

Holding steady while looking forward



BY LINDA GOSS, DNP, BS, APRN, ANP-BC, COHN-S, CIC, FAPIC

“My wish for you as we move into fall is to keep focus on your own health while diligently working to improve public health.”

**THROUGHOUT THIS PANDEMIC**, I have found myself on more than one occasion shaking my head and stating, “It’s only Tuesday.” This feeling underscores the tremendous toll that the pandemic has taken on those who work in the healthcare industry and the community that supports it. After these moments of self-awareness, I eventually seek composure and continue to work for the better of the patients and employees who we serve as infection preventionists (IPs). However, I acknowledge that self-awareness has not always led to self-care. My wish for you as we move into fall is to keep focus on your own health while diligently working to improve public health.

**The show does go on**

As the seasons change, I, as this year’s CBIC president, along with the CBIC Board and staff, continue to work to ensure support for the successful steps we’ve been taking to offer innovative methods for certification and recertification. This pandemic has not dampened the exciting launches of the entry-level Associate–Infection Prevention and Control (a-IPC) exam and the portal for entering Infection Prevention Units (IPUs) for those who are recertifying via continuing education. Additionally, the Practice Analysis survey of infection prevention and control (IPC) practitioners around the world has been released, and we eagerly await the responses.

CBIC staff, like many others, have worked remotely and have not let this affect their work ethic. I want to recognize them for their efforts to keep the CBIC initiatives on track.

**Excitement for the CIC® and a-IPC designations**

Fall is upon us and brings with it a sense of accomplishment for the CBIC Board. Since we implemented recertification by IPUs at the beginning of the year, many of our CICs have already submitted their portfolios along with questions, insights, and support for this new recertification pathway. I am confident that recertification by IPUs will only continue to grow, and we will recognize a shift in offered educational activities and a renewed focus in domain-specific content. The possibilities are endless!

July saw the launch of our new entry-level a-IPC exam, and now that beta testing is complete, we are happy to announce that CBIC is accepting applications to sit for the exam. We are also excited to announce that we already have a few a-IPCs currently practicing in their chosen fields, and we could not be happier for them. I highly encourage any who is considering a career path in IPC or wants to test their knowledge in light of COVID-19 to apply.

Next on our agenda is IDWeek in October. Even though this event will be virtual, CBIC will still be there, so please stop by our exhibit booth. We may not see you in person, but we will still be supporting the IPC profession. Please review our website ([CBIC.org](http://CBIC.org)) for the latest information regarding this event.

**CBIC's progress and commitment to IPC**

While the impact of COVID-19 has altered deadlines, we have managed to stay true to our mission and released the Practice Analysis survey. CBIC is committed to performing a Practice Analysis every four to five years to ensure that the CIC examination accurately reflects the responsibilities and expectations of those working in IPC, and to take stock of what updates may need to occur. We will soon be looking over the survey responses and are eager to share the results.

I want to thank you all again for the tireless work you have been doing. I am confident that we can get through 2020 together and keep the strength and momentum of our specialty going. I look forward to hearing your voices in the Practice Analysis survey and wish you all well.

With appreciation and gratitude,

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2020 CBIC President

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**MISSION**

APIC is creating a safer world through the prevention of infection. APIC’s nearly 16,000 members develop and direct infection prevention and control programs that save lives and improve the bottom line for healthcare facilities. APIC advances its mission through patient safety, education, implementation science, competencies and certification, advocacy, and data standardization. Visit us at [www.apic.org](http://www.apic.org).

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