

Janet Frain

The Role of Education and Collaboration in Fighting Infection

NARRATOR: As president of the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology, Janet Frain spoke to more than 4,000 infection preventionists at the recent APIC conference in June 2008. During the conference she spoke about her vision for the future of infection prevention and control.

INTERVIEWER: As President of APIC what do you think this organization provides to infection preventionists to allow them to get to that place?

J. FRAIN: Number one, we have a number of elimination guides and toolkits for infection preventionists to be able to use in their daily practice to, hopefully, put everything so that they don't have to go and do their literature search when we talk about what are the strategies to reduce catheter-associated infections. APIC has put all that together, an elimination guide, with all of the evidence-based practices right at their fingertips. So number one, we provide them with those resources. We provide educational opportunities such as this conference to come and get the latest information about the latest in infection prevention strategies and so forth. APIC does have a task force right now looking at staffing effectiveness and what is a model for best practices for staffing an infection-control department depending on the size of the facility and the scope of their practice.

INTERVIEWER: When you became president of APIC was there one thing that you thought, "I want to make sure this gets accomplished when I am president of APIC?" What is that?

J. FRAIN: Primarily the staffing effectiveness initiative because the data we have is years old. The old SENIC study that was done I think in the '80s; it is very old, and there really has not been a like project since then to look at staffing and outcome. That would be the...sort of my agenda this particular year. I don't know if it is going to be finished this particular year, but we definitely have a group looking at it and moving forward.

INTERVIEWER: Is there one thing that you would like to see stand out, that you would like to see ICPs take back to their hospital administrators?

J. FRAIN: Basically I think what we are trying to promote is the professional practice. Enhancing the knowledge of the infection preventionist in leading change within their organization and at the same time being able to speak for themselves and speak for the resources they need; make the business case for infection prevention. That would be...if we could have everybody doing that by the time they went out the door that would be great. Their knowledge base is incredible. The field of infection prevention is not one you can just hand somebody and say, "Okay, here now, this is what you are going to do." It is a tremendous learning curve, and these people are so talented and have so much to offer that we would like them to realize that (and) have that self-actualization in terms of their contribution.