



Spotlight on education: APIC's new Infection Prevention Academy

INFECTION PREVENTION ACADEMY (Academy) is the new name for the spring and fall educational event housing an expanded selection of APIC's signature face-to-face training courses. Conceived as a model of practical training with a conference experience, the Academy offers more options for novice infection preventionists (IPs) as well as intensive one-day workshops for proficient or expert IPs to take their programs to the next level. *Prevention Strategist* has the inside scoop from faculty on the new courses, some of which debuted in March at the Spring Academy in Seattle.



EPI® 102: An additional level of learning for the certification-minded

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EPI® 102 COURSE FACULTY

Many years ago, I attended an older version of EPI®, and there have been many times when I have relied on what I learned in that course. During the past several years, course faculty have determined that a number of persons who come to the second tier EPI® courses (formerly called EPI® 201) think that the information is going to be much more advanced than what is taught in EPI® 101. However, that is really not the case. The second course, now called EPI® 102, is meant to be an additional level of learning for novice IPs who are working toward certification. At the Academy, another change is that EPI® 101 and EPI® 102 are now going to be taught consecutively, offering six full days of training for those that wish to advance more quickly.

At the conclusion of each course, a team of course faculty and APIC staff work together to review the comments from the attendees. The comments are used to determine how the course may be improved. Besides reviewing content, it is the revision team's responsibility to assure that the course content is current and updated to meet the ever-changing world of infection prevention. A great example of this work occurred when the team made the decision to divide the leadership and management of the infection prevention program into two sessions in the EPI® 102 course. The team felt these two different—but very important—aspects of the infection prevention program warranted separate sessions. Additionally, the revision team evaluates the additional webinar

sessions available to each attendee after the course is over for further CEU credits. This supplementary content is a bonus to attendees and typically proves to be appreciated.

From one IP to another, I highly encourage everyone to take advantage of the EPI® 102 course. I believe it to be well worth the investment.

Lela Luper is an infection prevention coordinator at Mercy Hospital Ada, a regional rural health-care facility in Oklahoma. She has served her local chapter and APIC in numerous capacities and is a member of Oklahoma's Healthcare Associated Infection Prevention Work Group. Lela also serves as adjunct faculty to both the School of Nursing-East Central University and Valley View School of Medical Technology.



Advanced level workshops offer one-day intensive training

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IPs and administrators alike recognize the infection control and prevention paradigm has changed over the past two decades, from keepers of data and knowledge to partners in tactical and cultural improvement strategies. In response, APIC identified avenues to advance the profession and support the evolving role of IPs by creating an educational series that concentrates on topics designed to expand the IP's knowledge and expertise.

The Advanced Practice Workshop made its debut at the APIC 2014 Annual Conference in Anaheim, California. In Anaheim, presenter Katie McKinney, MD, MS, discussed the scope and impact of adverse events in healthcare, introduced tenets of human factors engineering, and described the influence of organizational culture upon patient safety. Next, Connie Steed, MSN, RN, CIC, described the importance of using the consensus model as a pathway for organizational decision-making. She outlined how IPs are instrumental in collaborating with administrative leaders to set a strategic vision that transforms patient outcomes. William R. Kay, MBA, designed an interactive discussion on financial management and accounting principles to enhance the management of the infection prevention and control department. Blending safety, leadership, and economic health, the presenters participated in a concluding session providing participants with an opportunity to connect with their colleagues and share ways to integrate the concepts into practice. Building on the successes and lessons learned, the education

team refined the content to add an additional workshop on project management.

Advanced Practice Workshop participants who were able to attend the Program Management Workshop on the following day transitioned from an aerial perspective of program and professional development to a step-wise approach toward improvement. APIC Past President Kathy Arias, MS, MT, SM, CIC, led an interactive discussion on conducting a structured planning method using SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) analysis, which helped IPs evaluate the resources and capabilities of their prevention programs. Elizabeth Monsees, RN, MSN, MBA, CIC, introduced patient safety strategies such as human performance modes, leveraging attributes of high performance teams, and interventions to strengthen systems. She was followed by Felicity Pino, MS, BME, MPA, who facilitated a session on quality improvement and work system design.

Participants discovered how innovation and reliability science can enhance project effectiveness and mitigate failure. Understanding that all organizations face uncertainty and risk, 2014 APIC Communications Committee Chair Carol McLay, DrPH, BSN, RN, CIC, described how to anticipate disruptions and bounce back from unexpected events while framing the conversation around her recent experiences in reducing Ebola transmission in Sierra Leone. Similar to the Advanced Practice Workshop, IPs concluded the day by networking and brainstorming on a variety

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of approaches as to how to translate theory into practice.

These two new Academy workshops—Advanced Practice and Project Management—made their APIC debut in March in Seattle, Washington. Each workshop introduced leadership methods and strategies to accelerate patient safety efforts and sustain improvement. The workshops are designed to assist busy IPs in critically appraising their programs and identifying opportunities to strengthen their leadership skills and professional development. IPs partner with a variety of disciplines, and this workshop series serves to support IPs in their quest to develop reformative changes and influence safe outcomes.

Elizabeth Monsees is a clinical safety officer at Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City where she co-leads a house-wide team charged with preventing central line associated-bacteremias and is responsible for developing and leading an error-prevention course for employees. She has taught infection control in Cairo, Egypt, serves on APIC's Education Committee, and has co-authored APIC publications.



“It’s a lack of clarity that creates chaos and frustration.”
 —Steve Marboli, *Life, Truth, and Being Free*

ASC 102: More detailed training for ambulatory surgery center IPs

BY STEVE ODACHOWSKI, RN, CIC
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 ASC COURSE FACULTY

Does your role as an IP for your ambulatory surgery center (ASC) frequently leave you feeling frustrated that you do not have the answers, time, or support that you need to effectively make a decision or champion a process change? You are not alone—every one of us has had a similar experience.

One achieves clarity through acquisition of knowledge. The art and practice of infection prevention is not intuitive; there is a basic body of knowledge needed in order to continue one’s growth as a leader and become an expert. Fortunately, you have resources made available to you by APIC. Through a series of didactic and interactive sessions taught by leaders and experts in the field of infection prevention, the APIC ASC 101 course presents you with the knowledge, tools, and best practices you need to become an effective leader.

Beginning in the fall of 2015, APIC is adding a second course, ASC 102, for practitioners seeking a more detailed understanding of the principles and practices of infection prevention. Attendance at this course will help you meet the CMS requirement for ASCs to have “...a designated professional with training in infection control to direct its infection control program.” The faculty members are certified and experienced IPs and educators with many years of experience and combined practice familiarity in virtually all aspects of healthcare delivery.

If you struggle with understanding facility risk assessments, the risks of contamination,

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principles of cleaning disinfection and sterilization, modes of transmission, causes and types of infection, issues germane to storage of supplies, refrigeration, construction, employee health, and regulations, you owe it to yourself to attend this course. Participation affords you the unique opportunity to immerse yourself and network with other professionals in your specialty areas to help problem solve challenges common to your practice.

As a faculty member, I believe the dynamic process applied in maintaining this Academy serves to assure it is, and will continue to be, the premier venue for infection prevention knowledge sharing for ASCs and specialty medical care delivery practices.

Steve Odachowski is a practicing infection preventionist with MultiCare Health System in Tacoma, Washington, and a site surveyor for the WIRB Copernicus Group serving on various Institutional Biosafety Committees. He has served his local chapter and APIC in many capacities and is the APIC liaison for the HRET/AHRQ ASC Surgical Site Infection Prevention project, as well as a consultant for healthcare construction projects. P