

## APIC National Conference Highlights

APIC Conference 2017 took place in Portland Oregon June 12-15. The conference is always a great opportunity to reacquaint yourself with like-minded, Infection Prevention-passionate friends from across the country. While the weather this year was gloomy and felt more like April rather than June, many of the attendees still managed to find a way to enjoy some of the beauty the city had to offer between sessions. Hands down, Voodoo Donuts- a favorite spot for both locals and tourists to eat some of the best donuts ever made by man- was immensely popular by attendees!

I was really impressed this year with two sessions in particular. The first session was presented by Asra Salim entitled *Mapping Your Way to Success: Program Evaluation for the Infection Preventionist*. Full disclosure, Asra is one of the IPs on the Northwestern Memorial Hospital team and a member of APIC Chicago, however I truly believe she presented an excellent topic which was well-received by many in the audience. The primary reason she developed the presentation was because many of us in Infection Prevention world Do, Monitor, Audit, Checklist...so many things. Sometimes we do these actions to the point of exhaustion and don't really understand the purpose of doing them or whether they are getting us to our end result. Asra presented a possible solution called Logic Modeling. A Logic Model can help an IP organize a project or initiative from developing the problem statement in a S.M.A.R.T format, identify the stakeholders and resources needed for the job, describe what actions must be taken to address the problem and to predict possible outcomes. In order for a project to be successful, we need to monitor the processes to make sure our projects are working as intended. We also need to monitor the outcomes to determine if the whole program is working. While Logic Modeling takes time, to Asra's point throughout the presentation, NOT doing a Logic Model can lead to inefficiencies, redundancies and ambiguity as to whether your program/process was truly successful.

Another presentation which had a significant impact on me was presented by Heather Bernard entitled *Advancing the Practice of Infection Preventionist with the Guidance of APIC Competency Model*. In 2012 AJIC published an article written by Denise Murphy entitled: *Competency in Infection Prevention: A Conceptual Approach to Guide Current and Future Practice*. Heather used this article to springboard her research which eventually became her thesis for her DNP program. The first thing she wanted to understand was if the competency model could be applied to differentiate the Novice from Advanced IP. To do this, she received a total of 106 self-assessment surveys from a variety of Infection Preventionist. These surveys asked the IPs to 'measure' their own assessment of their competency in key areas. Heather analyzed the data and found that there was indeed a correlation with the elements of the Core Competency Model and the different experience levels of the IP, from the novice and more advanced IP. Heather further continued her project to develop job descriptions and competencies for the different classifications of IPs. The outcome of her work is that her team, consisting of herself and 8 RNs- most of whom having no more than a BS/BSN has evolved to 2 IP with/pursuing a DNP, 3 with or pursuing a Master's Degree and 3 with/pursuing a BSN. This research has taken a conceptual framework of Denise Murphy and brought it into the working life of the Infection Preventionist.

Submitted by:  
Diane Cullen  
Treasurer APIC Chicago