EDITED BY ROBERTA. WEINSTEIN, MD

SHEA News

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Update on Tuberculosis Control Guidelines for Hospitals

Following the Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) October 23-23, 1992, open meeting "Issues in Preventing Tuberculosis Transmission in Health Care Settings" (see the November 1992 *SHEA News*), Dr. William Roper, Director, CDC, issued a statement that the basic thrust of the CDC December 1990 "Guidelines for Preventing Transmission of Tuberculosis in Health Care Settings, With Special Focus on HIV-Related Issues" is "about right."

Regarding powered air purification respirators (PAPRs), Dr. Roper stated that there has not been sufficient evaluation of the effectiveness of current recommendations regarding the role of personal respiratory protection in preventing nosocomial transmission, that there is currently insufficient evidence to support the routine use of PAPRs in preventing nosocomial transmission of tuberculosis, and that we need to evaluate much further the effectiveness of our current recommendations before considering such a step.

Finally, he noted that it would be useful to revise the current guidelines to address several different issues, including the following: increased education of patients and healthcare workers about tuberculosis; additional emphasis on early identification and management of patients with tuberculosis; and more specific recommendations regarding ventilation, the use of mobile HEPA-filtered ventilation units, and the use of ultraviolet germicidal irradiation.

SHEA/CDC/AHA Hospital Epidemiology Training Courses

The highly popular and acclaimed SHEA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC)/American Hospital Association (AHA) Training Course in Hospital Epidemiology was offered twice in 1992. The first session was held in Atlanta September 17-20, 1992. Over 80 attendees worked through hands-on real-life epidemiologic problems and listened intensely to lectures covering the fundamentals of epidemiologic methods, quality assurance, isolation, and disinfection and sterilization, as well as lectures on a variety of the latest infection control issues. Faculty members were: Drs. Paul Arnow, Michael Decker, Martin Favero, Jonathan Freeman, Robert Gaynes, Donald Goldmann, Robert Haley, David Henderson, Walter Hierholzer, William Jarvis, William Martone, John McGowan, Jr., and Robert Weinstein, and Gina Pugliese.

The second offering of this course was held November 19-22, 1992, in Park City, Utah. Additional faculty at this session were: Drs. John Burke, Julie Gerberding, Brent James, and Jane Siegel. As was the case for the September course, the November attendees included five recipients of Merck Scholarships, which provided $1,000 to each winner to help cover the transportation, lodging, and tuition expenses. The winners were selected by the Educational Activities Committee from a large group of infectious disease fellows.

The five scholarship winners for the November course (and sponsors and institutions) were: Dr. Louise-Marie Dembry (Dr. Donald Levine, Wayne State University School of Medicine); Dr. Sandra Fortna (Dr. Stephen Zinner, Rhode Island Hospital); Dr. Radhika Hariharan (Dr. Robert Weinstein, Michael Reese Hospital); Dr. Kalen Jacobson (Dr. Stuart Cohen, University of California Davis); and Dr. James Levin (Dr. Margaret Hostetter, University of Minnesota).

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