

SC APIC Palmetto

Message from the President

Dear APIC SC Palmetto Members,

I hope 2025 finds each of you well as we work to keep our facilities infection free. As the year flies by, I am incredibly proud of all the work that our APIC SC Palmetto Committees have committed to. The APIC National Conference is in Phoenix, Arizona and I'm excited to hear about all of you who are making plans to attend and represent South Carolina! While many may not be able to attend the National APIC Conference I want to encourage you to participate in South Carolina's upcoming opportunities for education. Attending these events is a great way to get to know your fellow IP's across the state, not only building networking opportunities but long lasting friendships. Please see details about these incredible opportunities later in the newsletter. It is through your participation and our amazing sponsors that these events are possible. Please help spread the word and make plans to participate so that we can strengthen our chapter's impact throughout the state of South Carolina.

Best Regards,

Scott Bernshausen, MAM, BSN, RN, CIC, ASSE 12080

President - APIC SC Palmetto Chapter



Awards & Recognitions



The Association for Professionals in Infection Prevention and Control (APIC) Champion Recognition is for Infection Preventionists who go above and beyond to make a difference in their facility or community and/or contribute in a meaningful way to the science or practice of infection prevention and control. Wanda was nominated by the 2025 National APIC President-Elect, Kathy Ward and awarded this special recognition behalf of the National APIC Board of Directors for her contributions to the field of infection prevention and control. Congratulations Wanda! MUSC is proud to have you as a part of our infection prevention and control team.

The Association for Professionals in Infection Prevention and Control (APIC) Champion Recognition is for Infection Preventionists who go above and beyond to make a difference in their facility or community and/or contribute in a meaningful way to the science or practice of infection prevention and control. Scott was nominated by the 2025 National APIC President-Elect, Kathy Ward and awarded this special recognition behalf of the National APIC Board of Directors for his leadership throughout the state of South Carolina as APIC SC Palmetto President for 2024-2025 and his passion to develop infection preventionist knowledge and skills to the next level of performance.



Shaye Mcelveen Beville—APIC Palmetto Infection Preventionist of the Year
Given to a member for major accomplishments during the previous calendar year.



Rachel Ronne—Blazing New Trails Award

Given to a chapter member who greatly impacts a specific area of work/activity which supports the vision and Strategic Plan of the Chapter.

Wanda Summers—Horizon Award

Lifetime award given to a member of at least 2 years who has given significant resources, time, vision and leadership to the success and growth of the Chapter.

Kathy was elected as National APIC President-Elect for 2025—Congratulations Kathy!

Katherine (Kathy) Ward has been an Infection Preventionist for more than 20 years. Her current position is Infection Preventionist, Team Lead, at Roper St. Francis Healthcare in Charleston, SC. As a member of APIC-Palmetto Chapter, she has served as President, President-Elect, Program Chair and Co-chair as well as member and Chair of Governmental Affairs. Currently, she is a member of the SC Healthcare Infections Disclosure Advisory Council as well as Chair of the APIC Palmetto LASIC.



Kathy has also served at the National level as Member/Chair of Nominating and Awards Committee; Board of Directors in addition to Member and Chair of Practice Guidance Committee.

Her interests include focus on reducing the labor of data collection and reporting in order to allow the IP to utilize the expertise to prevent HAIs.

Kathy believes APIC will continue to be the leader with the ever changing healthcare environment while remaining cognizant of the challenges facing IPs at the local level.

Kathy received her Bachelor of Science degree from Florida International University and Master in Public Health from Emory University. She has been certified in Infection Control since 1993.

Meet Your Regional Directors

Midlands—Shaunte Belton-Moore, BSN, RN, CIC

Shaunte started working as an Infection Preventionist in 2014 with Palmetto (Prisma) Health Baptist. She became certified in Infection Control in 2019. In 2022, she transitioned to an accreditation readiness professional focusing on Infection Control and nursing standards. In 2024, she transitioned back in Infection Prevention at Prisma Health Richland. Her greatest passion as an Infection Preventionist is teaching bedside staff and inspiring them to integrate infection prevention practices into their daily work.



She has been an active member of APIC SC Palmetto since 2016 and previously held many roles to enhance our Chapter. She first began serving in the chapter as a program committee member in 2017. She has served on the program committee in 2018, 2023, and 2024. She served as the Communication Committee Chair from 2018-2021. She also served as the Nominating Committee Chair for 2 years. In 2018, she was awarded the Blazing Trails Award. She looks forward to continuing her involvement with the chapter by serving as the Midlands Director.

Shaunte is a Clemson and Grand Canyon University graduate who loves trying new recipes. She also enjoys traveling with her husband and two sons.

Lowcountry —Lindsay Stroud, BSN, RN, CIC

Lindsay has been a registered nurse for 27 years. She has been in infection prevention for 15 years but started her nursing career in Labor and Delivery. Throughout her Infection prevention career, she has had oversight of a long-term care facility, ambulatory surgery center, hospice house, outpatient clinics that involve high level disinfection, and acute care. Acute care and outpatient clinics are her favorite and can be challenging but rewarding at the same time. Lindsay is married with 2 children (son-21, daughter-16). She loves to spend time with my family and watch both her children play baseball and softball. Lindsay also enjoys working outside in her yard. APIC Palmetto has allowed her to build a network of colleagues and friends over the years. Our chapter has allowed her to connect with like-minded professionals, share best practices, and stay updated on the latest guidelines and research.

Save The Date

Start planning now to attend our **43rd APIC SC Palmetto Fall Education Conference!**

The conference will be at DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel and Conference Center, **October 15 – 17, 2025**. This year's theme is The Many Hats of Infection Prevention! We all know that each day IPs wear many hats and on many days we wear more than one at a time. Join us as we venture into topics that cover some of those many hats!

Once again, this year, we have a great line-up of topics including Long Term Care specific topics! Just a few of the topics include: Healthcare Law, Endoscopy Reprocessing, An Ounce of Prevention: The Real Impact of Sterilization Quality Assurance, Construction, Water Management, C. auris and MDRO data and trends, Diagnostic Stewardship, and many more!

Would you like to share your expertise by presenting at our APIC SC Annual Conference?

This is your opportunity to shine and share with your peers. If you have a topic you would like to be considered for presenting at conference, please submit a brief description of the topic and objectives to Wanda Summers @summersw@musc.edu by June 30th.

The submissions will be review by the Program Planning Committee and presentations will be chosen based upon alignment with conference needs.

More conference details to follow via email soon! We look forward to seeing you there!



Hot Topics

Measles

As of April 17, 2025, the U.S. has reported 800 confirmed measles cases across 25 states, with 10 outbreaks identified. The largest outbreak is in West Texas, accounting for nearly 600 cases. Tragically, there have been three deaths linked to measles, including two children in Texas and one adult in New Mexico

The majority of cases (96%) involve individuals who are unvaccinated or have unknown vaccination status. Children under 5 years old represent a sizable portion of cases, and 11% of all cases have required hospitalization

Contagion and Cause: Measles is one of the most contagious diseases, caused by the measles virus, a single-stranded RNA virus of the Paramyxoviridae family.

Spread: It spreads through direct contact with infectious droplets or airborne transmission. The virus can remain infectious in the air for up to 2 hours after an infected person leaves an area.

Symptoms: Initial symptoms include fever, malaise, cough, coryza (runny nose), and conjunctivitis. Koplik spots, a signature enanthema, often appear in the mouth, followed by a maculopapular rash.

Complications: Measles can lead to otitis media, pneumonia, laryngotracheobronchitis, diarrhea, encephalitis, and in rare cases, subacute sclerosing panencephalitis (SSPE), which is fatal.

Prevention: The MMR (measles-mumps-rubella) vaccine offers the best protection. Measles was declared eliminated in the U.S. in 2000, but outbreaks still occur due to international transmission and unvaccinated individuals.

Diagnosis: Laboratory testing, including detection of measles-specific IgM antibodies and RNA by RT-PCR, is essential for confirming cases. Genotyping helps track transmission pathways.

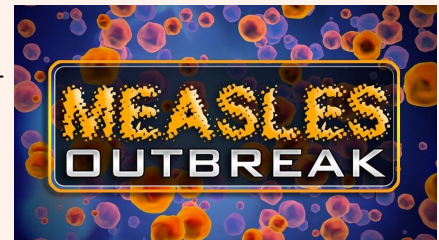
Management: There's no specific antiviral therapy for measles; care is supportive, focusing on symptoms and complications. Vitamin A may be administered to patients with confirmed measles under a healthcare provider's supervision. Overuse of vitamin A can lead to toxicity and cause damage to the liver, bones, central nervous system, and skin. Pregnant women should avoid taking high levels of vitamin A as it has been linked to severe birth defects

High-Risk Groups: Includes children under 5, adults over 20, pregnant women, and individuals with weakened immune systems.

Resources

[CDC MEASLES UPDATE](#)

If you suspect your patient has measles or was exposed to measles notify public health. Using the [24 HOUR EPI ON CALL](#) contact list. Health departments will provide guidance on testing, isolating, and managing patients with suspected measles and people exposed to measles.



Upcoming Events

Educational Presentation—Compounding Pharmacy and Infection Control

APIC Palmetto Education Committee will be presenting an educational presentation on Compounding Pharmacy and Infection Control.

When: May 30th, 10 am —12 pm

Our presenter will be Eddie Bostic with MUSC Pharmacy. He will be sharing his knowledge and expertise on Compounding Pharmacy.

To sign up for this event or receive more information, please contact Gwen Usry (gwen.usry@prismahealth.org) or Melanie Gavin (gavinm@musc.edu)



Recent News

Our [APIC Palmetto Website](#) is under construction! Be on the lookout in the near future for design and content updates.



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