

## The Belgian Infection control society (BICS)

BICS is the Belgian scientific society representing healthcare workers involved in infection prevention and control. This society was founded in 1986 and had the name GOSPIZ (Groep ter Opsporing, Studie en Preventie van Infecties in Ziekenhuizen) until December 2005 when the name changed to BICS. This change of name was to broaden its horizon and to make infection prevention an action not only for the hospital but also outside of the hospital.

The aim of the society is to promote the knowledge and competence in the domain of detection, study and prevention of infections in the care of patients.

These objectives can be recognized in a number of activities in which we participated, such as MRSA prevalence study in long term care facilities, recommendations on preventing MRSA transmission in acute care hospitals and long term care facilities, recommendations on the control and prevention of infections due to *Clostridium difficile*, ratified and published by the Health Council.

The society promotes or participates in the production and the dissemination of guidelines and best practices and organizes two times a year a symposium. We donate a scholarship for courses or international symposia such as HIS or ICPIC for 2 to 3 of our members.

Eligible members are nurses, medical laboratory technologists, graduates, doctors and pharmacists, which have a function in health care or in the prevention of nosocomial infections or are active in a nonprofit organization in the field of infection prevention in the healthcare or any person with a contribution to make to the objectives of the association.

**Website** <http://www.belgianinfectioncontrolsociety.be/v2/home/startpage/>