The Society of Hospital Epidemiologists of America

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SHEA Board and Strategic Planning Meeting

The SHEA Board met in Key West, Florida, January 25-27, 1990, and began a long-term strategic planning process with the aid of Roberta N. Clarke, PhD, Chair, Department of Marketing, Boston University School of Management, who functioned as a consultant/facilitator.

Several key issues were discussed and will be brought before the SHEA membership in more detail at the annual business meeting in October. First, the board called for a broadening of our mission to recognize the interrelation of infection control, quality assurance and risk management as three integral components of hospital epidemiology. To recognize the broader group of individuals with legitimate professional interests in hospital epidemiology, changes in our membership requirements (and a subtle society name change to the Society for Hospital Epidemiology in America) will be recommended to the membership. Second, a commitment was made to continue the SHEA/CDC hospital epidemiology course as an ongoing, revenue-generating educational program. Third, plans were begun to follow-up our successful Baltimore meeting with an annual educational academic meeting that will begin in 1991. Fourth, the publication committee reviewed several ongoing contract negotiations that will be critical in determining our relation to our journal.

Dr. Clarke's participation and the cost of this meeting were underwritten by a grant from Merck, Sharp and Dohme.

Nominating Committee

A nominating committee (W.J. Martone, MD, chair) is currently preparing the slate for the next SHEA election. Please submit the names of potential candidates for vice-president (who becomes president-elect and president in the two years following the election), practice councillor and academic councillor by June 15, 1990 to Dr. Martone, Hospital Infection Program, Centers for Disease Control, 1600 Clifton Rd., Atlanta, GA 30333.

PAHO/SHEA Conference

SHEA was a co-sponsor of a Regional Conference on Hospital Infection Control held in Washington, D.C., by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) December 11-15, 1989. The conference's overall aim was to stimulate discussion about the status of infection control efforts in Latin America and the Caribbean. The agenda emphasized setting priorities, developing standardized infection control and microbiology support programs suitable for hospitals with a wide range of resources, encouraging governments to provide greater support for infection control activities, and enhancing regional communications and exchange and dissemination of procedures and standards among infection control professionals in the 15,000 hospitals in the areas represented. In addition, a number of topical issues, such as use of antibiotics, AIDS and infection control, disinfection procedures and employee health, were reviewed. There was considerable discussion about the possible formation of a Latin American/Caribbean hospital epidemiology society with a formal connection to SHEA. The importance of providing a Spanish language outlet for research publications and practical information was stressed.

Drs. H. de Moraes Novaes and J.M. Paganini hosted the meeting on behalf of PAHO. The meeting was co-chaired by Dr. D. Goldmann, chair of the SHEA educational activities committee.

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Other SHEA members who gave major presentations or served as moderators were Drs. R. Aber, G. Counts, D. Craven, L. Donowitz, R. Garibaldi, D. Henderson, L. Herwaldt, W. Hierholzer, W. Martone, J. McGowan, S. Ponce de Leon, W. Rutala, W. Schaffner, R. Sherertz, T. Townsend and R. Weinstein.

Representatives of 19 countries (Argentina, Bermuda, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Puerto Rico, Turks and Caicos, United States, Uruguay and Venezuela) attended.

This conference resulted in 17 main recommendations to PAHO/ World Health Organization (WHO) and member countries. The thrust of these recommendations was to establish/improve education, exchange of information, formal meetings and research on infection control at hospital, local, regional, national and international levels; to mandate active infection control and antibiotic review and control activities at each of these levels; to develop a system of reference laboratories to facilitate microbiologic diagnostics and to standardize antibiotic susceptibility testing; and to request the assistance of PAHO/ WHO in carrying out these goals and in establishing a society for the prevention and control of hospital infections in Latin America and the Caribbean.

SHEA/CDC Hospital Epidemiology Course

Work day and night for an extended weekend in Coconut Grove, Florida and love it? That's what the 55 attendees and more than 12 instructors at the March 29 through April 1, 1990 SHEA/CDC Training Program did. The course, intended primarily for infectious disease (ID) fellows, also attracted a sizable contingent of young ID faculty. Seven of the fellows attended on educational fellowships sponsored by Merck, Sharp and Dohme.

The lectures, including presentations on epidemiology and transmission of nosocomial pathogens, surveillance systems, quality assurance, personnel health and disinfection and waste management, were supplemented by three outbreak investigation working group sessions, practical how-to presentations on the role of the infection control practitioner and a session on "getting started." A new feature of the course was an intensive introduction to basic epidemiologic concepts prepared by Dr. J. Freeman with the assistance of Drs. J. McGowan and D.H. Culver. Miami weather, coffee breaks by the pool and a group dinner sponsored by Merck, Sharp and Dohme rounded out the program.

The course was hosted by Dr. N.J. Ehrenkranz and his colleagues from the South Florida Infection Control Consortium. The course faculty included Drs. G.W. Counts, D.H. Culver, Ehrenkranz, M.S. Favero, J. Freeman, D.A. Goldmann, W.J. Hierholzer, Jr., W.R. Jarvis, R.L. Marier, W.J. Mar-tone, J.E. McGowan, O.C. Tablan and Ms. P. DeStefano, E. Mazzei and M. Wiener.

Position Paper: Waste Management

A task force chaired by Dr. F. Rhame is preparing a SHEA position paper on waste management. SHEA members who wish to provide their insights should contact Drs. Rhame (612-626-5306), C.G. Mayhall (901-528-5770) or W. Rutala (919-966-1636).

SHEA Symposium at Montreal International Congress for Infectious Disease

SHEA has been invited to present a symposium on infection control in developing countries at the upcoming international congress for infectious diseases, July 15-19, 1990 in Montreal. Participants will include Drs. E. O'Rourke, D. Goldmann and F. Otaiza (Chile) from SHEA, as well as E. Tikhomirov (World Health Organization), W. Kadzia (Poland) and S. Danchivijitr (Thailand).

Pertussis

We recently have seen at least two nosocomial cases of pertussis and have become aware of an increased incidence of reported cases. Because timely erythromycin treatment of patients with clinical pertussis and of selected contacts may decrease infectivity and limit secondary spread of infection, pertussis should be considered as a possible diagnosis in patients and hospital personnel with prolonged cough, especially if there are paroxysms, whoops or post-tussive vomiting. In fact, because of variable sensitivity and specificity of culture or DFA testing for *Bordetella pertussis,* the Centers for Disease Control has recommended using a clinical case definition for pertussis. The recommended definition, a cough illness lasting for 14 or more days, had 91% sensitivity and 90% specificity compared to pertussis serology in one study.

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