

The future of certification



BY JOANN ANDREWS, DNP, RN, CIC, 2018 CBIC PRESIDENT


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**THE FOCUS OF MY PREVIOUS COLUMNS** has been on change and making improvements to position the Certification Board of Infection Control and Epidemiology (CBIC) and infection preventionists (IPs) for the future. The future for infection prevention and control (IPC) lies within each one of us. I have been fortunate to see the future through the eyes and thoughts of those who communicate with CBIC either through email, social media, or in person at the CBIC booth during conferences. I feel privileged to hear stories from the IPs who are trying to provide for greater patient safety in their facilities. In the United States, and internationally, the concerns of IPs are frequently similar: How can I garner the skills and knowledge to assure that we truly “prevent” infections rather than the old paradigm of “controlling” them? In response, many have chosen to pursue the certification in infection prevention and control (CIC®) as the mechanism that provides for a skilled and prepared IPC workforce able to manage the challenges of the future.



As IPs, we look to the literature to show us how to protect patients and improve processes. CBIC is committed to providing evidence that certification also improves patient care and increases safety. You may remember that in 2017, CBIC announced the commissioning of a study to evaluate “The Value of Certification” as part of the 2016-2019 Strategic Plan. I’m happy to let you know that the survey results will be shared in 2019. We want to provide current and future CICs with evidence that obtaining this credential can translate to both personal and professional value. Stay tuned for details as they become available. We thank the more than 4,000 professionals who contributed their thoughts and time during the survey period in May.

CBIC will also embark on a new strategic planning process in late 2018. The new Strategic Plan (2019 – 2022) will help to drive the goals established in the past and to envision the future of certification. This is always an exciting opportunity, full of new possibilities as we allow ourselves the time and space to think creatively and join together in alignment with our partners to pursue greater opportunities to protect the public and to meet the mission of CBIC.

It’s difficult to believe that 2018 is almost over and the 35th anniversary will come to a close. We have been actively celebrating the 35th anniversary of the CIC, and we are pleased to announce that at this time, CBIC’s website reports more than 7,200 IPs hold the CIC. I have been honored to serve as your president, and I offer many thanks for the hard work that goes on behind the scenes from our superb executive team, and the diligence and foresight from each member of the CBIC Board of Directors. I wish to offer sincere congratulations to all who were recently certified as the world’s newest CICs and to you who recertified this year! You are our heroes—and truly the future of infection prevention. 

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