EDITED BY ROBERT A. WEINSTEIN, MD

SHEA Newsletter

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SHEA/CDC/AHA Course-A Triumph

The recent SHEA/CDC/AHA Training Course in Hospital Epidemiology, held May 16-19, 1991, in Chicago, Illinois, was a rousing success. There were approximately 120 attendees; 50 were infectious disease fellows and most of the other participants were chairs of infection control committees.

The highlights of the course were the four hands-on epidemic investigation problem sessions in which participants broke into groups of ten to 12 persons to solve actual outbreaks. Course participants put all of the didactic material they had learned to work during these intensive problem-solving sessions. They solved a classic surgical wound infection outbreak, sleuthed out the cause of excess mortality in a neonatal intensive care unit, plumbed the depths of device design to track down an environmental-source outbreak, and worked through the use of large data bases in a computer-assisted outbreak investigation. These simulated experiences were so lifelike that they would have made Disney World attraction designers envious.

The 14-member faculty also gave a series of lectures and extensive handouts on epidemiology, transmission of nosocomial pathogens, risk factors for nosocomial infections, surveillance methods, continuous quality improvement, disinfection, and employee health issues.

The overwhelming response to the initial announcement of this fourth offering of our training program has encouraged the Education Committee to consider having this course twice a year. The scheduling for the next two offerings is being determined now and will be announced soon in the Newsletter.

The members of the faculty for this course offering were Drs. Paul Arnow, Martin Favero, Jonathan Freeman, Donald Goldmann, Robert Haley, David Henderson, Walter Hierholzer, William Jarvis, Steven Kritchevsky, William Martone, John McGowan, Bryan Simmons, and Robert Weinstein, and Ms Gina Pugliese. Infectious Disease physicians and SHEA members in the Chicago area who served as faculty facilitators for the small groups during the epidemic problem-solving sessions were Drs. Murray Batt, Chris Costas, John Flaherty, Alan Harris, Mark Levin, Roberta Luskin, Paul O'Keefe, Bruce Olson, and Fred Zar.

The course was made possible, in part, by generous grants from a number of corporations. In addition, Merck, Sharp and Dohme provided course fees and travel scholarships for eight infections disease fellows. The awardees (and their program directors) were: Dr. Debra E. Berg, University of Illinois (Dr. R Weinstein); Dr. Edward K. Chapnick, Maimonides Medical Center, New York (Dr. L. Lutwick); Dr. Carol Chenoweth, University of Michigan Medical Center, Ann Arbor (Dr. R. Fekety); Dr. Susan V. Donelan, State University of New York at Stony Brook (Dr. W. Greene); Dr. Cynthia L. Fowler, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda (Dr. V. Gill); Dr. W. Charles Huskins, Children's Hospital, Boston (Dr. K. McIntosh); Dr. Jones 0. Kumi, Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit (Dr. L. Saravolatz); and Dr. Jeffrey S. Loutit, Stanford University Medical Center, Stanford (Dr. L. Tompkins).

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