



**Infection Prevention Society**

*Inform • Promote • Sustain*

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**Profile and Vision  
Submitted in support of an application for the  
position of IPS Vice President**

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## Profile:

As the ordinary member of the IPS Board . a position I have executed with enthusiasm and professionalism over the last two years, I have contributed to the Society in a number of ways. Through this position I have recognized the importance of building on the considerable strengths of the IPS in order to give the Society the best chance of moving forward successfully into the future. Not least, I realize the importance of engaging with all IPS members and this has been evidenced in my leading role in undertaking the first IPS members survey.

In my current role I work for WHO Patient Safety, leading on the UK arm of a programme to improve infection prevention and patient safety both within England and across the entire WHO region of Africa, with the aim of saving lives through the establishment of mutually beneficial partnerships between hospitals in England and Africa.

From 2005 to 2008 I worked with WHO Patient Safety's First Global Patient Safety Challenge Team, as project manager, with a special focus on building relationships with WHO Regional and Country Offices and Ministries of Health in South East Asia and Latin America. My work resulted in real changes in the positioning of infection prevention and hand hygiene improvement as core components of patient safety within these regions.

Prior to joining WHO I worked for four years as an Assistant Director for Infection Control at the newly established National Patient Safety Agency. As Project Director for the cleanyourhands campaign I led the development, testing, evaluation and implementation of a national hand hygiene improvement strategy, now commonly known as the cleanyourhands campaign. The campaign has been found, through independent evaluation, to have made a positive impact on the behaviour of health care workers and contributed to reducing the burden of health care associated infection.

In 2001 I joined a new Clinical Governance Support Unit at the Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust, working with a small team on a range of start-up activities . advocating for the importance of clinical governance and patient safety, and coordinating the establishment of systems and processes to make this a reality within the biggest division of the trust.

From 1997 to 2001 I worked initially at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford and latterly as manager of the infection prevention and control service across the newly formed Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust.

I started my infection prevention and control career as a single-handed practitioner at Scunthorpe and Goole Hospitals where I worked for 5 years consolidating my knowledge and skills in the specialty, working productively with three excellent, sensible and supportive infection control doctors. It was during this time that I became an active and enthusiastic member of the Yorkshire Branch of the then ICNA, fulfilling the role of Branch Treasurer for a number of years.

In my spare time I am studying for a doctorate in public health (DRPH) - Health Care Leadership and Management - at the Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore.

## **Vision for the Infection Prevention Society:**

The Infection Prevention Society (IPS) has the potential to be an even stronger and more positive force than it is at present. The role of vice president and ultimately president is central to realising this potential.

What you as an IPS member want and expect from a vice president and eventual president will be the deciding factor in whether this nomination is successful. As you read my vision for what I might do for both the Society and for you as an individual practitioner I urge you to consider not only how things have been and currently are within the Society, but how they might be in the future.

IPS has come a long way since the formation of the Infection Control Nurses Association (ICNA) 40 years ago. The current focus of the Society is the advancement of education in infection prevention, symbolized fittingly in those three words, now inextricably linked with the IPS: *Inform, Promote, Sustain*. My nomination respects this focus, but asks members to consider the extent to which IPS might be brave enough to reconsider its current and future positioning, and whether there are other ways in which the Society might develop over time, expanding its impact while still being true to its ethos.

The last decade in infection prevention has been phenomenal. The external environment we all function in across all of the five countries and in whatever sector we work has seen multiple changes. The IPS itself has emerged over the last three years as a new society, founded on the principles of ICNA but different. These changes took place under strong and steadfast leadership and there is a general consensus that the IPS is now in a position of strength and stability.

However, this nomination comes at a crucial time in our history. In 2010 we are entering an amazing and challenging period globally, nationally and within health care itself.

I am certain that the next four years will require this Society to build solidarity across its membership in a manner which has never been seen before. Such solidarity is critical in ensuring that, while not deviating from its *raison d'être* (inform, promote, sustain) this Society does not forget the principles on which any society is built. A society is a united, productive, harmonious unit, one which functions best with strong and credible leadership. A society engages with and motivates all its members towards a common purpose and a shared culture. I seek your support in enabling me to channel my credibility and strong leadership to the business of the IPS and of ensuring it functions in the true spirit of a society.

I commit to support our incoming president during the next two years and if elected, I will work on your behalf in continuing the great work the Society does, transforming the strength and passion I possess into positive energy, to ensure the IPS helps you to function better as a practitioner in the environments in which you work.

My national and international work has provided valuable grounding which will help to ensure that I function as a strong figurehead and leader of the Society, in particular that I will have a voice which resonates in the places that matter on behalf of all its members, being open to the possibilities of promoting infection prevention in all its multiple components. What I can bring to the vice president role and ultimately the presidency during this period, is professionalism, maturity and pragmatism underpinned by strong and solid leadership skills. In the first instance, if elected, the priority objective of this role will be to provide solid support over the next two years to Tracey Cooper in her new role.

The strengths of the IPS however, are dependent not only on its president or vice president, and not only on the skills and competencies of its board of directors. The strengths of IPS are dependent on every single member. The sum is greater than its parts and I will work towards the creation of a common value and vision that we are all part of one IPS. With greater unity, growing solidarity, greater engagement between the board and the branches, and more effective engagement between the board and individual members, the Society itself will emerge as stronger and better positioned in each of the five countries to add immeasurable value towards our mutual aims. Building on the current foundations, I will work to strengthen the engagement between branches and members. And I will work hard to reach out to those who for whatever reason have left the society or decided never to join.

I will devote my energy to make this society stronger and more effective. To this end, I will not close my mind to alternative ways of working or the development of relationships which perhaps have so far not been on our radar. As your eventual new president I will be open to the views of members to strengthen what IPS is and does. I will play a central role in ensuring that IPS delivers on its plans and priorities over the next 4 years with clarity and transparency.

As more and better outputs emerge from IPS, members increasingly acknowledge the potential this Society has in establishing itself as a true pioneer, developer and producer of quality products which benefit its members . the Quality Improvement Tools and the IPS Competencies are two stellar examples of such products which will help us all inform better, promote better and sustain better, as we go about our daily jobs. With Conference rightly at the heart of the Society it is important also to acknowledge that IPS is more than a conference generating machine. These outputs, including Conference, would not be possible without the continued hard work of the IPS Standing Committees and Special Interest Groups and I will work with Tracey to support these groups, which could be considered a cornerstone of the Society.

I bring to the role a wealth of fresh ideas, a new pair of eyes and contentiously, it is important to make clear that I approach this nomination as someone who for many years was disenfranchised with the organization. I have worked hard to convince myself that IPS does have an important role across the five countries and internationally. In some respects I could be described as a born-again member of the IPS. This is perhaps one of my greatest strengths. I have not approached this nomination with complacency but with a genuine belief that I can play a key role in ensuring that the IPS continuously works hard to maintain its purpose and is capable of adapting quickly to its external environment.

To succeed, IPS must continue to keep pace with the external health and social care environment and must place at its helm a visionary, connected, influential, politically astute and practical leader.

Vote for me and I will act Now in the interests of you all to ensure the continued development of this Society, to build on its many strengths, but also, with your support, not being afraid to challenge and even to explore radical new ways of maximizing the benefits this Society brings to its members, at the same time ensuring the IPS makes a mark on health care, patient safety and the prevention of infection.

In summary, with your mandate, I will support our new president and work tirelessly on your behalf to energize our society, and look forward with Tracey's support, to 2012 as the start of an exciting and positive chapter in the history of the IPS.