



Infection Prevention Society

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[www.ips.uk.net](http://www.ips.uk.net)

## **Brief Background**

Since commencing in my career as an infection control nurse in 1997 I have been a member of the Infection Control Nurses Association (ICNA) and subsequently the Infection Prevention Society (IPS). My career during this time has found me in many different positions, at acute hospital, national centre and international organization level. Throughout I have been committed to the aim of the ICNA/IPS and to enhancing the position and experiences of its members and the Society overall. I have been involved in many ICNA/IPS run projects, both in Scotland and for the UK, the most recent being the development of the Quality Improvement Tools. I have also represented the IPS at many meetings and events, including with other UK infection societies and other country societies, for example from Europe and the USA. Additionally, I recently contributed to development of the members' survey.

My official positions within ICNA/IPS have included:

- Scottish Branch treasurer
- Scottish Branch study day coordinator
- International representative
- Member of the Conference Organising Committee, which became the Scientific Programme Committee for the annual conference for which I was the coordinator until 2009. I led the Committee and relevant partners through a successful transition from a small conference to a large and widely acknowledged and respected annual, profit making event. As part of this role I was also a Director of ICNA Conferences Ltd supporting business activities of this company. Additionally, I had the opportunity to be involved in the business transition of ICNA to IPS at Board level.

It is clear therefore that I have had the fortune over these years to intimately understand both the needs of the members and the business, governance and project delivery functions of the Society, which is importantly juxtaposed to my sound competence in all elements of infection prevention and control.

## **Current situation and vision**

As an infection prevention specialist serving the needs of many practitioners, in many countries due to my Programme Manager position within the World Health Organisation, I am fully aware of the challenges as well as solutions being applied to improve patient safety through clean, safe care. My job includes preparing evidence, recommendations and supporting implementation tools to

support health-care facility activities, as well as undertaking training and education, promoting and supporting research, innovation, new technologies and knowledge management and ensuring prospective and thorough evaluation projects. I also have extensive and day to day experience in leading and managing teams and individuals at all levels.

My vision for the Ordinary Member position includes building on the previous Ordinary Member's contribution; I have been fortunate to support some of their activities as has been stated with regards to the recent members' survey.

At a time when infection control practitioners, and therefore IPS members, continue to be faced with many challenges, including increasing financial constraints, they need clear and informed leadership and direction. My vision includes supporting this through:

- Utilizing strong communication skills and an ability to connect positively with both members in a range of Branches and other key infection prevention and control individuals due to my current work position. This would involve capitalizing on the opportunity I have to have a positive impact on UK national organization planning and decisions, connecting these to Branch needs and activities. (For information, I am still part of the Scottish Branch however recently spoke at and spent time with the North and South London Branches as an example)
- Additionally spending dedicated time listening to and understanding the needs of and links between Branches and Board decision making. This includes giving due consideration and respect to the function of the Consultative Committee and ensuring all members are fully aware of the Ordinary Member role
- Conducting a gap analysis to understand, for example, member needs in relation to personal development to support implementation of infection prevention and control evidence and recommendations (i.e. leading to organization of 'tools' to equip members to function most efficiently, e.g. workshops and/or implementation documents to ensure sound and timely application of infection prevention and control recommendations and mandates).

The ultimate goal is to allow members to be as efficient and satisfied in their positions as possible through strong IPS leadership, visibility and support. A proactive approach to engaging members will be crucial to this and I am prepared to develop and implement a strategy and plan for achieving this.

I hope that through this application you will recognise the opportunity to utilize an enthusiastic and dedicated member with a vision to support other members and the overall aim of IPS in this 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Thank you for your time and consideration.