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SHEA News

THE SOCIETY FOR HEALTHCARE EPIDEMIOLOGY OF AMERICA

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Improving Health Care Through Clinical Epidemiology and Quality Improvement

The first collaboratively sponsored course by SHEA and the Institute for Health Care Improvement is scheduled to take place at the Washington Hilton on the weekend before Thanksgiving, November 23-25, 1996. Topics will include quality improvement in contemporary healthcare, applying clinical epidemiology to the problem of surgical wound infections, using total quality management and statistical process control to improve surgical outcomes, interactive storyboards, improving a meeting in real time, an intensive-care–unit outbreak as a special cause, measuring patient opinions, outcomes measurement and report cards, clinical decision aids and practice guidelines, measuring appropriateness of care, choosing and implementing a major healthcare improvement initiative, and data systems to support improvement. The fee for the entire meeting is only $395, and application/registration forms may be obtained by calling SHEA headquarters at 609-845-1636.

Web Links for the Epidemiologically Curious

A regular feature of the SHEA News page will be a listing of URL addresses that may be of interest to SHEA members. Because of the global interest in healthcare epidemiology, both North American and international sites will be identified in this column. Members who are aware of interesting sites are encouraged to submit the addresses to edmiston@post.its.mcw.edu for insertion into the news page. All of the included sites have been updated recently.

An interesting site, the Center for Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases at the University of Oxford (http://www.zoo.ox.ac.uk) contains an updated dictionary of epidemiology. The Wessex Institute for Health Research & Development site (http://vessey.wiphm.soton.ac.uk/publichealth.html) is a comprehensive resource of public health information, as is the World Health Organization site (http://www.who.ch), which includes weekly epidemiology reports and statistical information. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention site (http://www.cdc.gov) contains information about the CDC, Traveler's Health information, and is a valuable starting point for viewing a myriad of data, statistics, and on-line publications (eg, *MMWR* and *Emerging Infectious Diseases)*. A generalized site for communicable disease resources can be found at http://www.open.gov.uk/cdsc/links.htm, providing links to a variety of North American and European resources.

SHEA Convenes Consensus Panel on Infection Control Programs

The first meeting of the Consensus Panel on Infrastructure and Essential Activities of Hospital Epidemiology and Infection Control Programs was held on Wednesday, July 17, at the Chicago Hilton, and included representatives from a wide array of cooperating organizations with an interest in the topic, including the American College of Healthcare Executives, the American Hospital Association, the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Hospital Infection Control Practices Advisory Board, the Infectious Diseases Society of America, the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, the National Foundation for Infection Control, the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society, as well as SHEA. The intent of this panel is to produce a draft of a consensus document that addresses the above topic, as well as SHEA's board of directors' concerns over shrinking resource allocations for programs that address the prevention of nosocomial infections and the spread of multiply resistant organisms.

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.

WEBLINKS for the EPIDEMIOLOGICALLY CURIOUS (prepared by Charles E. Edmiston, Jr, PhD, on July 15, 1996.

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