

President Elect

Paul Gentile MPH, CIC, FAPIC



Candidate Statement:

The reason why I'm running for board of directors is that I'm deeply passionate about APIC New England Chapter and continuing to advance the field of infection prevention through innovation, mentorship, and collaboration. As Secretary of APIC New England and former Secretary of APIC Atlanta, I've connected new and existing members as well as non-members with mentors to support their growth. My partnership with colleges and universities have also helped inspire students to pursue infection prevention careers, with several now thriving as Infection Preventionists. My overall vision is to create clear pathways for both members and non-members to grow from local engagement into broader leadership opportunities, but everyone must start somewhere wherever that may be, and I can help guide individuals with that. As President-Elect, I'm already truly committed to continue working with our board of directors to ensure APIC New England remains a vibrant hub for professional development, mentorship, and community.

Biographical Data Form:

Paul Gentle is an Infection Preventionist at Yale New Haven Hospital with a strong background in health sciences, psychology, sociology, and public health. He earned an Associate in Health Sciences from Capital Community College, a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and Sociology from Western Connecticut State University, and a Master of Public Health from Drexel University's Dornsife School of Public Health. He is a Certified Nursing Assistant, a Board-Certified Infection Preventionist (CIC), a 2023 Fellow of the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (FAPIC) and has received the Heros's of Infection Prevention Award, in 2020, with his team at Emory University Hospital Midtown.

Paul serves as the current Secretary of APIC New England, previously served as Secretary of the APIC Atlanta Chapter, and is a Member of the APIC National Academic Pathway Committee as well as the Connecticut Hospital Association Infection Preventionist Group. He is also an Associate Editor for the APIC Text, contributing to the development of national infection prevention resources. Paul previously worked as an Infection Preventionist at Emory Healthcare, where he developed an infection prevention internship program, and has continued this work at Yale New Haven Health by creating internship pathways to support future professionals entering the field. Paul also served as a consultant with APIC and the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention as a subject matter expert on the Project Firstline Initiative by developing tools, providing resources, and presenting on Infection Prevention & Control topics for the American Medical Association and American Nurses Association. Passionate about

advancing infection prevention, Paul is dedicated to mentorship, innovation, and collaboration to improve patient safety and healthcare quality.

President Elect

Kristin Smith MSN, RN, CIC



Candidate Statement:

I am running for President-Elect because I am deeply passionate about supporting infection prevention professionals and promoting innovation within the chapter, building on the strong legacy as the first APIC chapter. I believe in the power of shared knowledge, leadership development, and collaborative problem-solving to address the evolving challenges in infection prevention and control.

If elected, I will focus on fostering strong member engagement, creating leadership opportunities for emerging professionals, strengthening the chapter's educational and networking initiatives, and promoting diversity and inclusion. My extensive experience, steady leadership, and commitment to APIC's mission make me a strong candidate to help guide the chapter into the future.

I would be honored to serve and am eager to contribute my skills, energy, and vision to the APIC New England Chapter as your next President-Elect.

Biographical Data Form:

Kristin brings nearly 30 years of experience in nursing and infection prevention, with a proven track record of leadership, collaboration, and a strong commitment to advancing the field. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Boston College and a Master of Science in Nursing from Our Lady of the Elms College. For more than a decade, Kristin has served as an Infection Preventionist at Baystate Medical Center and maintains the distinguished Certification in Infection Control (CIC).

Kristin has been an engaged and active member of APIC at both the national level and within the New England Chapter. She has served two non-consecutive terms as Chapter Treasurer, was honored with the 2021 APIC NE Chapter Leader Award, as well as runner up for the Shirley Bradley Memorial Innovation award in 2025 and continues to contribute through her work on the Chapter Planning Committee. In addition, she chairs the Baystate Health Hand Hygiene Committee, leading system-wide efforts to improve patient safety through better hand hygiene compliance.

Communications

Kathy Krechevsky BS, MT/ASCP, CIC/CBIC



Candidate Statement:

Having begun my career in Infection Prevention six weeks before COVID-19 was declared a national emergency, I can say my introduction to the field was quite a roller coaster. With so many resources being allocated to navigating this new and novel virus in real time, becoming an APIC member and having access to both National and Local APIC chapter resources became my lifeline to rounding out my education and professional development as an Infection Preventionist. Now beginning my sixth year in the field, I'm confident that my experience and expertise can be an asset to my local APIC chapter, and I seek to be in a position where I can mentor and advocate for others.

Biographical Data Form:

Kathy Krechevsky is an Infection Preventionist at Yale New Haven Hospital. A lifelong Connecticut resident, Kathy obtained her Bachelor of Science in Medical Technology at the University of Connecticut. Choosing to pursue microbiology as her specialty, her work and interactions with the Infectious Disease team made her a strong ally for Infection Prevention ideals and practices. In 2018, Kathy attended APIC National's EPI Intensive course to further understand the role and responsibilities of the Infection Preventionist and joined the Infection Prevention Team at Yale in 2020. CIC board certified in 2022, Kathy has fully embraced her role as an Infection Preventionist for the Children's Hospital at Yale and advocates tirelessly for her patients, staff, and peers to keep to the highest standards of safety. Beyond her role in Infection Prevention, she is the liaison to the Environmental Services department and is responsible for the orientation, training, and supervision of six student volunteers performing hand hygiene audits yearly. She has also served on the Board of Temple Beth David in Cheshire, Connecticut as Sisterhood Secretary, Sisterhood President, 1st Vice President, and President. Baking challah is her favorite hobby.

Secretary

Ola Oremade MD, MPH, CIC



Candidate Statement: I am excited to run for the position of Secretary for the APIC New England Chapter because I am deeply passionate about advancing the field of infection prevention and control and supporting our professional community. Throughout my career, I have witnessed the critical role that infection prevention professionals play in protecting patients, staff, and the broader public. Joining the APIC NE board provides an opportunity to contribute to this mission on a broader scale by fostering education, collaboration, and innovation within our region.

As Secretary, I am committed to promoting clear communication, efficient organization, and engagement among our members, ensuring that our chapter continues to be a resourceful, supportive, and forward-thinking professional network. I am eager to serve, collaborate with fellow board members, and help drive initiatives that strengthen our community and advance the standards of infection prevention in New England.

Biographical Data Form: Ola is a certified Infection Preventionist and the Patient Safety/Infection Control Manager at Griffin Hospital in Derby, Connecticut. He is the recipient of the 2024 Shirley Bradley Memorial Innovation Award for his research on the impact of a novel color additive for disinfectant wipes on room cleanliness and room turnover time. A published author and peer reviewer for the *American Journal of Infection Control*, Ola brings both scholarly insight and practical expertise to the field. He currently serves as Chairperson of the Connecticut Hospital Association's Infection Preventionist Meeting Group and is an active member of the APIC New England Chapter. Committed to collaboration, innovation, and patient safety, Ola is passionate about strengthening communication, supporting professional development, and advancing the mission of APIC across New England.

Nominating and Awards

Alexandra Demelo RN



Candidate Statement: I am eager to bring this blend of clinical and leadership experience to the APIC board, where I can contribute to strengthening infection prevention practices, support frontline IPs, and help drive initiatives that improve patient outcomes and promote professional growth within our field. I lead with collaboration, curiosity, and commitment, and I am dedicated to using these strengths to further APIC's mission and support our community of infection preventionists.

Biographical Data Form: Alexandra Demelo has been a nurse for 11 years. She began her career in the outpatient setting, which led her into management, and for the past four years she has worked in long-term care. For the last two years, she has specialized in infection prevention, where she has enjoyed integrating her clinical nursing background with her leadership and management skills. In her career, she has led surveillance efforts, developed and implemented COVID-19 outbreak policies, and worked closely with interdisciplinary teams to ensure best practices in infection prevention.

In addition, she has served on a policy committee where she collaborated with colleagues to create, revise, and integrate new and updated policies that strengthened both staff and resident safety. These experiences have reinforced her passion for infection prevention and her belief in the importance of advancing our profession through education, advocacy, and collaboration.

Program

Linda Chepkorir MSN, BS, CIC



Candidate Statement: As a board-certified infection prevention and control practitioner with a combined 19 years of clinical and leadership experience, I bring proven expertise in strategic oversight and organizational excellence to board governance as a recognized thought leader in the profession.

My leadership roles demand strategic systems thinking, quality assurance, and patient safety leadership-skills directly applicable to effective board governance which mirror, demand and complement my professional excellence and would be of value to the Chapter.

In addition to this, as a National APIC Professional Development Committee member, and contributing thought leader I am uniquely positioned to visualize the profession's growth while influencing future practitioners while understanding and appreciating effective governance dynamics.

My vision emphasizes continuous learning, enhanced member engagement, connections and expanded educational offerings. Additionally, my extensive network enables identification of valuable partnerships while ensuring strategic alignment, which would directly benefit growth both for the Chapter, It's members with a focus and combination of clinical expertise, thought leadership, and organizational commitment which delivers exceptional board value.

Biographical Data Form: Linda Chepkorir is a board-certified Infection Prevention and Control Practitioner with 19 years of clinical and leadership experience in healthcare. She currently serves as a strategic leader at Inova Health System directing the infection prevention program and support services across all ambulatory and provider care sites, ensuring seamless integration of patient safety and quality standards between acute and non-acute settings in Northern Virginia. Prior to, held the role of Infection Prevention and Control manager at Reliant - Southboro Medical Groups serving Central and MetroWest Massachusetts.

Her educational foundation includes a Master's degree in Healthcare Administration and Bachelor's degree in Diagnostic Clinical Laboratory Science, providing comprehensive understanding of both operational excellence and clinical practice. This unique combination positions her as a thought leader in infection prevention and healthcare quality management.

As a committed advocate for professional development, she is a contributing member of the National APIC Professional Development Committee while maintaining active membership in local APIC Chapters,

notably D.C and New England. Her leadership extends to chairing and serving numerous patient-focused health system committees.

Her career highlights dedication to advancing infection prevention best practices, targeting opportunities in closing safety gaps, fostering collaborative healthcare environments, and mentoring future healthcare professionals while bridging clinical excellence with administrative leadership.

Program

Jordan Seaver MSN, RN, BS, CIC



Candidate Statement: I am honored to express my willingness to serve on the APIC New England Board. My passion lies in educating and empowering Infection Preventionists through innovative and engaging approaches that meet professionals where they are, while appreciating the diverse backgrounds, experiences, and challenges they face in today's healthcare landscape. Traditional methods of education and engagement, while foundational, may require thoughtful critique and adaptation to remain effective. In light of evolving recommendations and the recent dismantling of HICPAC and other agencies that have long guided our profession, it is more critical than ever to offer programs that are both meaningful and well-worth the Infection Preventionist's valuable time. If elected as Program Director, I am confident that we can collectively develop dynamic strategies to enhance our programs and, in turn, strengthen the New England Infection Prevention community. Together, we will continue to build a resilient village of empowered professionals that are equipped to navigate today's complexities with clarity and strong purpose.

Biographical Data Form: Jordan Seaver is the System Director of Infection Prevention at Hartford Healthcare, a large health system providing both inpatient and outpatient services in Connecticut. She earned her nursing degree in 2012 and later completed a Master of Science in Nursing with a concentration in Public Health at the University of Hartford in 2018. Her background in critical care and community nursing, including work at a federally qualified health center, sparked her passion for infection prevention.

Jordan is Certified in Infection Control through the Certification Board of Infection Control and Epidemiology, Inc. and currently serves as Chair for the Connecticut Hospital Association Infection Preventionist Group. She believes that success in infection prevention requires teamwork, especially as front-line clinicians face increasing patient care complexities. Jordan emphasizes the importance of simple, clear prevention strategies that support effective and efficient infection prevention programs across the healthcare continuum.