

# The California Catch Up

July 15, 2026

PRESENTED BY  
 **APIC** CALIFORNIA APIC  
 COORDINATING COUNCIL



## 2026 Legislative Advocacy Day

**Sacramento, CA.** Infection Preventionists across the state gathered at the Capitol to advocate for infection prevention and public health support.

On February 25, CA APIC hosted its annual Legislative Advocacy Day, also known as “Leg Day.” Infection preventionists from across California met with their state representatives to introduce the IP profession, share examples of the critical work IPs do, and highlight how infection prevention protects patients, residents, healthcare personnel, and communities across the continuum of care.

In preparation for Leg Day, significant behind-the-scenes work helped ensure participants felt informed and ready for successful legislative meetings. CA APIC Immediate Past President and Chapter Legislative Representative, Jessica Rosende, led multiple

planning calls and provided step-by-step guidance on how to identify and schedule meetings with California representatives. In collaboration with CA APIC President, Jessica Alicdan, a resource folder was shared with participants that included talking points, the National APIC Advocacy Toolkit, information on federal impacts affecting the IP and public health communities, and a social media-based call-to-action video.

Members from several local APIC chapters gathered on the Capitol steps, including the San Francisco Bay Area, Sierra, Greater Los Angeles, Inland Empire, and San Diego and Imperial County chapters. Following their legislative meetings, participating chapter members sent follow-up emails to representatives to express gratitude, reinforce key messages, and identify opportunities for continued partnership.

In this newsletter  
you can expect:

Leg Day 2026

CACChella

Chapter  
Leader  
Alignment  
Strategy

National APIC  
Annual  
Conference

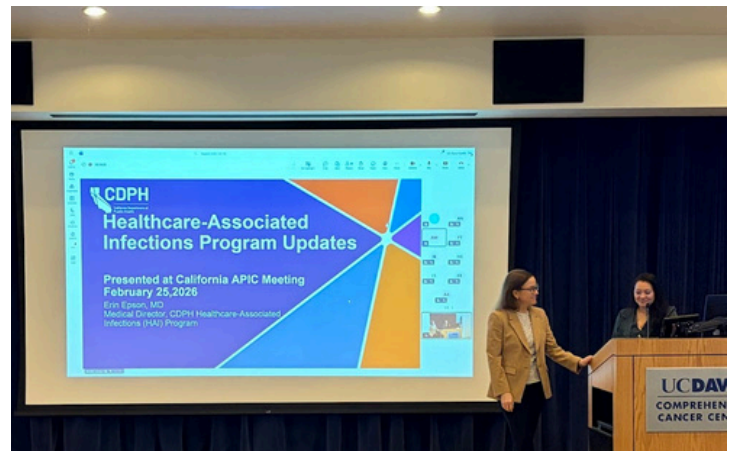
Mentorship  
Program

Foundations  
2026

Local Chapter  
Events

## Leg Day Continued

After Leg Day activities, IPs gathered at UC Davis Medical Center for an educational session focused on public health updates. CA APIC and the Sierra Chapter hosted Erin Epton, MD, Medical Director of the California Department of Public Health Healthcare-Associated Infections Program. Dr. Epton discussed the impact of program funding losses, implications of the termination of the federal Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee, and actions CDPH and local health departments are taking to help address infection prevention and control gaps in healthcare facilities.



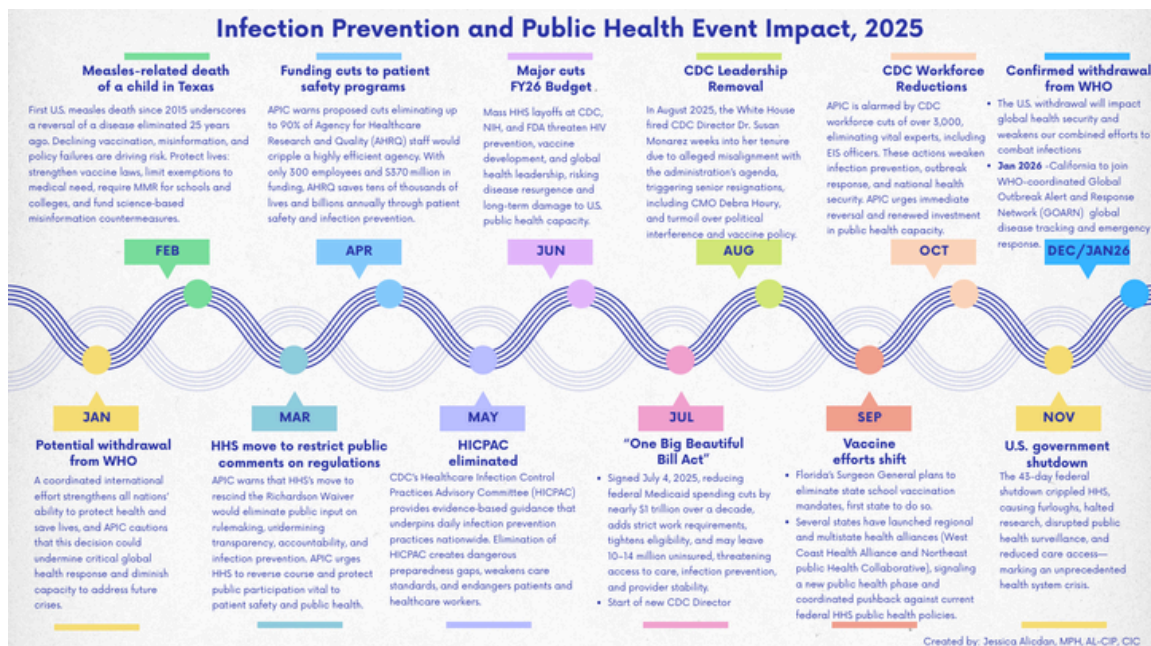
Leg Day served as an important opportunity to elevate the voice of infection preventionists, strengthen relationships with policymakers, and advocate for the resources needed to protect the health and safety of Californians.



*Interested in participating next year?  
Stay tuned for future planning meetings.*



## Examples of recent changes and their impact:







## Chapter Leader Alignment Strategy

CA APIC and local chapter leaders met in April for a Chapter Leader Alignment Strategy call focused on maintaining a healthy chapter budget.

Leaders shared common challenges, lessons learned, and practical strategies, including how to schedule events around national and local conferences and increase member engagement and attendance.

The discussion also highlighted different approaches to hosting in-person, virtual, and hybrid events, with chapters sharing what has worked well in their communities.

*Interested in learning more or joining the conversation? Attend the next Chapter Leader Alignment Strategy call.*

### Upcoming Events

|                             |                                                       |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Jul 21                      | Alignment Strategy Meeting #2                         |
| Aug 14                      | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter CA APIC Meeting               |
| Sept 9                      | Joint Chapter Education                               |
| Sept 18<br>Sept 25<br>Oct 2 | Foundations                                           |
| Nov 5                       | Sierra Chapter Annual Conference                      |
| Nov 6                       | 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter CA APIC Meeting               |
| Nov 13                      | San Diego & Imperial County Chapter Annual Conference |
| Dec 8                       | Inland Empire Chapter Annual Conference               |

**APIC** CALIFORNIA AND IMPERIAL COUNTY  
**NEXT ALIGNMENT STRATEGY**  
**APRIL 21 2026**  
 VIRTUAL ONLY  
 11:30AM - 12:00PM  
 APIC CHAPTER LEADERS, OFFICERS & DIRECTORS:  
 SAVE-THE-DATE TO PARTICIPATE  
 FOCUS: TREASURER ROLE AND BUDGET  
 APIC MEMBERS INVITED:  
 INTERESTED IN A CHAPTER LEADERSHIP POSITION?  
 Tune in to hear how chapters function and problem solve together  
[Email: californiapic@gmail.com](mailto:californiapic@gmail.com) to receive an invite

**APIC** CALIFORNIA AND IMPERIAL COUNTY  
**NEXT ALIGNMENT STRATEGY**  
**JULY 21 2026**  
 VIRTUAL ONLY  
 11:30AM - 12:00PM  
 APIC CHAPTER LEADERS, OFFICERS & DIRECTORS:  
 SAVE-THE-DATE TO PARTICIPATE  
 FOCUS: EDUCATION ROLE ASSISTANCE  
 APIC MEMBERS INVITED:  
 INTERESTED IN A CHAPTER LEADERSHIP POSITION?  
 Tune in to hear how chapters function and problem solve together  
[Email: californiapic@gmail.com](mailto:californiapic@gmail.com) to receive an invite

**APIC** CALIFORNIA AND IMPERIAL COUNTY  
**NEXT ALIGNMENT STRATEGY**  
**OCT 20 2026**  
 VIRTUAL ONLY  
 11:30AM - 12:00PM  
 APIC CHAPTER LEADERS, OFFICERS & DIRECTORS:  
 SAVE-THE-DATE TO PARTICIPATE  
 TOPIC: CONFERENCE PLANNING BEST PRACTICES  
 APIC MEMBERS INVITED:  
 INTERESTED IN A CHAPTER LEADERSHIP POSITION?  
 Tune in to hear how chapters function and problem solve together  
[Email: californiapic@gmail.com](mailto:californiapic@gmail.com) to receive an invite

## 2025-2026 Mentorship Pilot Program

### Congratulations to the 2025-2026 CA APIC Mentorship Program pilot cohort!

Approximately 50 mentors and mentees participated in the one-year program, with the goal of enhancing the knowledge, skills, and professional growth of novice and experienced IPs. Participants were provided with mentor and mentee responsibilities, the National APIC Competency Model, and the Competency Self-Assessment Tool to help guide their development.

Midpoint and exit evaluations offered valuable insight into participant experiences and highlighted the many ways mentors and mentees shaped the program through meaningful, self-directed relationships. Participants shared practical tools and resources, including IP career guidance, NICU isolation resources, CIC exam preparation materials, time management strategies, and tips for automating processes. CA APIC is currently reviewing feedback to identify successes and opportunities for improvement, and lessons learned from the pilot cohort will help inform the second cohort. A few testimonials:

"Participating in the California APIC Mentorship Pilot Program was a truly rewarding experience. It provided me with the opportunity to connect with and support newer infection preventionists as they began their professional journeys. I especially enjoyed the collaboration and the mentees' enthusiasm for learning and gaining new knowledge. This program is an excellent concept that pairs seasoned Infection Preventionists with those new to the field, creating a supportive environment for guidance, skill development, and professional growth. Mentorship like this strengthens our profession and helps build the next generation of confident, knowledgeable Infection Preventionists."  
 - Shawn Elkin, MPA, BSN, RN, PHN, CIC, ALCIP

"Participating as a mentor to other IP's is very fulfilling in knowing you are helping to shape the future of Infection Prevention."  
 - Allyson Luva, MSN, CIC, FAPIC, CHESP

"Participating in the mentorship program has been a meaningful experience. I am grateful for the opportunity to connect with a fellow Infection Preventionist who is willing to share their experiences, offer encouragement, and empathize with where I am in my professional growth. Infection prevention covers such a wide range of topics, and having a mentor who can provide words of wisdom while also pointing me toward reliable, peer-reviewed resources has been incredibly helpful. This experience has expanded my "go-to" references, strengthened my confidence, and reminded me of the value of connection and shared learning within the IP community."  
 - Lennaya Smith, RN, BSN, PHN



## 2nd Quarter Meeting: CACCHELLA

**Palm Springs, CA.** Dubbed "CACCHELLA," IPs gathered in the desert to learn about local wins on reducing bloodstream infections and urinary catheter harm.

On May 8, 2026, the Inland Empire Chapter hosted CA APIC's second quarter meeting. The day began with breakfast, networking, and CA APIC business updates, followed by engaging educational presentations for both in-person and virtual attendees.

San Diego and Imperial County Chapter members Aryeh Feldheim, MPH, CIC, VA-BC and Kristyn Schumacher, BSN, RN, PHN, CIC, VA-BC presented **Real-Time Identification and Removal of Unnecessary Vascular Access Devices to Reduce Bloodstream Infections**, highlighting novel metrics to identify infection risk, strategies to prompt removal of unnecessary vascular devices, and post-project data analysis.

Later, Ian Jenkins, MD, SFHM presented **Safe Every Day - Our Responsibility to Prevent Urinary Catheter Harm**, offering a physician's perspective on catheter indications, the role of culture in quality improvement, and strategies to engage providers in catheter safety efforts.

Attendees were highly engaged throughout the presentations, asking thoughtful questions about successful implementation, healthcare worker feedback, and opportunities to apply similar strategies in their own facilities. The meeting generated strong discussion and positive feedback, with IPs expressing appreciation for the speakers' work, interest in local performance improvement strategies, and enthusiasm for future collaboration with the Inland Empire Chapter.





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# APIC National Conference 2026



**Nashville, TN.** Over 100 IPs from California saddled up and rode out East for the 2026 National APIC Conference! CA APIC's Vendor Liaison, Kate Stephens, organized our annual **CACC Social** at **Acme Feed & Seed**, a lively venue in the heart of Broadway. IPs across California connected with new and old friends, including first-time conference attendees.

Over the two-hour event, networking and shop talk turned into member bonding and gratitude. CA APIC President, Jessica Alicdan, addressed the group by taking a moment to reflect on the amazing work we accomplished this year, while juggling the many challenges facing public health and healthcare organizations.

She reminded us of our shared goal: *protecting our patients.*

*"It's been a hard several years, and it hasn't lightened up. The unity we bring to each local chapter and to California APIC is so empowering and uplifting, and I just want to thank you all for the good work you've been doing!"*





## APIC National Conference 2026 Continued

### Connecting California

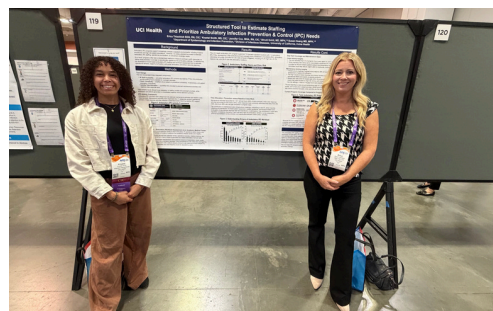
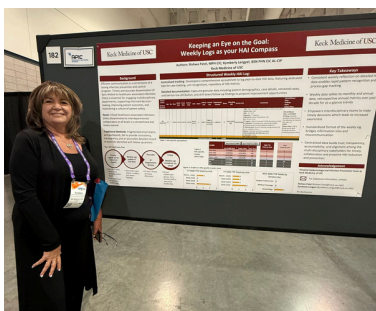
Northern, Central and Southern California IPs attended National APIC's pre-conference Symposia, **Built for This: Infection Prevention in Uncertain Times - Challenges, Resilience, and Opportunities.**



### California Presenters

Several CA IPs presented at this year's national conference, including:

1. Optimizing Operating Room Turnover: Enhancing Compliance and Efficiency in Surgical Environment Hygiene
2. Leveraging Generative Artificial Intelligence to Improve Manufacturer's Instructions for Use Adherence
3. Structured Tool to Estimate Staffing and Prioritize Ambulatory Infection Prevention & Control (IPC) Needs
4. Keeping an Eye on the Goal: Weekly Logs as your HAI Compass



Mark your calendars! APIC National Conference is headed west next year!



CA APIC is already brainstorming ideas for our 2027 social event and more.

*Want to get involved? Stay tuned for more opportunities to join CA APIC's board.*



# KPOP INFECTION HUNTERS

CA APIC | SEPT 18 + SEPT 25 + OCT 2



**KPOP INFECTION HUNTERS**  
CA APIC | SEPT 18 + SEPT 25 + OCT 2

**JOIN THE MISSION**  
Level up your infection prevention skills with CA APIC's Foundations of Infection Prevention course—a 3-part virtual adventure designed for infection prevention & control professionals.

**FOUNDATIONS COURSE DETAILS**

- 3 Live Virtual Sessions
- Expert-Led Education
- Build Your Core IPC Knowledge
- Connect with a Community of Infection Prevention Champions

**FOUNDATIONS OF INFECTION PREVENTION**  
This course provides essential infection prevention concepts, practical strategies, and the tools you need to protect patients, staff, and your community. Whether you're new to IPC or strengthening your foundation—this mission is for you!

23 continuing education contact hours or IPU's

**FOUNDATION AWARD**  
\$500.00 FOR 8 INDIVIDUALS WHO APPLY!  
DEADLINE TO APPLY: SEPTEMBER 4, 2026

SCAN TO LEARN MORE AND REGISTER!  
[www.apic.org/cacc](http://www.apic.org/cacc)

**PROTECT. PREVENT. LEVEL UP.**  
THE POWER IS IN YOU.

## Biennial Foundations Course

Take part in our virtual 3 day (over 3 weeks) guided coursework outlining the basic elements needed to work in either a skilled nursing or acute care facility infection prevention department, curated for California IPs.

2026 Faculty:

- **Annemarie Flood**, RN, BSN, MPH, CIC, CPHQ, HACP, FAPIC
- **Frank Myers**, MPH, MBA, CLS, CIC, FAPIC
- **Anjali Levine**, MPH, CIC
- **Jonathan Schouest**, MPH, D.Ph., CIC
- **Mamta Desai**, MPH, MBA, CLS, CIC, FAPIC
- **Maggie Turner**, RN, BSN, PHN, M.Ed., CIC, FAPIC



**단청**

**DAY ONE**

- Microbiology
- Working as a Team
- Federal & State Regulations and Actors
- Risk Assessment & Plan
- Risk Assessment Practical
- Product Selection
- Outbreak Investigation

**DAY TWO**

- Infectious Disease & Employee Health
- Standard & Transmission-Based Precautions
- CAUTI Prevention
- CLABSI Prevention
- The Spaulding Scale
- Hand Hygiene

**DUAL Track: Acute Care IP | SNF/LTC IP**

**Acute Care IP**

- VAE Prevention
- SSI Prevention
- High-Level Disinfection
- Sterilization
- NHSN Analysis & Surveillance

**SNF/LTC IP**

- Transmission-Based Precautions & MDROs in LTC
- Enhanced Barrier Precautions
- Cleaning & Disinfection
- Scabies, Lice, & Other Outbreaks
- IP QAPI Project for LTC

**DAY THREE**

- Quality Tools
- Rounding with an Eye
- The Role of the Environment
- Antibiotic Resistance/Antibiotic Stewardship
- NHSN Definitions
- "Solids, Liquids, & Gases" - Construction & Renovation
- Water Management

**KDH**

# Thank you for reading!



## Stay Connected!

Not an APIC member yet or not in a participating APIC chapter? You're still welcome! Join the CA APIC mailing list for updates, invites, and IP communications. [Stay connected](#). Our current mailing list is derived from APIC membership. [Join APIC today](#).

[CA APIC Webpage](#)

## Submit a feature request for the next California Catch Up Newsletter!

We are accepting submissions for our next newsletter issue. Our goal is to highlight local chapters and members. Examples:

- Chapter events
- Chapter success stories
- Member or leader shoutouts
- Successful IPC projects at your facility
- Member achievements (certification, publication)
- Open positions

Submit all relevant information [here](#).

