for Healthcare Associated Infection, National Patient Safety Agency Nursing and Midwifery Advisory Group, and the Department of Health *Clostridium difficile* Guideline Working Group. While Chair/President, Judy also represented the ICNA/IPS on the panel of judges for the Oxoid Infection Control Awards and the Nursing Times Awards.

Judy has supported the IPS by enabling and encouraging her own Infection Prevention and Control Team to play active parts in the South West Branch. Currently the branch coordinator, secretary, treasurer and education lead are all employed under Judy at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital along with the current secretary of the IPS Mental Health Forum. This demonstrates commitment and support to increase the professional development of her team while realising and maximising the value of membership.

Judy is an influential leader within the Infection Prevention & Control Team and the Trust. She promotes the evidence base for infection prevention practice that is adopted universally and ensures an accessible and approachable service. As the lead nurse and joint director, Judy acts as an expert resource at clinical and organisational level while championing infection control, assisting the Trust to excel in this area.

Judy supports and delivers the vision and mission of the IPS, ensuring safe patient care by relieving the burden of disease and avoidable illness caused by healthcare-associated infections. She encourages innovative and evidence

based practice among her team, working in both the acute trust and in other settings covered by service level agreements, ensuring high standards are achieved throughout the local healthcare community. She is extremely deserving of the award of honorary membership.

Society Roles Held by Judy Potter in IPS (and the Infection Control Nurses Association)

2001–2004 Co-ordinator SW Regional Group
2002–2004 SW Regional Group NEC Representative
2004–2006 National Vice Chair
2006–2007 National Chair
2007–2008 President

Honorary Member: Sue Ross

Sue was nominated by Angela Billings with support from the Yorkshire Branch. She worked in the speciality for over 20 years, most recently as Lead Nurse – Infection Prevention and Control for Kirklees and Wakefield integrated IPC team, Kirklees local authority.

Sue served in a range of roles for the Yorkshire Branch of the ICNA and national roles including on the National Executive Committee and the Finance & General Purposes Committee of the ICNA. She has been an active member of the Mental Health Special Interest Group and provided a valuable contribution on community infection prevention and control issues. Sue took early retirement due to ill health in 2015, and the award of honorary membership is very well-deserved.

Honorary Member: Maria Bennallick

Maria is presently Lecturer Adult Nursing in Plymouth, Devon. She has worked in the specialty for 28 years and was nominated by the Branch Committee of the South-West

Branch. The branch nominated Maria for the following reasons;

Maria has always been an extremely strong supporter of the South West ICNA and latterly the IPS as the roles and activities that she has undertaken on behalf of the Society have shown. She continues to attend branch meetings and the national Conference on a regular basis.

Her association with infection control began when she was the ward sister on the Infection Control Ward at the Whitechapel Hospital in London; the ward was set up to treat and nurse patients with MRSA and HIV/AIDS in the 1980s. Following maternity leave, she returned to the same hospital as their first Infection Control Nurse two days a week. A move to Cornwall saw her working at the Community Hospital in Bodmin and it was during this time that she was involved in the BBC series about 'Lessons We Should Have Learnt'. Her episode was on MRSA and saw her go back to the Whitechapel ward.

Maria's passion though is education and you cannot help but become enthused when talking to her about her role, such is her commitment to education and particularly Infection Prevention and Control. In her early days after arriving in Cornwall from London, the county received funding to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS and Maria set up and ran a link group to raise awareness of the virus in Cornwall, where the perception of risks from the virus was low.

Currently a Lecturer in adult nursing with the University of Plymouth, Maria teaches everything from biology to hand hygiene to healthcare-related law. She has taught pre-registration infection control modules and the skills modules which include aseptic technique and hand hygiene. She worked with skills staff at the University to set up a simulated, safe environment and developed scenarios which nurses can use to practise and act out various situations.

Maria also teaches on the Pathways to Health course, which entails working with a variety of different groups including school children and colleges. This covers a wide range of subjects ranging from biology to pathogens, to immunology, sepsis and hand hygiene. In all these settings, Maria brings the subjects to life by falling back on her vast clinical experience and Infection Prevention & Control

knowledge, relating theory to practice. Maria has also written chapters on Infection Prevention & Control in skills books.

Her contribution to the educational development of the IPS has been very significant and she remains a committed member of the society who fully embraces the vision of the IPS; her enthusiasm for IP&C and education is infectious, and it is great that she is a member of the South-West IPS Branch.

Society Roles Held by Maria Bennallick in IPS (and the Infection Control Nurses Association)

1999–2004 Education Committee

2000–2013 Education and Professional Development Committee

- Education Lead for South West IPS
- Significant involvement in the first and second edition of the IPS Competencies; her contribution is acknowledged in the third version, authored by Emma Burnett
- Treasurer for South West IPS Branch twice, last time finishing in 2010

Ayliffe Lifetime Achievement Award: Professor Graham Ayliffe

In 2016, the Infection Prevention Society announced a new award: the Ayliffe Lifetime Achievement Award. This prestigious award will only be given on rare occasions to honour individuals who have made an outstanding and sustained contribution to the field of infection prevention and control, and to the Society, throughout their careers. The inaugural award was presented by IPS President Heather Loveday and IPS Patron Tricia Hart to Professor Graham Ayliffe.

The name and work of Professor Ayliffe is familiar to all infection prevention and control practitioners. He has published and influenced on a myriad of infection prevention and control issues throughout his career, and has always supported the IPS and its predecessor organisation the ICNA. He continues to support the annual IPS conference each year, attending to hear the Ayliffe Lecture, to meet with practitioners and to continue discussions on the evidence base for practice. He is a truly worthy recipient of the award created in his name.