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SHEA News

THE SOCIETY FOR HEALTHCARE EPIDEMIOLOGY OF AMERICA

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Infection Control Issues on the Internet

SHEA members, and others working in the areas of infection control, increasingly are using Internet resources for communication with each other, as well as for accessing documents. During the early summer, a wide array of issues including appropriate methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* control measures, swine influenza archeology, mad cow disease, and current outbreaks around the world have been accessible easily by subscribing to the PROMED digest. To subscribe to the PROMED digest, address e-mail PROMED to <majordomo@usa.healthnet.org>. The message should consist of only one line: subscribe PROMED digest. It is just as easy to cancel the subscription or to take advantage of other PROMED options. The only cost is that of your e-mail access and connect time.

Infection Control Contracting With Managed Care

At the recent SHEA/IDSA/OPIVITA conference in Chicago on "Managed Care in Infectious Diseases," the workshop consensus on infection control and quality improvement was that SHEA could be more useful to its members by highlighting examples of the variety of infection control and quality improvement niche contracting that currently is taking place between hospitals, as well as managed care organizations, and SHEA members. Many organizations are identifying and paying infection control epidemiologists to review and give specific antibiotic prescribing patterns on an ongoing basis.

Please indicate to the chair of our membership committee, Steve Solomon (fax: 404-639-6483; e-mail: <sls1@cidhip1.em.cdc.gov>), if you are willing to share with SHEA the details concerning contracts that you or your colleagues have with your organization (assuming that individual and organizational identifiers would be removed and confidentiality protected).

The membership committee continues to seek out means of making membership in SHEA more valuable and is interested in obtaining examples of a variety of contracts or arrangements our members currently have in our areas of expertise.

SHEA Reception at ICAAC/IDSA Meetings

Rather than the traditional luncheon we've held in previous years—for colleagues who will spend the better part of the week attending many posters, presentations, and symposia—this year, SHEA is planning an early evening gathering in New Orleans on Tuesday, September 17, for epidemiologic colleagues to enjoy one another's company and to have informal discussions with one another related to common epidemiologic concerns. So that we can have an approximate nose count, please send your response to SHEA headquarters (telephone, 609-845-1636; fax, 609-853-0411; or e-mail, meetings@shea.ccmail.compuserve.com) if you expect to join in our fellowship at the reception in New Orleans on Tuesday, September 17, 6 PM to 8 PM.

Brief items of interest for the SHEA News or Newsletter may be sent to Murray D. Batt, MD, SHEA News Editor, Washoe Medical Center, 77 Pringle Way, Reno NV 89520; fax (702) 328-4797.

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