President’s Message
Your Association Hard at Work

As we head into autumn, we can reminisce over the good times we’ve had over the summer. Hopefully, we all had an opportunity to get some time away (even if only in our own backyards) to relax, enjoy the warmth of the sun and spend quality time with family and friends. For the IAHCSMM Executive Board and many members of IAHCSMM’s staff, the past several months have been rather busy, and we’re pleased by significant progress that has been made for the Association and its membership. What follows is a summary of what’s been going on behind the scenes at IAHCSMM headquarters – and the exceptional work being done in our ongoing quest to improve our Association and its offerings.

Election Results: We are excited to have our complete Executive Board in place. The results of our recent election allow us to welcome Damien Berg, BA, BS, CRCST, to our team as IAHCSMM President-Elect. Berg will be working closely with myself and David Jagrosse, IAHCSMM’s Immediate Past President, over the next nine months so he can effectively lead our association when the torch is passed to him at the 2018 IAHCSMM Annual Conference in Phoenix. Additionally, we welcome Jo Wood to our team. Wood was elected by the current Board of Director’s to serve as one of the four representatives to the Board. She joins her fellow colleagues, Tanya Lewis, Deborah Bohlman and Larry Parsons, in helping serve as the voice of the membership during our Association business meetings. Both Berg and Wood have already contributed a great deal to many discussions and decisions made thus far. We are delighted to have them both on our team.

Education News: We are pleased to introduce three new additions to our Education team: Susan (Sue) Klacik, BS, CRCST, CHL, CIS, ACE, FCS and Jon Wood, BAAS, CRCST as our Clinical Educators, and Jason Larson as Education Manager. Many of you already know Klacik based on her outstanding service to IAHCSMM over the years. Those who attend IAHCSMM Annual Conferences know her as the Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation (AAMI) expert who provides standards updates, but her contributions reach far beyond that. She has served on numerous committees with both AAMI and IAHCSMM, and served as our official liaison between the two organizations for nearly 20 years. Additionally, Klacik is an approved instructor and has authored many articles, IAHCSMM textbook chapters, and columns in Communiqué, Healthcare Purchasing News (HPN), Infection Control Today, OR Manager and other well-read publications. She also represented IAHCSMM in the joint 2011 AAMI/FDA Reprocessing Summit. From 2008 to 2016, she served as Central Sterile Services Manager and CRCST instructor and course director for St. Elizabeth Health Center in Youngstown, Ohio.

Wood holds a Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences degree and brings to IAHCSMM rich surgical technician and sterile processing experience...
that was first forged in the U.S. Navy. Wood most recently worked as Regulatory and Quality Improvement Specialist (with an emphasis on high-level disinfection and sterilization) for University of Colorado Health. In that role, he served as regulatory and quality content expert for more than 70 ambulatory clinics in the Denver area.

As Education Manager, Larson brings valuable managerial and educational experience from his former employer, The Joint Commission (TJC), where he served as Project Manager under TJC’s Department of Education. Larson is well versed in developing educational content, e-learning modules and other avenues of learning that will benefit IAHCSMM as we continue to grow and serve the many educational needs of our members.

In other education-related news, I’m thrilled to report our learning materials for the Certified Endoscope Technician course have officially launched. The First Edition Boxed Course includes the Endoscope Reprocessing Manual and Workbook. I encourage all of us to seek this as another opportunity to improve and grow our knowledge as CS professionals, and further advance our quality and safety commitment to our customers and patients. For more information on this valuable new resource, visit: www.iahcsmm.org/publications/endoscope-reprocessing.html.

Bylaws Revisions: Since August 2016, IAHCSMM’s Bylaws Committee has been reviewing and providing suggested updates to our existing Bylaws. Although our current Bylaws have seen some revisions over our 52-year history, they became outdated for an organization of our size and importance. The IAHCSMM Executive Board and Bylaws Committee met in person and had multiple conference calls over the summer to refine and update these guiding principles of our Association. Some of the language currently included in the IAHCSMM Bylaws is more consistent with a policy and procedure manual as opposed to a true “bylaws” definition. IAHCSMM’s proposed Bylaws revisions address those concerns and are better positioned to provide the operational framework for a more effective governance system. Although this project is not yet complete, I wanted you to be aware that this Bylaws revision is in process. Upon their completion, we will send members the final draft so they may cast a vote on the proposed revisions. I urge all of you to be on the lookout and review the information carefully so you can place your vote.

Strategic Plan: Our Executive Board and IAHCSMM staff participated in a focused strategic planning session in Chicago in late August. During this meeting, we assessed the needs and direction of the Association, and measured our successes based on member feedback and key performance indicators to determine our next goals. The strategic plan will be consistently monitored to ensure target items remain on track, and the plan will be updated every three years. I will share more details about this strategic plan in the upcoming issue. Please know that your Executive Board and IAHCSMM staff work very hard to make this Association the very best it can be for all of you.

Before I close, I’d like to congratulate you for the terrific service you provide every day. With Central Service Week on the horizon, I also hope you’ll take the time to celebrate and recognize your teams during each of those seven days, and then find creative ways to keep up the spirit the whole year through. In this issue, you will find simple, creative and inspiring ways to honor your team and profession. CS Week is a time when all of us CS professionals across the globe can celebrate our successes and be recognized for our tremendous efforts throughout the year.

Thanks for all you do to keep our patients safe and infection-free!

Steven J. Adams, RN, BA, CRCST, CHL