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SHEA News

THE SOCIETY FOR HEALTHCARE EPIDEMIOLOGY OF AMERICA

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Feedback on Current Topics for New SHEA Papers

In the past 3 years, SHEA has published position papers on quality indicators, *Clostridium difficile*- associated diarrhea and colitis, antimicrobial use and resistance in long-term-care facilities, prevention of antimicrobial resistance in hospitals, healthcare workers and bloodborne pathogens, and molecular strain typing methods. Dr. John Sellick, chair of the SHEA Publications Committee, seeks new ideas for position papers, as well as any concerns with respect to the continued relevance of any of the current ones listed. The SHEA Publications Committee also seeks feedback with anecdotes or data concerning the applications that have been found for these guidelines in the daily work of those who use them. Contact Dr. Sellick at the Division of Infectious Diseases, SUNY at Buffalo General Hospital, 100 High St, Buffalo, NY 14203; fax (716) 859-1491; e-mail jsellick@acsu.buffalo.edu.

Pre-Meeting Workshops at SHEA Eighth Annual Meeting

The Eighth Annual SHEA Scientific Meeting is scheduled to take place at the Hilton Walt Disney World Village in Orlando, Florida, April 5-7. Four pre-meeting workshops (for which separate registration is required) are planned for April 4. These will cover the following topics: Compliance with New JCAHO Performance Measurement Requirements (ORYX) for Accreditation, DNA Typing Techniques in Infection Control, Infection Control Problem Solving in Long-Term-Care Facilities, and Antimicrobial Control Problems. The brochure for the meeting will be available soon on the SHEA Web site: http://www.medscape.com/shea. More information and copies of the brochure may be obtained from SHEA headquarters (see shaded box).

SHEA Headquarters Has Moved

The business and membership issues for SHEA are managed by the Talley Management Group. With the growth of SHEA, Talley has outgrown its original location in Woodbury, New jersey, and has moved to 19 Mantua Rd, Mt Royal, New Jersey. The new telephone number for SHEA-related business is 609-423-0087; the new fax number is 609-423-3420.

Brief items of interest for the SHEA News or 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.

Stethoscopes and the Transmission of Pathogens

Readers of ICHE may have seen an article published in the April issue of *Archives of Internal Medicine* detailing bacteria1 contamination of randomly selected stethoscopes from which cultures were obtained. In this era of increased frequency of patients identified as requiring contact isolation for MRSA and VRE, there no doubt is a much larger reservoir of patients colonized, but not identified, as carrying these same pathogens. In December 1996, the AMA House of Delegates adopted a resolution that called for the AMA to "advocate that healthcare providers frequently clean their stethoscopes. . . to minimize the potential risk of nosocomial infection." The AMA recently asked SHEA for assistance with recommendations that could be disseminated to physicians on cleaning of stethoscopes. Dr. Rebecca Wurtz, hospital epidemiologist at Evanston (Illinois) Hospital, is assisting Dr. Bob Weinstein, SHEA president, in coordinating a response to the AMA Advice from SHEA members and readers of SHEA News should be sent to Dr. Wurtz at Evanston Hospital, 2650 Ridge Ave, Evanston, IL. 60201; fax, 847-657-5764; telephone, 847-657-5959; e-mail, rmw390@anima.nums.nwu.edu.

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SHEA

The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America

1998 SHEA/IHI
Improving Healthcare Through Clinical Epidemiology and Quality Improvement

Program

The second collaboratively sponsored course by SHEA and the Institute for Healthcare Improvement is scheduled to take place at the Marina Beach Marriott, February 7-9, 1998. Topics will include the role of quality improvement in contemporary healthcare, applying clinical epidemiology to prevention and control of adverse events (such as nosocomial infections and medication errors), using total quality management and statistical process control to improve surgical outcomes and reduce practice variation, improving meetings in real time, investigating special cause problems and outbreaks, measuring patient opinions, outcomes and reduce practice variation measurement and report cards, clinical decision aids and practice guidelines, measuring appropriateness of care, choosing and implementing a major healthcare improvement initiative, and data systems to support improvement. The course will prepare the participant to apply basic epidemiology, outcome measurment and quality improvement in their healthcare environment.

Who Should Attend

Both quality improvement and clinical epidemiology can provide healthcare professionals with powerful techniques to analyze and improve processes and outcomes of care. Unfortunately, individuals involved in improving care generally are not knowledgeable in both of these fields. This course will use lectures, interactive seminars, interactive storyboards, and hands-on problem solving exercises to teach participants specific QI statistical process control and epidemiology techniques, and will demonstrate how these tools can be used synergistically to improve infection control and other healthcare systems.

General Course Information

Information regarding the schedule, hotel and travel accommodations, discount airfare, and course fees are available from SHEA (609) 423-3195.

Funds provided by an educational grant from Bayer Pharmaceutical.

Bayer

Pharmaceutical Division

1998 SHEA/CDC
Training Course in Hospital Epidemiology

Program

The program will be held May 16-19, 1998 at the Dmni Inner Harbor Hotel in Baltimore, Maryland. Timothy W. Lane, M.D., William R. Jarvis, M.D., and Gina Pugliese. RN., MS., will co-chair the program. This program, developed by the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), is intended for infectious disease fellows and new hospital epidemiologists. It emphasizes hands-on exercises in which participants work in small groups to detect, investigate, and control epidemiological problems encountered in the hospital setting. These work sessions are supplemented with lectures and seminars covering fundamental aspects of hospital epidemiology and surveillance, epidemic investigation, transmission and control of nosocomial infections, disinfection and sterilization, employee health, isolation systems, regulatory compliance, and quality improvement.

Who Should Attend

You should attend if you are a hospital epidemiologist or an infection control practitioner or if you are looking for a course that will provide you with the most current information concerning infection control practices and epidemiological methods in health care. This fundamental program will provide you with opportunities to find solutions to real situations that will occur in the hospital setting. Intensive problem solving sessions are supplemented with lectures and seminars presented by leading authorities.

Scholarships

Scholarships in the amount of $1,000 will be awarded to up to seven infectious disease fellows for the program to defray the special course fee for fellows of $350 and expenses incurred in attending the training program.

Interested fellows must submit a letter of no more than one page describing why they would like to have additional training in hospital epidemiology. A letter from the fellow's program director outlining the applicant's qualifications and suitability for the course also is required. The deadline for receipt of scholarship applications for the course is April 1, 1998.

The SHEA Educational Activities Committee will select the scholarship recipients based on review of these letters. Winners will be notified in April.

Nominations

Please send scholarship applications to:

Timothy W. Lane, M.D.
c/o The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America
19 Mantua Road
Mt. Royal, NJ 08061

Fees

Individual Registrants	$495
Fellows in Infectious Disease	$350

Credits

The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA) is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to sponsor continuing medical education for physicians.

The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America designates this continuing education activity for up to 23 hours in Category 1 of the Physician's Recognition Award of the American Medical Association.

General Course Information

Information regarding the schedule, hotel and travel accommodations, discount airfare, and course fees are available from SHEA (609) 423-7222. Note that application for a scholarship does not constitute enrollment in the program. This must be done separately.

Scholarship Awards provided in part by an educational grant from Pfizer Pharmaceuticals.

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