

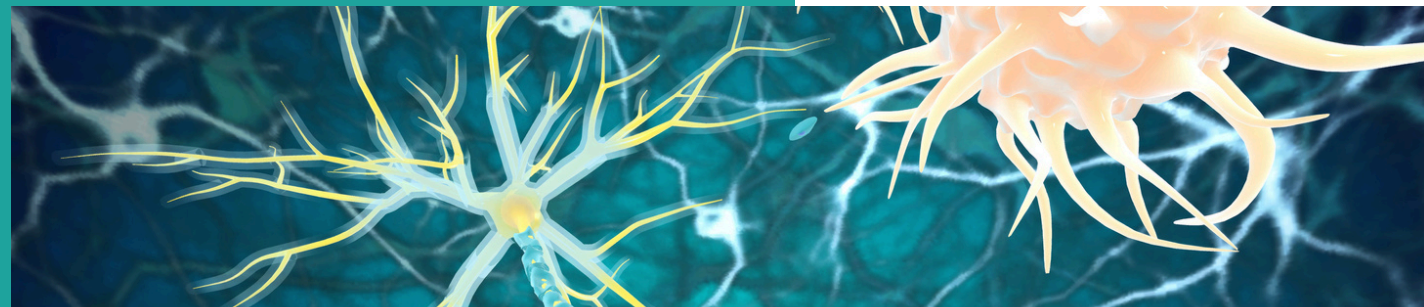
NEWSLETTER

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CHAIR
Coalition for
Community & Healthcare
Acquired Infection Reduction

SUMMER 2024 | Newsletter



Greetings from the CHAIR Coalition

When CHAIR began 10 years ago, it was ahead of it's time. The engineered infection prevention solutions to prevent air, water and surface transmission of disease, developed collaboratively by industry and academia, are more needed now than ever before as HAIs continue to climb, mortality continues to increase, and community transmission of disease is rampant.

For example, exponential growth of high mortality *Candida auris* and CPE infections, caused by aerosolization of healthcare sinks and drains, has led to a variety of proposed solutions from industry. But many in the medical community have panicked and are advocating the removal of sinks altogether in critical care areas such as ICU and recommending to reduce sinks in general in healthcare. The solution, of course, is not to throw the baby out with the bath water but simply to engineer safe sinks and drains – something CHAIR was involved with developing, testing and evaluating as early as 2016. While there are several engineering approaches that can be taken, the simplest, surest, least expensive solution that requires no consumables and virtually no training or extra labour is to install point-of-use ROS water sinks. ROS is an acronym for Reactive Oxygen Species, also known as PAW, Plasma Activated Water.

Simply use a catalyst energized in the presence of H₂O to form ppm levels of fast-acting oxidizers, OH⁻, H₂OH, O, and O₃, that disinfects hands, sink bowls and drains with every use, and between uses as programmed. ROS water disrupts and prevents biofilms that normally make disinfection of mixing valves, faucets and drains very difficult. ROS water is considered Generally Safe for Use and at concentrations less than 5 ppm, meets the requirements for potable water. They say it takes 17 years from innovation to implementation in Canadian healthcare. Let's hope we're more than halfway there.

Recruitment for Board Members

CHAIR is always looking for Board members to join our organization in support of our Vision: Safe Spaces, Free of Pathogens and our Mission: Inspire and Guide Engineering Solutions. We have been a strong advocates for research, promotion and implementation of engineered infection prevention strategies and technology since 2014. We have many very strong representations from associated companies who share similar values. We seek strong Board members who can assist continue to guide strategic direction, fundraising, development and implementation of projects and research and evaluation of new strategies and technologies.

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Health Canada Cooperation

CHAIR and the International Ultraviolet Association (IUVA) are working with representatives of Health Canada Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) on developing a meaningful feedback process on a simplified regulation methodology for the approval of a wide range of ultraviolet equipment developed by Canadian manufacturers as well as manufacturers from the United States and internationally.

Ultraviolet technology can be a safe, effective means of killing bacteria and inactivating viruses in the community and healthcare sectors when designed and implemented with appropriate safeguards. These safeguards can be done in accordance with recognized standards from such organizations as the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

IUVA Cooperation & MOU

CHAIR is working closely with the International Ultraviolet Association (IUVA) to develop a strong relationship of cooperation via a formal Memorandum of Understanding within three principles:

- Ensure ongoing advancement of collaborative projects.
- Keep each respective organization informed of major initiatives
- Discuss new opportunities for collaboration, research and fundraising.

CSA Cleaning & Disinfection Standard

In 2020, the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) launched Canada's first national standard for Cleaning & Disinfection of Healthcare Facilities Z317.12 via the leadership of a CHAIR Member & Co-Founder with a strong group of Canadian stakeholders which included several CHAIR members. In 2024, CSA is going through a renewal of this important document. We are happy to report overwhelming response and participation by IPAC in developing the second edition.

Here is an example of some of our amazing Members:



Top News



Written by Co-Founder Barry Hunt

Water-Based Disinfectants: A Safer Alternative for MCS Patients and Healthcare Workers

For individuals with Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS) and healthcare workers (HCWs) frequently exposed to harsh chemicals, the use of water-based disinfectants in hospital settings offers significant benefits. These alternatives can provide effective sanitization while reducing the risk of adverse reactions and long-term health effects associated with traditional chemical disinfectants.

[Read full blog article
on the website](#)

If you would like to contribute or have any topics for our next newsletter, please contact us.

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