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It is my pleasure to introduce this annual report for 2020-21 on behalf of the IPS Board of Trustees and the Management Executive Group. It is a testament to the commitment and resilience of our officers and trustees that the Society has come through the momentous events of the last 12 months with our finances in a reasonably health state and plans in place to learn from, and take advantage of, the opportunities that the pandemic has created.



Special thanks must go to the Scientific Programme Committee, led by Kat Topley and Jude Robinson who not only planned and delivered a hugely successful webinar conference in October 2020, but have also worked tirelessly to ensure that we are able to put on a successful IPS2021 in these uncertain times.

Although restrictions imposed by the pandemic led to the cancellation of many branch and SIG events, the adoption of digital technology has facilitated many online meetings and educational events across the country and been instrumental in increasing participation and networking among our members. The IV Forum has exemplified the value of this innovation through its well-attended webinar series. This activity has been supported by the expertise of Jo Weatherall at Frank-on-the-Web who has been transforming our website to make it work better for the Society and our members.

The IPS stepped up to support effective IPC practice during the pandemic by creating training material targeting acute care, care homes, operating theatres and dental practice and worked with NHS England to develop a high quality resource on the hierarchy of controls. The society have also partnered with the Healthcare Infection Society, British Association of Critical Care Nurses, Central Sterilising Club and Society of Occupational Medicine to develop guidance and highlight concerns about assuring effective, safe and compassionate IPC care in the context of COVID-19.

We appointed our new Board in September 2020 with 3 independent trustees and 2 IPS member trustees as well as the executive officers. These new governance arrangements have enabled the Management Executive Group to focus on delivery of the business of the society with the support and guidance of the Board of Trustees. In early 2021, we undertook a strategy development process with the support of a consultancy company and this has informed our new strategic plan for 2021-24.

I am very pleased to report that despite the challenges of operating during the pandemic, the society ended the 2020/21 financial year with a surplus and reasonably healthy reserves. We have learnt different ways of working which will enable us to operate more efficiently in the future. However, many challenges remain. IPS exists to 'to inform, promote and sustain evidence-based infection prevention policy and practice' and secure sources of funding are essential to support our educational activities, our ability to influence policy and our work to support the growth of a professional, expert IPC workforce.

IPS Board of Trustees

IPS Board 1st April 2020 – 26th October 2020

Elected Officers

President - Pat Cattini
Honorary Treasurer - Claire Chadwick
Honorary Secretary - Valya Weston
Vice President - Jennie Wilson
Deputy Treasurer - Joanne Taylor
Deputy Secretary - Pixy Strazds
Ordinary Member - Carole Fry
Ordinary Member - Carole Hallam

Business Group Leads

Education & Professional Development Committee - Vickie Longstaff
Scientific Programme Committee - Craig Bradley (completed term of office 30 September 2020), Kat Topley (appointed 1 October 2020)
Editorial Management Group / Journal Editor - Heather Loveday
International Engagement Committee - Hannah Bysouth

Country Lead Board Members

England - Role jointly shared by Carole Fry and Carole Hallam
Ireland - Maura Smiddy
Northern Ireland - Clare Robertson
Scotland - Diane Stark
Wales - Tracey Gauci

A new management structure was accepted by the IPS membership on the 7th March 2020 and was adopted on the 26th October 2021

IPS Board of Trustees 26th October 2020 to present

Tricia Hart
Ginny Edwards
Andy Leary
Tracey Cooper
Paul Cryer
Jennie Wilson
Joanne Taylor
Pixy Strazds
Pat Cattini (completed term of office 9th March 2021)

IPS Management Executive Group (MEG) 26th October 2020 to present

President - Pat Cattini (completed extended term of office February 2021). Jennie Wilson (February 2021 – present)

Honorary Treasurer - Joanne Taylor

Honorary Secretary - Pixy Strazds

Vice President – Lisa Butcher

Deputy Treasurer – Lilian Chiwera

Deputy Secretary – Joanne Reynard

Education & Professional Development Committee Lead – Vickie Longstaff

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 McGeary

Scotland Country Lead - Diane Stark

Wales Country Lead - Tracey Gauci

Governance and Strategy

The changes made to the structure and organisation of the Society at the extraordinary AGM in February 2020 lead to the appointment process for Board Trustees in September 2020. We were pleased to have a number of excellent candidates and the interview panel, chaired by Dr Helen Glenister, successfully appointed 3 independent and 2 IPS member Trustees. Trica Hart accepted the role of Chair of Trustees and has successfully led the newly formed Board in establishing new structures to provide oversight and support to the work of the Management Executive Group.

An important addition to our Governance structures is the formation of the Audit & Finance Committee which has provided robust scrutiny of our business plan and spending.

The transfer of Governance functions to the Board of Trustees 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. This has undoubtedly been challenging in the context of the relentless demands that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on IPC teams and it is a credit to the our officers that they have continued to deliver for IPS throughout the last 18 months. Inevitably, the pandemic has had a major impact on our planned activity, with face-to-face meetings, events and the annual conference all cancelled. On the plus side this has enabled us to explore new digital ways of working for both meetings and events at a national and branch/SIG level.

We were fortunate to secure the pro-bono services of a consultancy company called Q5 who helped us develop our three-year strategic plan. As a result of this work we refreshed our vision (to be a leading influence on IPC practice at local, national and international level by 2024) and mission (to inform, promote and sustain evidence-based infection prevention policy and practice to create a health and care system where no person's health and wellbeing is harmed by preventable infection).

We defined four key success areas and associated key measurables and actions:

- Overall internal and organisation system performance
- Influencing and shaping infection prevention and control
- High quality, innovative and relevant outputs
- Delivery against operational targets and sustainability

These will form the focus of our work over the next 3 years with key actions for 2021-22 focused on building our website as a tool for attracting new members, enhancing the web-based resources to support the competencies framework, establishing the credentialling system and making education resources more readily available to our members via the learning platform on our website.

Membership and Finances

Financial management is one of the many critical functions of an effective Society to ensure the Society operates a robust governance structure in meeting its obligations.

IPS activity has continued across a range of endeavours and continues to grow in an ever-challenging healthcare arena however these activities do not come without cost. Whilst Society activity has continued to develop and make successful progress, Society income generation has reported a general decline over the past seven years. This has been compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic which has meant the cancellation or postponement of a number of educational events including the 3-day conference for September 2020 and a number of one day national conferences for specific interest groups, local branch conferences, plus bespoke events across the UK. The rapid response of the board resulted in the creation of a virtual conference that generated a surplus of £60,000 and therefore reduced the potential losses from these events. In addition, with the implementation of stringent expenditure controls the situation has been turned around to end the financial year in a much better place than predicted. The Covid-19 pandemic has provided the Society with an opportunity to review the operational processes and going forward it will continue with some virtual meetings. This has an added benefit of reducing annual expenditure on travel and subsistence costs

The Society reports a net surplus of £76,689 for the year 2020/21. In addition, the society has reserves of £550,291 in unrestricted funds putting the society in a healthy position to continue to meet its objectives.

Membership at 31st March 2021 remains stable, with 2,030 members. There was a further increase in corporate membership during the financial period from 37 to 45 reflecting the continued engagement with our corporate colleagues.

Business Group Activity

Education and Professional Development Committee (EPDC)

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. EPDC activity has included:

- Review and updating of the IPC competency framework. To be launched in August 2021 on the new learning platform on the IPS website
- Review of the Health Education England IPC module
- EPDC continues to be represented on the SPC and assist in the planning and delivery of the IPS annual conference

Journal of Infection Prevention: Editorial Management Board

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 EMG is responsible for supporting the publication of high quality original papers and increasing the profile of the journal. 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 line with the experience of other academic journals, the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic saw a marked increase in submissions and associated challenges in selecting and processing high-quality papers.

Scientific Programme Committee

The annual IPS conference for 2020 #IP2020 which was due to take place in Bournemouth had to be cancelled due to the pandemic and its necessary restrictions. To ensure that members had the opportunity of a world class educational event, IPS set up a series of Autumn webinars. These ran over 5 nights during infection prevention week in October 2020. The events were sponsored by several of our corporate sponsors. GAMA Healthcare provided Gold level sponsorship and further sponsorship was provided by Cepheid, Tork, Daniels, BD, 3M Johnson, Ecolab and GOJO. The series of Webinars were facilitated by a company called Absolute Alchemy, and were organised by Pat Cattini, Paul Cryer, Kat Topley and members of the SPC.

A range of internationally renowned experts gave the presentations, including Martin Kiernan, Dr Enrique Castro-Sanchez, Dr Mark Garvey, Professor Catherine Noakes, Dr Jon Otter, Dr Evonne Curran, Associate Professor Philip Russo from ACIPC (Australia), Madeleine Ashcroft from IPAC (Canada), Professor Folasade Ogunisola from ICAN (Africa), Dr Steven A. Pergam from APIC (USA), Professor John Wright, and 'Germ Guy' Jason Tetro from Canada.

The series provided some excellent learning and discussion opportunities and was well received. Lectures are still available for members to listen to 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, IPS International Communique and a Facebook group 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:

- Funding up to 2 international members to attend the conference.
 - Working 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.
-

Corporate Affairs Group

The corporate affairs group has continued to engage with our corporate partners to build

strong and supportive network which will enhance patient safety through provision of expert goods and services designed to meet IPC standards and needs.

There was a digital networking sat held on 14th December 2020 which was well attended and a Product Surgery and Networking Day in late July 2021.

An IPS Educational free-to-attend one day conference on the topics of Environment, Cleaning and Decontamination to be held at the Park Inn by Raddison Hotel, Northampton on 23rd November 2021 – A working group consists of Jon Otter, Hannah Bysouth, Paul Cryer and chaired by Lisa Butcher has been working with our corporate partners; Essity/Tork and Sodexo. To register visit: <https://t.co/TRvRhd0Flr?amp=1>

There are currently 47 corporate members including six new companies.

We are hoping that all our corporate members will be attending conference in Liverpool. The exhibition sales have been strong, and there is enthusiasm to attend. Due to concern over Covid 19, the 'IPS Show' will be deferred for this year.

Projects and Collaborations

Improving Device-Related Infection Prevention Practice

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

Activity from 2020/21 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 DRIPP resources and events can found on the website <https://dripp.org.uk>

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 2020/21 includes:

- The VHP 2020 framework has been developed as an A2 poster and pocket guide.
- A video has been recorded to provide guidance on each section of the VHP framework.
- 'UK Vessel Health and Preservation (VHP) Framework: a commentary on the updated VHP 2020' has been published in the Journal of Infection Prevention and available as open access.
- All VHP resources are available on the IPS VHP webpage <https://www.ips.uk.net/vessel-health-and-preservation-framework-2020>

OneTogether Partnership

Although the conference planned for autumn 2020 had to be cancelled the partnership has continued to work on the next quality improvement resource which is focused on wound management. This will be launched at the rescheduled conference in November 2021.

IPS Resources and Collaborative Activity

The Society is represented on a range of national working groups and collaborates with other infection related organisations nationally and internationally. Due to the pandemic normal collaboration activity was reduced however IPS did collaborate with other organisations and societies on COVID 19 resources:

Infection Prevention and COVID-19 related information videos: an IPS Cognitant collaboration

The IPS Care Home Special Interest Group together with the Education & Professional Development Committee worked with a health information company called Cognitant who had been commissioned by NHSE to develop some COVID-related training videos for healthcare staff, with a particular focus on those working in the care home sector.

IPS and the Central Sterilising Club created a training presentation providing information on COVID19 infection prevention and control information for dental practices and developed guidance on Strategies for managing acute shortages of personal protective equipment during the COVID-19 pandemic.

IPS and BACCN developed a Joint statement on Facilitating compassionate care for patients dying with COVID-19 which provided guidance to enable care givers to provide confident safe & compassionate end of life care during the COVID19 epidemic

IPS worked with the British Infection Association (BIA), Healthcare Infection Society (HIS) and Royal College of Pathologists (RCPath) in developing guidance on COVID-19 transmission based on systematic evidence review.

IPS and NHS England have developed a short, animated video on applying the Hierarchy of Controls to preventing the transmission of COVID-19 and has been recognised as a key stakeholder in a new programme of work led by NHSE on IPC training and specialist workforce development.

IPS and the Healthcare Infection Society have collaborated to update infection prevention and control guidelines for MRSA based on systematic evidence review.

IPS has also created COVID-19 training material for acute care, care homes and operating departments and provided guidance on using PPE safely in intensive care settings.

Please visit the [IPS website](#) for more details on any of the above collaborations.

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 2020/21 include:

East of England

The branch officers have continued to meet via MS Teams throughout the reporting period.

The branch has held two branch meetings via MS Teams. September 8th saw 28 attendees and 27th November 35 attendees. The number of members attending was very positive against some of the previous face to face meetings and therefore the branch is likely to continue meeting this way.

The branch Annual Conference scheduled for June 2020 was rescheduled for June 2021 and will be held via a Zoom webinar. The branch education officer worked extremely hard to secure excellent speakers for the 2020 conference and with forward planning of a 'save the date' in 2021, all speakers remained available.

Membership remains stable with circa 150 current members.

London South

The Joint London Branches Conference planned for the 30th April 2020 at the Kia Oval had to be postponed due the pandemic. Following a further postponement, the event will now go ahead on the 11th November 2021. The venue will be the Kia Oval as previously.

North East

The Branch stood down all branch activity following discussions with their members.

The first branch meeting was held virtually 23rd March 2021 where we have successfully recruited a deputy communications officer and deputy educational officer. The Branch co-ordinator although has completed 2 years, in light of the last year has agreed to carry on for a further year to allow time to recruit and shadow a deputy to take over the role

North West

A virtual branch meeting held June 2020 provided an opportunity for peer supervision. Unfortunately, we were unable to facilitate any other meetings up to March 21. Next virtual meeting planned for July 2021.

NW Branch Conference was postponed from May 2020 to November 2020 and then again in May 21. This has now been rebooked for May 2022.

Republic of Ireland

An audit of Branch Members was carried out in November 2020 to inform operation of the Branch and how best members can be supported.

Development and launch of "Standard Precautions" and "Environmental Hygiene" videos with particular reference to COVID-19, in collaboration with Infection Prevention and Control Ireland (IPCI).

Scotland

Converted to virtual branch meetings which are working well. Membership has remained stable.

South West

The branch has successfully introduced online branch meetings and educational sessions which has enabled greater attendance.

The branch has also introduced WhatsApps and Twitter to keep members up to date and share resources.

Trent

The branch has successfully continued to hold their Branch meetings via MS Teams. Guest speakers have presented including Evonne Curran which evaluated very

well.

The branch has an active Twitter account (Twitter Handle is [@IPSTrentbranch](#)) which has increased its followers to 270 to date and have also developed a closed group on Facebook called IPS Trent Branch which currently has 28 members. Branch members are being encouraged to participate in these forums.

West Midlands

Unfortunately, both Marion Reed Programme and the Annual Conference were cancelled. The Branch are not holding a conference in 2021 (rebooked for 2022) but Marion Reed has restarted in 2021.

The branch held their first Zoom meeting in July and have continued to meet virtually with a new shortened meeting format. This will continue into 2021/22 with bimonthly meetings incorporating 3 business meetings and 3 educational meetings annually 6 in total for the year alternating afternoons and evenings.

The branch has created a Branch WhatsApp Group for members in March 2021 with clear terms of use to help keep members connected. Activity has been building.

Yorkshire

The branch was not able to hold its annual one day conference and this has been deferred to 2022 with branch members agreement.

The branch moved to virtual meetings during the pandemic with a guest speaker invited to present at each meeting followed by Q&A session prior to branch business. This format meant that the branch has not incurred any costs but branch members have still had access educational updates.

Each branch meeting has been sponsored by a different company who in turn have provided a 15-20 minute presentation followed by Q&A session.

Ambulance SIG

New representatives for the group have been appointed - Laurence Neville Welsh Ambulance Service Trust (WAST) and Adrian Hogan from South East Coast Ambulance Trust (SECamb) as deputy.

Due to the pandemic the SIG has had no activity in the period covered but hope to restart when time allows.

Audit & Surveillance SIG

The COVID pandemic has affected A&S SIG plans to have two face to face educational days. They are in the process of organising their first virtual educational event which will take place in August 2021.

The Audit & Surveillance SIG members' web page will be updated/re-vamped and will include new resources and information sources which will reinvigorate the SIG and encourage more interaction and sharing of best practice.

Care Home SIG

The SIG has continued to demonstrate its commitment to supporting the IPS vision in a number of ways. The SIG developed a training package for Care Homes with Professor Jennie Wilson which was well received and supported by NHSE/I as a credible training package. Another piece of collaborative work with Jennie and the SIG was with Cognitant (an Oxford based healthtech company) which resulted in a short video for care homes which was endorsed by the IPS and for which a fee was given. The SIG has good working relationships with colleagues in NHSE and use this as a route to raise concerns from members in relation to current guidance and also to share ideas. The SIG continued provided input into a training package with NHSE and in December 2020 a slide set for Care Homes was produced by NHSE the SIG acknowledged.

The SIG has continued with virtual meetings during this period and they continue to be well attended. These have provided members with educational opportunities and peer support. A WhatsApp group was set up for Members and has been invaluable as a member resource. Members have been able to use it as a platform for sharing information, discussion and supervision. In February 2021 the founding officers Lisa Renshaw (Co-coordinator) and Katie Grayson (Communications Officer) terms of office ended. The group continues to go from strength to strength and now has 242 members and driven by their passion will continue to influence positive change for the Care Home Sector.

Mental Health & Learning Disabilities SIG

During 2020-21 we have had to cancel some face-to-face meetings, but in place of these we introduced 6 weekly virtual check-ins and catch-ups. The SIG stepped up to offer wellbeing support for its members and the feedback from these have been very positive. In fact, these have been continued for the next year.

Meetings have recommenced via a virtual platform and out of these meeting we have also introduce a dedicated WhatsApp group for members to join. This is proving to be very instrumental in sharing learning, processes and guidance and is well used by the group.

Since April 2020 the membership of the SIG has increased from 123 to 204 (May 2021).

One of the objective set by the SIG was to aim to being represented at Conference. This has been achieved and the SIG is looking forward to Conference in Liverpool and being able to share the work and learning which has taken place in mental healthcare since the beginning of the Pandemic.

IV Forum SIG

Annual IV Forum conference cancelled due to pandemic – replaced with a series of six webinars. These have been well attended and provided income generation via industry sponsorship.

Work has continued within the vascular access workstream of the DRIPPs collaborative – outputs include a poster to support the optimisation of device insertion, maintenance and removal, bacteraemia surveillance and reporting and revision of the High Impact Interventions.

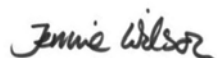
The pandemic has hampered progress with the IV Passport, however evaluation is due to recommence in September 2021.

Strategic Plan 2021-2022

In the business and financial planning for 2020/21 the IPS Management Executive Group and Board of Trustees agreed to the following strategic activity:

- To launch a new and improved discussion forum for members and non-members.
- To launch a new Learning Platform on the IPS website.
- Review and launch the new competencies framework on the learning platform
- Finalise and launch a Credentialing Framework on the learning platform
- To influence strategically at a national level

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



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ABOUT

Our vision is to be a leading influence on IPC practice at a local, national and international level by 2024.

Join IPS today and help make our vision a reality.

Company Reg No: 6273843

Charity Reg No: 1120063

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