

APIC GRAND CANYON - 088

Newsletter



Expanding Our Reach and Advancing Arizona's Impact

As we move through Q2 2026, I am inspired by the meaningful impact our chapter has already demonstrated across Arizona this year. Guided by our commitment to People, Purpose, and Practice, we continue to improve patient outcomes through strong collaboration with our members and healthcare partners.

The expanded knowledge, leadership, and innovative practices across our membership represent only the beginning of a growing collective influence on healthcare quality and safety.

Together, we will continue to build on this momentum to further strengthen collaboration and improve patient outcomes across Arizona. I encourage you to continue sharing your expertise, connecting with colleagues, and actively engaging in chapter initiatives. United, we will strengthen our infection prevention community, improve healthcare outcomes across the state, and elevate the leadership that defines Arizona.

Thank you for your dedication and commitment—your work is deeply appreciated and makes a meaningful difference.

Kristin Grimes

In this newsletter you can expect:

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APIC Toolkit





Member Spotlight

Dr. Charles Edmiston is Emeritus Professor of Surgery in the Division of Vascular Surgery, Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Director and Professor, Surgical Microbiology and Hospital Epidemiology Research Laboratory, Department of Surgery, Medical College of Wisconsin.

Hospital Epidemiologist, Froedtert Hospital, Medical College of Wisconsin. SSI Expert Liaison, Surgical Champion, State of Wisconsin Division of Public Health. Completed Doctorate at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, joining the Surgical faculty in 1984 to develop a surgical infectious disease research program. Fellow of the: Infectious Disease Society of American, Association of Practitioners in Infection Control and Epidemiology, Surgical Infection Society and Society for Hospital Epidemiology of America. Served as a consultant to the Food & Drug Administration as an expert on the infection control implications of implantable biomedical devices, including as Chairman of the General Hospital & Personal Use Device Panel of the Medical Devices Committee of the Food and Drug Administration. Served as Surgical Infection Society liaison (SIS) to the Hospital Infection Control Practice Advisory Committee (HICPAC) of the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention. Past board member of 6 Editorial Boards/Reviewer including Surgery, American Journal of Infection Control, JAMA Surgery, Prevention Strategist, Journal of Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition, Infection

Control and Hospital Epidemiology and Surgical Infections. Author of over 500 published peer-reviewed publications including book chapters, editorials reviews, tutorials, and guidelines. Dr. Edmiston has delivered over 500 National and International invited lectures/workshops.



Member Spotlight

Gwen Borlaug, MPH, eCIC, eFAPIC, is the former director of the Wisconsin Division of Public Health Healthcare-Associated Infections Prevention Program.

During her tenure there, she launched a statewide surgical site infection prevention program using a surgical champion to engage surgical teams across the state in implementing an evidence-based surgical care bundle. This strategy proved effective in reducing SSI occurrence among participating hospitals. Prior to working in public health, she served as an infection preventionist at a community hospital in Madison, Wisconsin.

Following retirement, she became an APIC consultant and was deployed to the Washington State Department of Health and the Texas Department of State Health Services during the coronavirus pandemic to conduct COVID-19 infection prevention and readiness assessments for long-term care facilities. She joined the ADHS Office of Healthcare-Associated Infections in 2020 and provided infection prevention training and education to numerous partners and ongoing infection prevention assistance to long-term care facilities. She now serves as a public health advisor to the ADHS Chief of the Office of Healthcare-Associated Infections Program.

*Thank
You*

We want to thank Dr. Edmiston & Gwen for their contributions to the Chapter this year with SSI Office Hours and the Journal Club.



Manufacturer's instructions for use (MIFUs) are required by the FDA to guide healthcare organizations on the safe and effective use, cleaning, disinfection, and storage of medical devices and equipment. This toolkit supports infection preventionists in identifying problematic MIFUs for non-critical devices and conducting risk assessments when instructions may create safety, compliance, or operational concerns.

This resource is free with your APIC membership!

[A Resource for Addressing Problems in the Manufacturer's Instructions for Use of Non-Critical Devices \(MIFUs\)](#)

HLD and Sterilization in 2026: Translating Evidence to Practice

A 2025 multisociety guidance from SHEA and eight partner organizations, including The Joint Commission, reaffirms what surveillance data has long suggested: nearly all reprocessing-related patient exposures involve HLD failures, not sterilization failures. The guidance follows the 2024 CDC update on disinfection and sterilization and makes a clearer case than ever for transitioning to sterilization where device IFUs permit. HLD carries more failure points including chemical concentration, exposure timing, staff competency, and documentation, and each is an independent gap. Sterilization reduces that complexity substantially.

What does staff-level non-compliance actually look like? A 2025 state investigation at a large academic medical center found staff failing to follow IFUs in every observed instance: skipping rinsing steps, not moving hinged joints during cleaning, and failing to pull a visibly rusted instrument. Delayed reprocessing had allowed biofilm formation, reducing disinfection effectiveness. An immediate jeopardy citation followed.

What IP leaders can do now:

- Conduct observed, not just documented, competency verification for all reprocessing staff
- Audit HLD compliance against the 2025 SHEA guidance and 2024 CDC update
- Clarify who in your facility is accountable for identifying and pulling damaged instruments. SPD technicians are the primary check, but oversight sits with IP
- Begin identifying devices where sterilization is IFU-permissible as a longer-term transition goal

[Key references: SHEA Multisociety Guidance, ICHE 2025; CDC Guideline for Disinfection and Sterilization, 2024 update; AAMI ST58:2024; Rutala & Weber, AJIC 2023; STERIS enspire guidance](#)



Here are the key chapter updates you really don't want to miss!

- **Special elections are coming up** — make sure you're in the loop and ready to participate when the time comes. [APIC Grand Canyon Chapter – Special Election Nomination Form](#)
- **Chapter shirts are ready for order!** — we have a limited supply available, so don't wait too long to grab yours. [APIC Grand Canyon 088 - 2026 National Conference Member T shirts - DUE BY 5pm Wednesday June 3](#)
- **APIC Sponsored Events are on the calendar** — two great events happening at National APIC in Nashville. Details below!

APIC SPONSORED EVENTS — NASHVILLE 2026

HIBICLENS DINNER SYMPOSIUM

Dinner, drinks & networking before the conference kicks off

Join us for a wonderful evening of connection and conversation at the Omni Nashville Hotel. A great way to meet colleagues before the conference begins!

Sunday, June 14, 2026 — 6:00 PM CT Broadway Ballroom A–E, Omni Nashville Hotel

⚠ Online registration closes June 5th — walk-ins welcome but space is limited!

[Register Here!](#)

Feel free to share with any colleagues attending National APIC — and stop by booth #2117 to say hello!

PURELL CUSTOMER APPRECIATION EVENT

No speakers. No presentations. Just a rooftop party!

3 floors of fun including the tallest rooftop on the strip — games, prizes, socializing, networking, and dancing. An epic night for Grand Canyon APIC members attending nationals!

Nashville, TN — rooftop venue

[Register Here!](#)



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Quarter in Review

APIC Grand Canyon Chapter – April 2026 Southern AZ Conference

The APIC Grand Canyon Chapter gathered in Tucson on April 24, 2026, for a dynamic day of education, collaboration, and innovation in infection prevention. Members from across southern Arizona came together to explore emerging infectious disease challenges, high reliability leadership, multidrug-resistant organisms (MDROs), and surveillance strategies impacting healthcare today.

- **Dr. Alex Perry** presented on *Clostridioides difficile*, highlighting:
 - Rising community-associated CDI trends
 - Diagnostic and antimicrobial stewardship
 - Prevention strategies and environmental cleaning
- **Dr. Lisa Stoneking** and **Dr. Melissa Zukowski** led an engaging session on High Reliability Organizations (HROs), focusing on:
 - Safety culture
 - Psychological safety
 - Leadership communication
 - “How you respond matters”
- Research presentations from **Paulina Colombo** and **Flavia Nakayima Miilo** explored:
 - MDRO transmission during interfacility transfers
 - CAUTI surveillance challenges and documentation gaps in Kenya
 - Emerging infection prevention trends and global collaboration
- **Morgan Baker** shared early outcomes from Banner Health’s MDRO admission screening program, including:
 - *Candida auris* and CPO screening processes
 - Regional surveillance efforts
 - Lessons learned from system-wide implementation
- **Amy Lind** shared insights on the collaboration between health departments and health systems to stop the spread of organisms like *Candidozyma auris*.

Thank you to all speakers, attendees, volunteers, and sponsors who helped make the Tucson Conference a success!

APIC Grand Canyon Chapter – May 2026 Meeting Highlights

Meeting included chapter updates, educational announcements, and presentations on CAUTI prevention/management and healthcare supply chain.

- **Chapter Updates**
 - Chapter communications now being sent twice monthly, with the newsletter published quarterly.
 - Webmaster update announced new chapter email and temporary website apicgrandcanyon.org.
 - Special election announced for:
 - Member at Large
 - Recording Secretary
 - Membership Secretary
 - Membership Committee discussed outreach, recruitment, and new brochures.
- **Dr. Jonas Marschall** reviewed CAUTI risk factors, surveillance, and evidence-based prevention strategies.
 - Emphasized appropriate catheter indications, aseptic insertion, daily reassessment, and prompt removal.
 - Discussed diagnostic stewardship, avoiding treatment of asymptomatic bacteriuria, and use of local antibiograms for treatment decisions.
 - Highlighted shorter antibiotic treatment durations and the growing role of AI in infection prevention.
- **Suzi Collins** reviewed the role of healthcare supply chain in sourcing, contracting, inventory management, and budgeting.
 - Discussed total cost of ownership, vendor collaboration, and value analysis when evaluating products.
 - Identified opportunities for cost savings through inventory oversight and waste reduction.
 - Encouraged stronger collaboration between Infection Prevention and Supply Chain to support patient safety, product oversight, and operational efficiency



Join the APIC Grand Canyon Community!

Our chapter is growing, and we're excited to welcome new members who can benefit from the education, resources, and collaboration our community provides.

Do you know a student, coworker, or industry partner who is passionate about infection prevention and looking to connect with professionals across Arizona?

We would love to meet them!

If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about membership, please reach out to our Membership Team:

Kristin Grimes – Chapter President

 Kristin.grimes@mtgraham.org

Heidi Campas – Membership Chair

 Heidi.Campas@bannerhealth.com

Connie Cutler – Membership Team

 concutler@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

Chapter Meetings

- June & July: Summer Break! No meetings
- August 28th 1pm-3pm
 - Flagstaff Medical Center
 - McGee Auditorium
- September 25th 1pm-3pm
 - Honor Health Cowden Center

Grand Canyon Conference

- October 16th- All day event
 - Details coming soon!

National Conference

- June 15-17th

Summer Break Webinar

- UV light disinfection
- July 17th 1pm-2pm
 - Virtual
 - Hosted by UVDI

