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2023 CBIC President

Reflecting on CBIC Milestones

As we continue the Certification Board of Infection Control and Epidemiology's (CBIC) 40th anniversary celebrations at APIC's annual conference in Orlando this year, I began to reflect on milestones in CBIC's history. Some of my earliest memories of CBIC included two major challenges: (a) obtaining sufficient funding to assure a rigorous test development process (it is really expensive to develop a valid and reliable test!) and (b) gaining acceptance among IPs of the importance and personal and professional value of standardized measurement and recognition of their professional competence. It is immensely gratifying to me personally to see that these funding and acceptance challenges, while still essential to sustain the certification process, are no longer an acute problem but rather part of good management practice.

CBIC was originally incorporated as the APIC Certification Association but eventually changed its name to the Certification Board of Infection Control, Inc, and, in 1997, updated its name to include the word "epidemiology."

Practice analyses help to ensure that professional licensing exams and certification programs assess the knowledge and skills required to perform their tasks effectively. Hence, a major milestone for CBIC was its first practice analysis in 1982, which set the initial foundation for the CIC exam by identifying the tasks and responsibilities that infection prevention and control (IPC) professionals performed in their jobs. Since the roles and responsibilities of the IPC professional are dynamic and constantly evolving, practice analyses are repeated for all CBIC exams on a regular basis to assure that they continue to validate current IPC knowledge and skills.

A recent milestone for CBIC was acceptance into the World Health Organization's Global Infection Prevention Control Network. Broadening collaboration in infection prevention and control aligns with CBIC's strategic plan to play a more visible role in the elimination of global disparities in the field of infection prevention.

Numerous certificants have shared their own personal certification milestones with us on the CBIC website. As I read these testimonials that ranged from 5 to 40 years of CIC certification, I was reminded of my own initial certification experience, a rather stressful one, which meant taking an in-person test with a proctor and many other candidates. Today, there is a variety of testing options available or under development—in-person, online, continuing education, or portfolios—for those whose style of learning and testing may vary.

None of these milestones would have been possible without our initial board of directors, who I would like to acknowledge below:

Patricia L. Barrett, RN, BSN
Priscilla Dasse, RN, BSN
Victor Fainstein, MD
Julie Garner, RN, MSN
Patricia Lynch, RN, BSN
Barbara J. McArthur, RN, PhD
Noelene McGuire, RN
Gina Pugliese, RN, MSN
Patricia S. Schlegel, RN
Janet M. Serkey, RN
Steven Weinstein, MT (ASCP)

In our fourth decade, we are committed to making the certification process even more accessible, more relevant, and more directly related to improving the efficiency and effectiveness of IPC practice to improve patient outcomes. Our fondest best wishes and congratulations to those of you who are already certified and to those of you who will join our ranks in the future!

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