



Member of the Month

Mary Helen Hoy

Interviewed and written by Carol Samel

Years in Infection Prevention: 2 1/2

How did you get interested in Infection Prevention?

Mary Helen worked in the laboratory at Fox Chase Cancer Center for 22 years as a generalist and then as a supervisor. While working, she earned a Bachelors degree in Healthcare Management. She learned about the open position in Infection Prevention from her current manager, explored the field, and decided that it would be her next new challenge.

What challenges did you face as a new IP? Mary Helen started her IP role in January of 2020, as COVID became the challenge for everyone. She learned along with others in the IP field and with the FCCC team as the COVID pandemic evolved.

What has been the most helpful as a new IP? The relationships that Mary Helen had with FCCC leadership and staff from her previous role was very helpful in tackling the new position. Mary Helen also found that by shadowing staff in key roles, such as in central sterilization, she was able to learn more than learning from standard resources. Mary Helen was the recipient of a APIC Competency Advancement Assistance (CAA) award. This provided access to many resources in the path to certification in Infection Control.

Advice for New IPs: Understand that you do not have to immediately know the answers to all questions posed. Take the time to research the APIC text, the CDC website, and tap into the knowledge of mentors to feel confident in your answers.

Mary Helen can be reached at : Mary.Hoy@fccc.edu

Accomplishments in Infection Prevention:

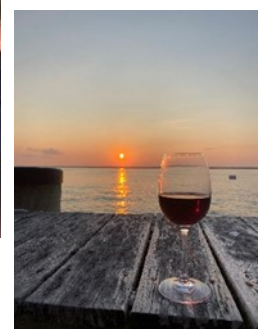
- Passed the CIC exam on May 11, 2022!
- FCCC has an electronic hand hygiene monitoring system. Mary Helen worked with managers to significantly improve HH rates for several departments.

Fun Facts

- Leisure time: loves to read and travel
- Favorite vacation spots: Avalon, NJ and Key West
- Vacation destination for 2022: Smokey Mountains of Tennessee
- Location on her "bucket list": Alcatraz
- Family: two children. Her daughter just finished her nursing degree and will start work at FCCC
- Food: Loves to cook and experiment with new recipes. Mary Helen's favorite dish to prepare is her Mom's baked chicken recipe



Graduation!



**Sunset in Avalon, NJ
2022**