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SHEA Board and Strategic Planning Meeting

The SHEA Board met in Key West, Florida, January 25-27, 1990, and began a long-term strategic planning process with the aid of Roberta N. Clarke, PhD, Chair, Department of Marketing, Boston University School of Management, who functioned as a consultant/facilitator.

Several key issues were discussed and will be brought before the SHEA membership in more detail at the annual business meeting in October. First, the board called for a broadening of our mission to recognize the interrelation of infection control, quality assurance and risk management as three integral components of hospital epidemiology. To recognize the broader group of individuals with legitimate professional interests in hospital epidemiology, changes in our membership requirements (and a subtle society name change to the Society for Hospital Epidemiology in America) will be recommended to the membership. Second, a commitment was made to continue the SHEA/CDC hospital epidemiology course as an ongoing, revenue-generating educational program. Third, plans were begun to follow-up our successful Baltimore meeting with an annual educational academic meeting that will begin in 1991. Fourth, the publication committee reviewed several ongoing contract negotiations that will be critical in determining our relation to our journal.

Dr. Clarke's participation and the cost of this meeting were underwritten by a grant from Merck, Sharp and Dohme.

Nominating Committee

A nominating committee (W.J. Martone, MD, chair) is currently preparing the slate for the next SHEA election. Please submit the names of potential candidates for vice-president (who becomes president-elect and president in the two years following the election), practice councillor and academic councillor by June 15, 1990 to Dr. Martone, Hospital Infection Program, Centers for Disease Control, 1600 Clifton Rd., Atlanta, GA 30333.

PAHO/SHEA Conference

SHEA was a co-sponsor of a Regional Conference on Hospital Infection Control held in Washington, D.C., by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) December 11-15, 1989. The conference's overall aim was to stimulate discussion about the status of infection control efforts in Latin America and the Caribbean. The agenda emphasized setting priorities, developing standardized infection control and microbiology support programs suitable for hospitals with a wide range of resources, encouraging governments to provide greater support for infection control activities, and enhancing regional communications and exchange and dissemination of procedures and standards among infection control professionals in the 15,000 hospitals in the areas represented. In addition, a number of topical issues, such as use of antibiotics, AIDS and infection control, disinfection procedures and employee health, were reviewed. There was considerable discussion about the possible formation of a Latin American/Caribbean hospital epidemiology society with a formal connection to SHEA. The importance of providing a Spanish language outlet for research publications and practical information was stressed.

Drs. H. de Moraes Novaes and J.M. Paganini hosted the meeting on behalf of PAHO. The meeting was co-chaired by Dr. D. Goldmann, chair of the SHEA educational activities committee.

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