



13th October 2022

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It is my pleasure to introduce this annual report for 2021-22 on behalf of the IPS Board of Trustees and the Management Executive Group.

We were very much in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic during the timeframe of this report, and inevitably it had a major impact on our activity as a society. Despite these challenges, IPS have managed to achieve a huge amount during this period and even complete the year with a significant financial surplus. This latter achievement is particularly pleasing given the decline in annual profits we have seen in the last few years.

This report details our activity over the past financial year and is a testament to the hard work and commitment of all the officers and members of our Management Executive Group, Board of Trustees, Branch and Special Interest groups.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jennie Wilson'.

Jennie Wilson
President
Infection Prevention Society

IPS Board of Trustees

IPS Board of Trustees 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022

Tricia Hart (resigned 1st September 2021)

Ginny Edwards

Andy Leary

Tracey Cooper

Paul Cryer

Jennie Wilson

Joanne Taylor

Pixy Strazds

Steve Hams (appointed 1st January 2022)

Carole Fry (appointed 1st January 2022)

IPS Management Executive Group (MEG) 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022

President - Jennie Wilson

Honorary Treasurer - Joanne Taylor

Honorary Secretary - Pixy Strazds

Vice President – Lisa Butcher

Deputy Treasurer – Lilian Chiwera (resigned 19th October 2021)

Deputy Secretary – Joanne Reynard

Education & Professional Development Committee Lead – Vickie Longstaff (term of office completed 31st December 2021); Kerry Holden (appointed 1st January 2022)

Scientific Programme Committee Lead – Kat Topley

Editorial Management Group Lead / Journal Editor - Heather Loveday

International Engagement Committee – Rafaela Franca

England Country Lead – Lynn Rodrigues

Ireland Country Lead - Maura Smiddy

Northern Ireland Country Lead – Caroline McGearry

Scotland Country Lead - Diane Stark (term of office ended 31st October 2021); Karen Wares (appointed 1st November 2021)

Wales Country Lead - Tracey Gauci

Governance and Strategy

Governance

The Society moved to a new governance structure in 2020. With the transfer of Governance functions to the Board of Trustees since then, this has enabled the Management Executive Group, made up of the Executive Officers, Business Group Leads and Country Leads, to focus on delivering the work of the Society.

In September 2021, Tricia Hart stepped down early from her role as Chair of Trustees due to ill health. Ginny Edwards, Deputy Chair, kindly took on the role of interim Chair until a

new Chair was appointed. Following an interview process, Professor Steve Hams was appointed to the role of Chair of Trustees in January 2022. In addition we also went out to recruit a new Member Trustee, appointing Carole Fry to the role in January 2022.

The IPS Management Executive Group and Trustees have ensured that the Society met all of the requirements of the Charity Commission during the period of this annual report.

Progress against the strategic plan

The IPS Trustees and Management Executive Group developed a 2021 – 2024 Strategic Plan with the support of management company Q5. The new strategic plan was published in February 2021 prior to being implemented on the 1st April 2021. The annual workplan for 2021-2022 was derived from the Strategic Plan and comprised the following key four success areas each with defined objectives:

- Overall Internal and Organisation ‘System’ performance
- Influencing and shaping infection prevention & control
- Quality and relevance of our outputs
- Delivery against operational target and sustainability

These objectives were built on at a MEG/BoT meeting held in March 2021 which evaluated our strategic direction and had a particular focus on income generation. The following activity has been undertaken to meet these strategic objectives during the 2021/22 financial year:

Overall Internal and Organisation ‘System’ performance

- We have embedded decision making and accountability structures across the MEG and BoT to ensure that financial and operational reporting is managed and scrutinised.
- We tendered for Secretariat and Conference Organising services and in November 2021 appointed Fitwise to provide our secretariat contract and Conference Partners International as conference providers for a period of 3 years.
- We have agreed a contract for website support with Frank-on-The-Web and work has been undertaken through the year to improve the structure of the website. We have scoped a new membership data base which will enable us to represent and communicate with our members more effectively. The new membership data base will be in place by early 2023.
- In recognition of the challenges of managing the business of the society by relying on the voluntary work of our executive officers and business group leads, we have approved a business case to seek to employ a Director of Business Management & Development, who will manage our business activity, increase our reach and build new revenue streams.

Influencing and shaping infection prevention & control

- IPS was a key partner with the Healthcare Infection Society in revising and publishing [guidelines on the management and treatment of MRSA](#), and with

Infection Association, Royal College of Pathologists and Healthcare Infection Society in developing a [rapid evidence review on the transmission of COVID-19](#)

- We are working with the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health to develop joint guidelines on the management of respiratory infections in paediatric hospitals.
- We have provided detailed responses to national policy documents including the National Infection Prevention and Control Manual, and are a member of the [UKSHA Respiratory Protection Evidence panel](#)
- We have worked closely with NHSE to inform the development of their IPC education framework and evidence review for transmission-based precautions.
- OneTogether and DRIPP, our ground breaking partnerships with other professional societies supported by 3M and BD respectively, have continued to develop high quality resources to support infection prevention in surgery and the management of invasive devices.

Quality and relevance of our outputs

- We have worked with our website developer to build a Learning Platform which now hosts our Competencies Framework and enables members to upload evidence and interact with their mentors to measure and endorse their progress.
- The wide range of resources on the IPS website have been catalogued so that they can be organised and linked to the competencies framework. This work will be completed in late 2022.
- The Credentiaing framework has been completed and work undertaken to integrate the application process on the Learning Platform and form a Credentiaing Panel with the aim of making process available in October 2022.
- We have started work on our IPC Curriculum which aims to develop high quality education resources on key topics in IPC. We have held workshops with educationalists and members to understand what education is currently available and what the priorities are for new education resources. The next step will be to build a project plan for creating educational resources for members.

Delivery against operational target and sustainability

- To support the changes to the management structure of IPS with the formation of the Management Executive Group and separate Board of Trustees in 2020 we have defined systems for agreeing and approving the annual business plan and budget
- We are developing systems for agreeing, approving and monitoring Annual Conference budget with our new conference providers (CPI)
- We have established systems for project reporting and monitoring based on KPIs.

Membership and Finances

IPS activity has continued through 2021-22 despite the challenges presented across healthcare by the COVID-19 pandemic. Several educational events including a one-day conferences for specific interest groups, local branch conferences, and other bespoke events across the UK were postponed or cancelled. Despite the uncertainties of pandemic, we took the decision to go ahead with the 3-day national conference and ran a very successful hybrid event to allow both in person and virtual attendance. We have continued with running most of our meetings online and this has significantly reduced our expenditure. Overall, this enabled us to finish the financial year in a much better place than predicted. The Society reports a net surplus of £166,828 for the year 2021/22. In addition, the society has reserves of £886,169 in unrestricted funds. This has reversed the general decline in income over the past seven years and places the society in a healthy position to continue with its objectives going forward.

The full financial report is available for members on the IPS website [here](#).

Independent Auditors Report to the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2022

Saffery Champness LLP<> were appointed as auditors of IPS accounts under the Companies Act 2006 and have reported in accordance with regulations made under that Act. Their report states:

'We have audited the financial statements of the Infection Prevention Society for the year ended 31 March 2022 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards including, Financial Reporting Standard 102, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the charitable company's state of affairs as at 31 March 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the period then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006.'

A copy of the full report is available [here](#).

Business Group Activity

Education & Professional Development Committee

The EPDC purpose is to develop, implement and evaluate a range of education and professional development opportunities which will empower and enable members to be inspired and inform infection prevention practice. This is achieved by the development of resources, competency-based education activities and collaborative working. Some of the EPDC highlights include:

- Reviewed and updated the IPC competency framework with interactive functionality on the new IPS learning platform launched at IP2021
 - Development and introduced a formal process for members to apply for an IPS sign off mentor for competency framework
 - Undertaking a 'virtual roadshow' to promote competency framework at branch meetings and conferences. EPDC have given a competency update to branch Educational Officers (EO) at the joint meeting and have planned two competency workshops with Branches for 2022-23.
 - Reviewed all IPS educational and training resources on the website and mapped them against the competency framework. EPDC continue to work with Jo from Frank! Communication Solutions to make amendments to the current available resources and create a new resource page on the website; which will be linked to the learning platform and mapped to the competency framework.
 - EPDC continue to provide a co-opted member to the Scientific programme committee to organise and support delivery of the national conference as done for IP2021.
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Journal of Infection Prevention: Editorial Management Group

The EMG focuses on publishing a high-quality peer reviewed publication that advances professional knowledge and skill in the art and science of infection prevention and control practice. The journal has been receiving a high volume of manuscripts related to COVID-19 which has created considerable pressure for the editorial team. We have continued to publish the journal bi-monthly with members also able to access the JIP online through the members section of the IPS website.

In January 2022, the Society moved to an e-Journal, no longer printing hard copies of the Journal and reducing our carbon footprint.

Scientific Programme Committee

The annual IPS conference for 2021 took place in Liverpool with a mixture of virtual and face-to face presentations.

IP2021 surpassed expectations on all accounts. As the first IP conference following the pandemic, there was a lot of uncertainty and nervousness about attendee levels from delegates and exhibitors. The organising committee had a clear and available COVID safe approach and encouraged delegates to report any concerns they might have throughout. Attendance was slightly below forecast however we still had 369 physical delegates and 347 online delegates. In addition, we had a strong interest in exhibitor space with 73 exhibitors attending and overall the event was a financial success. Feedback from those attending was they felt safe and there was adherence throughout to the COVID requirements.

Over 90% of delegates rated the sessions as good or excellent. There was acknowledgment that the programme was very focused on COVID, however delegates said this was expected and was in the main helpful and an opportunity to reflect. The debate and posters were highly rated. The feedback was plentiful and the value of providing the opportunity to meet, network, share and learn remains a central benefit of belonging to the IPS.

Research and Development Committee

The first meeting of the newly re-established Research and Development Committee was held on the 24th May 2021.

The committee successfully re-established the small research grants, and included Quality Improvement Projects in the scope. One grant was awarded this year.

The R&D committee ran a series of successful 'how to' webinars, with the first three taking place in the 2021/2022 reporting year focusing on how to get started in research, Poster Design & Presentation and a primer for QI and Research Projects. Recordings of the webinars are available on the IPS website.

International Engagement Committee

The IEC focuses on engaging with international colleagues and sustaining links with IPS members working outside of the UK. The IEC continues to engage with international members through the President's Digest and IPS International Communique and also promotes the IPS when attending international conferences. IPS membership is provided for colleagues working in resource limited countries via Special Access Membership.

Other key activities of the IEC include:

- To fund, up to 2 international members to attend the conference. This will cover one full delegate registration and accommodation for a maximum of four nights at a hotel selected by the IPS.
 - Work in collaboration with the other standing committees to provide resources and activities for international members in the UK and abroad.
 - Facilitating the affiliation of other IPC societies with IPS; promoting and supporting best IPC practices overseas.
 - Maintain and increase a solid IPC network overseas.
 - The IEC, on behalf of the IPS, has joined the WHO Global IPC Network. IEC is also a member of the European Network to Promote Infection Prevention for Patient Safety (EUNETIPS)
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Corporate Affairs Group

The corporate affairs group has continued to engage with our corporate partners and other commercial organisations to further build a strong and supportive network through which to educate/inform/advise and also to sustain/stimulate interest/benefits in corporate membership itself.

Product Surgeries and Networking Days were held in November 2021 and March 2022. Both Product Surgeries were oversubscribed and the Networking Days were well attended by corporate members and other commercial colleagues. Given the ongoing interest in these events the group will continue to organise and host similar events in the forthcoming year.

In November 2021 the group organised and hosted a free-to-attend day conference for 150 IPS members entitled 'Environment, Cleaning and Disinfection'. International speakers address the delegates on six themes - water, ventilation, decontamination, environmental cleaning, hand hygiene and a panel discussion. The sessions were especially designed to be of both scientific interest and also material that delegates could take back and deploy/implement at their place of work. Further work with our sponsors [Essity and Sodexo] is in hand for an enlargement of the programme in 2022/23

There are currently 47 corporate members. It has been a record year for the recruitment on new corporate members with 11 being introduced in the previous twelve months.

The annual conference Liverpool 2021 turned out to be a most successful event with commercial partners providing a generous contribution. Plans are well advanced for Bournemouth 2022 to ensure that our partners are able to optimise their presence. Our new conference provider [CPI] has a wide range of innovative opportunities and we are delighted to announce the acclaimed 'IPS Show' will once again take place.

Projects and Collaborations

Improving Device-Related Infection Prevention Practice

This was a joint collaborative between IPS and Becton Dickinson UK. The collaboration includes representatives from the Association for Continence Advice, British Association of Urological Nurses, National Infusion and Vascular Access Society and the Association for Safe Aseptic Practice. The aim of the improvement collaborative is to spread best practice, reduce infections and improve outcomes for patients with urinary catheters and intravascular devices. Activity from 2021/22 includes:

- The urinary catheter and vascular access groups have been meeting regularly to develop evidence-based resources to support and empower frontline staff to reduce device related infections. The following draft resources have been developed so far:
 - Vascular Access Device (VAD) Patient Pathway Guidance
 - VAD Care Bundles for both peripheral and central venous access devices
 - VAD surveillance guide
 - Urinary Catheter Quick Reference Guide
 - Urinary Catheter Discharge Pathway
- The DRIPP resources and events can found on the [DRIPP website](#)



Vessel Health Preservation Project

The Vessel Health and Preservation Project is led by the IPS in collaboration with the National Infusion and Vascular Access Society, Medusa and the Royal College of Nursing supported with an educational grant from Teleflex to provide an evidence-based framework for vascular access. Activity from 2021/2022 includes:

- 'UK Vessel Health and Preservation (VHP) Framework: a commentary on the updated VHP 2020' is published in the Journal of Infection Prevention. This is an open access article and has been downloaded over 1000 times.
- A web-based tool kit is being developed for the VHP2020 framework to enable access from electronic devices, this work is being supported by 3M.
- All VHP resources are available on the [IPS VHP webpage](#), including
 - o Downloadable A2 VHP poster
 - o VHP video on how to use the VHP2020 framework



OneTogether Partnership

Our partnership with the Association of Perioperative Practitioners, Central Sterilising Club, College of Operating Department Practitioners, Royal College of Nursing is supported by 3M and has created a large set of practical surgical site infection prevention resources over the last few years. The pandemic has curtailed the work of the partnership this year but we ran a successful conference in Birmingham in November 2021 and have continued to work on developing the next resource on wound management which will be published shortly.



Branch and Special Interest Group Activity

IPS has 14 branches and 5 Special Interest Groups. The branches and special interest groups are the heart of the Society and provide opportunities for collaborating, problem solving, networking and professional development for IPS members. Activity was reduced due to the pandemic however some of the highlights for 2021/22 include:

North East Branch

- The branch has had 3 successful virtual educational meetings this year with attendance double that of when face to face meetings are held.
- The annual conference was held in November 2021 virtually and was very successful with support from Tristel as the main sponsor.

Trent Branch

- Virtual branch meetings have continued to be held every quarter throughout the year.
- Contact has been made via the IPS international Engagement committee and we have established links with colleagues in Gibraltar. It is planned to invite colleagues to our virtual meetings and support in providing any help and education required.
- A Trent member was fully funded by the region to attend the National IPS conference in Liverpool and several members also attended with one undertaking a presentation and others had posters exhibited.
- Good progress has been made with some of our corporate members who regularly attend our branch meetings and they have offered their support to our annual conference and any study days.

Wessex Branch

- Full Branch management team in place following recruitment to deputy communications and education officer posts.
- Successful online evening webinars held in June 2021 and 31st March 2022. Online branch conference held 4th November 2021.
- Branch twitter and facebook accounts established and in use.
- Improved the use of the IPS Site for the Wessex branch.
- Consistent branch membership numbers maintained

West Midlands Branch

- Marion Reed Programme. 3 day face to face / virtual educational programme delivered to 22 individuals new to the role of IPC.
- Continued online meeting format for Branch Business meetings incorporating an educational element alongside 3 designated educational sessions. Afternoon and evening sessions times are alternated to support attendance.
- Supported attendance at National Conference for 2 Branch members. 1 unfortunately was unable to attend due to illness
- Improved upon communication methods for Branch members, this included establishing a WhatsApp group and better use of the IPS website
- Planning for 2023 Branch Conference (6th July 2023) with support of a Conference Planning Group

Audit & Surveillance SIG

- The COVID-19 pandemic saw a number of challenges for colleagues working within IPC tasked with audit and surveillance: with nearly 800 members the A&S SIG were able to share best practice and support via their online discussion forum. In September 2021, the A&S SIG hosted its first ever virtual study day which featured talks on topics such as COVID-19 and whole genome sequencing, novel approaches to outbreak management and environmental reservoirs of CPE. The study day was well attended and received very positive feedback on the quality of talks and the virtual format.
- The A&S SIG has a data processing workshop and another virtual study day planned for the year ahead and will continue to collaborate with other specialist interest groups following the exciting recent workstream with the IV Forum SIG on bacteraemia surveillance.

Care Home SIG

- Contributed to development of national IPC guidance document for adult social care feeding back on practicality and clarity of guidelines.
- 3 virtual meetings throughout the period which were well attended, averaging 40 attendees per session.
- Increased SIG membership from 242 to 296 with members from all parts of the UK and from a variety of backgrounds, such as clinical, corporate and academia.
- Supported members through virtual meetings and the WhatsApp group. Member numbers in WhatsApp group also increased from 52 to 72 active participants during the year.
- Working party being formed to review National Standards of Cleaning document and agree best ways of supporting care home managers to implement this. Webinar arranged for members which was hosted by North Tees Hartlepool NHS Trust on how to tailor the guidance for community all community providers, not just care homes. Results of working party to be shared with IPS Chair.
- Winner of the IPS SIG of the Year 2021 at Conference.

IV SIG

- IPS IV Forum Webinars:
 - 21st April 2021 – Reducing Vascular Access Complications
 - 20th May 2021 – Human Factors and Proficiencies in Vascular Access
 - 3th October 2021 – Subcutaneous Infusion – considerations for patient safety
 - 22nd November 2021- Device Related Infection Prevention Practices
 - 9th December 2021 – Community IV and challenges
 - 27th January 2022 – Patient Centered VAD Management
 - 8th March 2022 – Improving Practice and Implementing Change
- Involvement with the development of resources in the DRIPP and VHP Projects.
- VAD Passport – completed final evaluation, ready for analysis
- Three abstracts submitted for WoCoVA 22

- Recognising surveillance as the cornerstone for improvement
- The UK VHP2020 framework: working towards zero inappropriate vascular access devices
- IV passports: a multi – geographical/disciplinary collaborative for clear communication and improvement of patient outcomes
- Increased membership to over 400

Mental Health & Learning Disabilities SIG

- The SIG has continued to increase membership throughout the year . Membership is currently 233
- Meetings have recommenced and this was successful through a blended approach (face to face and virtual). This is how all future meeting will be held. Meetings have been planned for the rest of the year
- 6 weekly catch-up and WhatsApp groups have continued to provide invaluable support for members
- The SIG finally returned to the educational slot at Conference in 2021 and this was really well received by the SG members. This year we have supported two educational presentations

Conclusion

This brief summary of our activity during the period April 2021 and March 2022 is a testament to the hard work and commitment of our Trustees, and the officers of IPS at national, branch and SIG level. It demonstrates progress against our strategic plan and illustrates the key building blocks we have put in place to support the ongoing development of the Society.

A copy of this report is available to download from the IPS website: www.ips.uk.net

CONTACT	ADDRESS	ABOUT
<p>Lynne Duncan T: +44 (0)1506 292 023 E: IPSPA@fitwise.co.uk W: www.ips.uk.net</p> <p>Company Reg No: 6273843 Charity Reg No: 1120063</p>	<p>Blackburn House Redhouse Road Seafield Bathgate West Lothian EH47 7AQ</p>	<p>Our vision is to be a leading influence on IPC practice at a local, national and international level by 2024.</p> <p>Join IPS today and help make our vision a reality</p>

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