EDITED BY ROBERTA. WEINSTEIN, MD

SHEA News

THE SOCIETY FOR HOSPITAL EPIDEMIOLOGY OF AMERICA

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Last Chance to Sign Up for SHEA/CDC/AHA Course

Or are you an infection control practitioner in search of acedemic stimulation? Are you an infectious disease fellow who needs to learn more about hosptial epidemiology? Are you an infectious disease program director who would like to respond to ACGME suggestions for increased infection control education of your trainees? Are you a newly appointed hospital infection control committee chair?

If you fit into any of these categories, then do we have a deal for you-the SHEA/CDC/AHA Hospital Epidemiology Training Course. Organized and taught by representatives from the most influential infection control organizations in the country, this course will be offered once more in 1992: November 19-22 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

For more information, contact Gina Pugliese at the American Hospital Association as soon as possible. Telephone (312) *280-6404;*FAX **(312)** 280-6012.

SHEA Testifies Before Illinois EPA

The following report was prepared by John H. Keene, DrPH, Midlothian, Virginia.

SHEA is recognized as an organization that is seriously involved in the scientific evaluation of medical waste regulations and is being asked to provide regulators with realistic, practical input. As an example, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) currently is involved in hearings with the Illinois Pollution Control (IPC) Board over the development of regulations on medical waste treatment. Testimony had been provided at the hearing that indicated that the proposed regulations did not provide appropriate protection for the public. In July 1992, Dr. C. Glen Mayhall was contacted by the IEPA with a request that SHEA provide expert testimony on the appropriateness of the proposed regulations. Dr. Mayhall requested that I prepare a document providing SHEA's response to the IEPA and appear before the IPC Board to present this information. My written testimony was reviewed by the SHEA Executive Board and forwarded to the IEPA; I appeared on behalf of SHEA at the IPC Board meeting. A synopsis of my testimony will appear in the *SHEA Newsletter.*

There is no sound scientific evidence that medical waste disposal constitutes any increased public health problem. However, we must recognize that the public perception of medical waste will lead to more laws drafted and regulations promulgated regarding handling, treatment, and disposal of this waste. SHEA's testimony was well received by the IEPA, which is trying to develop reasonable medical waste treatment regulations and is interested in allowing appropriate alternative treatment technologies to be used for this process. It is important for us to continue to offer assistance to other agencies involved in medical waste regulation to ensure the promulgation of reasonable regulations. Our continued involvement in the medical waste issue may provide some semblance of reason in an otherwise misguided and technically barren arena.

New Newspage/Newsletter Editor Appointed

Dr. C. Glen Mayhall, past president of SHEA, has been selected from an outstanding list of candidates to succeed Dr. Robert A. Weinstein as the Newsletter and *SHEA* News editor. Dr. Mayhall's appointment begins January 1, 1993, and is for a three-year term; the appointment is renewable. Congratulations!

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0899823X0008908X Published online by Cambridge University Press