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The Official HISS Program
Newsletter

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NSW Health Department*

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The NSW HIES UNIT
2nd Floor, Samuel's Building
The University of New South Wales
Kensington, NSW, 2052
AUSTRALIA

Phone: +61-2-9385 2588
Fax: +61-2-9385 1036
E-mail: hiesu@unsw.edu.au
<http://www.med.unsw.edu.au/Hiss>

Director:

Dr. Mary-Louise McLaws

Editorial board:

Melissa Bender
Meredith Caelli



HISS NEWSLETTER

NSW HEALTH

Message from the Director:

In August the Asia Pacific Society of Infection Control (APSIC) held its first International Congress which was a great success with over 900 delegates attending and over 75 speakers presenting from Australia, Asia, Great Britain and the United States of America. The next Congress will be held in Singapore in 2003 and it is a great opportunity to meet and hear the multidisciplinary approach surveillance, infection control strategies and the latest in infection control policy.

Most of you have been collecting data for 11 months and will soon have a database large enough to perform analysis, which will provide you with statistically reliable information.

Within the next few months you will be provided with an upgrade of the HISS program that will include software for performing process control charts. Until now, the release of this analytical software has not necessary as your database has been too small and this period has allowed the programmers to improve the functions.

We look forward to members performing their own 12-months analysis and providing them with aggregated rates. Please contact the Unit if we can be of assistance during this time.

please note: Membership to HISS is now open to all NSW hospitals, please apply through Ms Deborah Best, NSW Health email: dbest@doh.health.nsw.gov.au phone 9391 9275, or for information contact the HIES Unit.

Analysis Workshop



The first HISS Analysis Workshop was undertaken at the University of New South Wales on the 13th July 1999. A total of 16 participants attended the workshop representing 90% of the HISS pilot sites. Guest presenters included Ms Bridget Dickson (Dickson Computer Services), Dr Anthony Morton and Dr Anna Sartor (seen right) accompanied by Ms. Marilyn Curtis from the Princess Alexandra Hospital in Brisbane.

The workshop was divided into seven sessions. Each of the sessions was evaluated separately and the results of the evaluation and recommendations of the participants have been taken into account to assist in the planning future analysis workshops.



Future Analysis Workshops will run over a two-day period. This will enable the participants to run through generic tables with dummy data and then undertake the data analysis using their data sets.

(L) Infection Control Practitioners from Wollongong Hospital - Yvonne de Main and Janice Wallace

Incorporating Data Analysis Modules into the Training Manual will eliminate the need for pre-reading packages. Experience with teaching at residential schools at the post-graduate level indicates that the pre-reading required pre-workshop is rarely undertaken. Participants will be required to bring their training manual to the workshop.

The participants will present the results of their data analysis to their colleagues, which will increase confidence in both undertaking and interpreting the data analysis.

Extending the debriefing session at the end of the 2nd day to provide the participants with the opportunity to discuss difficult surveillance issues and identify any outstanding data set concerns.

Moving the workshop to a smaller computer laboratory with improved lighting and seating has been arranged.



Hospital Infection Surveillance System



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEW SOUTH WALES

The Hospital Infection Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit is now on-line. The web site address for the unit is <http://www.med.unsw.edu.au/Hiss>

Hot links include:

- ▶ Home HISS Nosocomial Surveillance in Australia
- ▶ Timeline of Infection Surveillance in Australia
- ▶ HISS Reference Group
- ▶ HISS Surveillance Modules
- ▶ HISS Newsletters
- ▶ HISS Reports
- ▶ HISS Contacts
- ▶ Email Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
- ▶ Relevant Links: NSW Health Department, ASM, APIC, AICA, NNISS, PHLS, SHEA, JHinf, MJA, Mosby, JAMA, Lancet, NEJM
- ▶ References

Please browse through the web site and give us your feedback. The FAQs are still to be completed – members are asked to contribute FAQs based on their experiences, also any additional features or links you would like established on the web site.

We would like to extend our thanks to Christine Rousselis, for the work undertaken on our behalf in designing and developing the web site. Christine has also volunteered her services to maintain the web site. Christine can be contacted via:

The School of Health Services Management,
2nd Floor, Samuels Building,
University of New South Wales,
Sydney NSW 2052
Telephone: +61 (2) 9385 3696
Facsimile: +61 (2) 9385 1036
E-mail: c.rousselis@unsw.edu.au

Dates to Remember

▶ **6th October 1999**

Training Day – Introduction to HISS

Pilot sites please contact HIES Unit if you need to place new staff on the list of attendees

hiesu@unsw.edu.au

🌐 **October 17th - 24th 1999**

International Infection Control Week

Infection control is an effort shared by every healthcare provider--and one that begins on the individual level. This International observance provides a forum for infection control professionals help their colleagues rededicate themselves to a regimen of effective preventive measures to control the spread of infection. It is also an opportunity to raise awareness and appreciation for the essential services provided by infection control professionals. International Infection Control Week 1999 is October 17th through 24, 1999.

<http://www.apic.org/html/orgn/icweek.html>

🏢 **29th – 30th October 1999**

NSW ICA Conference

Batemans Bay, NSW

Conference Secretariat: PO Box 99 Moruya NSW 2537

Ph: 02 4474 1085; Fx: 02 4474 1044

▶ **10th December 1999:**

Extract completed data for

November 1998 – November 1999

These data are due to arrive at the HIES Unit by the 15th December 1999

hiesu@unsw.edu.au

🏢 **5th – 9th March 2000**

The 4th Decennial International Conference on Nosocomial Infection

Atlanta Hyatt Regency Georgia USA <http://www.decennial.org>

🏢 **3rd – 5th May 2000**

AICA First Biennial Conference

Conference Secretariat PO Box 1280 Milton QLD 4064

Email: aica2000@im.com.au