EDITED BY ***ROBERT A. WEINSTEIN,*** *MD*

SHEA News

'THE SOCIETY FOR HOSPITAL EPIDEMIOLOGY OF AMERICA

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Meeting Hospital Epidemiology Training Needs

Dr. Bruce Hamory, SHEA member and former SHEA treasurer, and the Manpower and Training Committee of the Infectious Disease Society of America have recently published the results of their questionaire survey of infectious disease training needs (Journal ***of*** Infectious Diseases. 1992;165:218-23). Among other questions, survey respondents were asked to rank ten areas of knowledge that should be included in infectious disease training programs in terms of their current importance. The top five areas were ranked in virtually the same order by both practitioners and academicians, with hospital epidemiology and hospital antibiotic policies leading the list. Dr. Hamory and co-authors noted that when these rankings were compared with the average time spent in various areas during training, the discrepancy between perceived need for an area of knowledge and the actual time spent on that area in training is striking. They specifically pointed to training in hospital epidemiology as the best example of this discrepancy, because it ranked first in perceived need among both private practitioners and academicians, but respondents reported spending less than 2% of time during their training in this area.

One of the goals of the annual SHEA/CDC/AHA hospital epidemiology training course is to fill this void in hospital epidemiology and infection control training. Organized and taught by representatives from the most influential organizations in this country to deal with infection control, this course will be offered twice in 1992: September 17-20 in Atlanta, Georgia, and November 19-22 in Salt Lake City, Utah. These two offerings will allow more people to attend-in response to sell-out crowds at the once-a-year prior offerings of this course-without sacrificing the intimate, tutorial size of the program.

For further information, please contact Gina Pugliese at the American Hospital Association. Telephone (312) 280-6404, Fax (312) 280-6012. Because enrollment is limited, please call soon.

SHEA Election Results

The results of the SHEA election for officers and councilors for 1993 as announced on April 12, 1992, in Baltimore, Maryland, at the SHEA business session during the annual SHEA scientific meeting are: Vice President (becomes President-elect in 1994 and President in 1995), Dr. Bryan F! Simmons; Secretary, Dr. Dale N. Gerding; and Councilors, Drs. Michael D Decker and H. Gunner Deery, II.

Congratulations!

HICPAC Holds First Meeting

The Hospital Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC), a 12-member group of experts formed to provide advice and guidance to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) on control of nosocomial infections, held its initial meeting at the CDC March 2-3, 1992. William L. Roper, Director, CDC, James M. Hughes, Director, National Center for Infectious Diseases (NCID), and William J. Mar-tone, Director, Hospital Infections Program (HIP), NCID, participated in the opening session.

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The committee's members were selected by Secretary of Health Louis W. Sullivan in July 1991 from experts in infectious diseases, nosocomial infections, epidemiology, public health, and related fields. The committee is charged with providing advice and guidance to the director, CDC, and the director, NCID, regarding strategies for surveillance, prevention, and control of nosocomial infections in US hospitals.

The two-day meeting included an overview of HIP activities and recent accomplishments, ongoing nosocomial infection problems of concern to HIP and historical perspectives of CDC guidelines for the prevention and control of nosocomial infections. Three CDC guidelines were scheduled for revision, including the guideline for prevention and control of nosocomial pnuemonia, the guideline for isolation precautions in hospitals, and the guideline for prevention of intravascular infections. The committee will meet again in December 1992.

The committee is composed of 11 public members and one federal member. Members serve for four-year overlapping terms. Dr. Walter H. Hierholzer, Jr., Yale-New Haven Hospital, is committee chair, and Julia S. Garner, HIP is executive secretary. Other committee members are Drs. Donald E. Craven, Boston City Hospital; David W. Fleming, Oregon Department of Human Resources; Susan W. Forlenza, Nassau County Medical School, New York; Donald A. Goldmann, Children's Hospital, Boston; Robert W. Haley, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas; John W. Maupin, Jr., Morehouse School of Medicine; C. Glen Mayhall, University of Tennessee, Memphis; Rita D. McCormick, University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics; Ronald L. Nichols, Tulane University School of Medicine; Christine C. Sanders, Creighton University School of Medicine; and Edward S. Wong, McGuire Veterans Affairs Hospitals, Richmond, Virginia. Management and support services will be provided by the HIP, NCID.

National Conference on Prevention of Device-Mediated Bloodborne Infections

The Centers for Disease Control, the Food and Drug Administration, and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration are sponsoring "Frontline Healthcare Worker: A National Conference on Device-Mediated Bloodbome Infections." This three-day conference will focus on sharps injuries and performance safety of medical devices and instruments; bring together device manufacturers and users/purchasers to facilitate understanding of needs and interventions pertaining to device-mediated infections; and facilitate private-sector initiatives for technology advancement, including the development of infection prevention devices and strategies.

The conference will be held August 17-19, 1992, in Washington DC. Information regarding conference fees and accommodations will be available from PACE Enterprises, Inc., Attn: Laura Timperio, 17 Executive Park Dr., Suite 200, Atlanta, GA 30329. Telephone (404) 633-8610; FAX ***(404) 633-8745.***

SHEA News and Newsletter Editor Search

The five-tear term of the current editor of the *Journal's SHEA* News and of the SHEA quarterly *Newsletter* expires in December 1992. The Publications Committee is anxious to receive names of individuals who wish to be considered as candidates for this position. SHEA members who are interested and those who would like to submit names of candidates should contact Dr. William Scheckler, Chair, Publications Committee, Department of Family Medicine and Practice, University of Wisconsin, 777 South Mills St., Madison, WI 53715. Telephone (608) *263-3637;* FAX (608) *263-5813*.

Brief items of interest for the SHEA News or Newsletter may be sent to Robert A. Weinstein, MD, SHEA, Newsletter Editor, Division of Infectious Diseases, Michael Reese Hospital, Lake Shore Drive at 31st St., Chicago, IL 60616; FM (312) 791-3577. Copy must be typed, doublespaced, and may not exceed five pages.

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