This issue finds us blazing through fall, inching toward winter and the holiday season and gearing up for another new year. It’s hard to believe we’ve worked our way through 2022, and it’s fair to say that all of us healthcare workers deserve a pat on the back for tackling our daily responsibilities so effectively, even in the midst of ongoing supply and resource challenges exacerbated by the pandemic.

This autumn has been extremely busy and productive for HSPA. In late September, the HSPA Board of Directors and HSPA’s team met in Chicago to review current and future projects as they relate to our strategic plan and shore up programming for our 2023 Annual Conference (taking place May 6–10 in Nashville, Tenn.). The conference is shaping up to be another fantastic educational and networking event—all to be provided under the glass roof of the gorgeous Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center. Early bird registration is currently underway, so now is the time to sign up and lock in our lowest rates. For more information and to register, visit https://myhspa.org/conference-information.

Our first-ever Sterile Processing/Infection Prevention Symposium launched during Sterile Processing Week in October, and it was a tremendous success. Participants joined in for free virtual education that afforded 6+ continuing education (CE) credits, while connecting participants with industry experts and allowing them to tap numerous other resources presented through the event platform. If you missed the event during its official launch (which carried through Infection Prevention Week, October 18–24), rest assured: there’s still time to access the content and secure your CEs. Following IP Week, the event will be available on demand for another 90 days. This is a perfect opportunity for you and your teammates to enjoy first-class educational content from expert speakers—all at no charge and delivered in a learning environment that suits everyone’s unique and often hectic schedules.

As we prepare to flip our calendars to 2023, it’s my sincere hope that we can close out 2022 with peace, contentment and an appreciation for all we do to keep our careers rooted in professionalism, quality and patient safety. We may not always think of it this way, but our responsibilities and commitment to doing what’s right, even when it’s difficult, are among the best gifts we can give to our facilities, customers, patients and communities.

Thank you for your sweeping contributions to customer service excellence, infection prevention and positive patient outcomes. Have a blessed and beautiful holiday season.

Marjorie Wall, MLOS, CRCST, CIS, CHL, CSSBB
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