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SHEA News

THE SOCIETY FOR HEALTHCARE EPIDEMIOLOGY OF AMERICA

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SHEA Courses

In Washington, DC, SHEA, in collaboration with the institute for Health Care Improvement, will offer a course entitled "Improving Health Care Through Clinical Epidemiology and Quality Improvement," November 23-25, 1996. This course will address some of the QA/QI techniques that are needed to improve the processes and outcomes of clinical care.

SHEA, in collaboration with the CDC, continues to sponsor biannual training courses in hospital epidemiology. The most recent one was held in San Antonio, October 5-8, 1996. Although heavily emphasizing infection control issues and epidemic investigation, this course also addresses issues of quality improvement. The next hospital epidemiology training course will be held in Atlanta, May 16-21, 1997.

More information on registering for either of these courses is available from SHEA headquarters, 609-845-1636.

SHEA at ICAAC/IDSA

SHEA sponsored a reception on September 17, 1996, to allow members to network during the New Orleans ICAAC/IDSA. The cocktail reception was well attended by members who had attended ICAAC '96, as well as some who had come for IDSA '96, which began the following morning. ICAAC and IDSA have announced separate meetings in 1997: IDSA in San Francisco, September 13-16, and ICAAC in Toronto, September 28-October 1, 1997.

Our membership committee has asked for a straw poll of readers of SHEA News to answer the following related questions, to help in planning our 1997 SHEA fall events, the responses to which we should have in early 1997.

1997 IDSA/ICAAC Meeting Plans

As of the time of your response to this survey:

Do you expect to attend ICAAC in Toronto in 1997?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you expect to attend IDSA in San Francisco in 1997?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Your professional discipline: Physician, Nurse, Microbiologist, etc

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Are you a SHEA member?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Please send replies to Murray D. Batt, MD, fax (702) 328-4797 or e-mail 102554.277@compuserv.com.

Brief items of interest for SHEA News or the 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. ***NOTE: See additional material on page 761.***

Varicella Immunization in Pregnancy Registry

Hospital epidemiologists are an important source of information regarding inadvertent exposure to live virus vaccines during pregnancy. Although wild-type varicella sometimes has been associated with a pattern of birth defects called congenital varicella syndrome, there are no data that address the risk of varicella vaccine when given in pregnancy. Because healthcare workers so frequently are women of reproductive age, and those who are still susceptible to varicella are candidates for the vaccine, it is possible that vaccination inadvertently may occur during pregnancy.

In collaboration with the CDC, Merck and Co has established a registry to follow the outcomes of pregnancy when vaccination with the varicella vaccine has occurred within 3 months prior to pregnancy or at any time during pregnancy. The purpose of this registry is to obtain information on pregnancy outcomes that may be of use to healthcare providers and to women who are vaccinated during this interval.

The telephone contact for the varicella vaccine pregnancy registry is 1-800-986-8999. Written reports may be sent to Merck Research Labs, Worldwide Product Safety and Epidemiology, BLA-31, West Point, PA 19486. More details about the registry are available from Dr. Jeanne M. Manson, 610-397-7290.

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