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SHEA News

THE SOCIETY FOR HEALTHCARE EPIDEMIOLOGY OF AMERICA

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Crisis in Antibiotic Resistance CQI Projects

With the increased interest of SHEA's members in quality improvement initiatives, the collaboration of the Juran Institute with the Institute for Health Care Improvement in an international total quality management/continuous quality improvement study on issues related to the crisis of antibiotic resistance in hospitals is timely.

The intent of the study is to uncover strategies to reduce the selection and transmission of antibiotic resistant organisms in hospitals. Hospitals wanting to participate in the study will be asked to establish a clinical improvement project that addresses inappropriate antibiotic use or nosocomial transmission of antibiotic-resistant organisms. Project progress and results will be centrally tracked during the study, and team results will be shared at a summary congress slated for the first quarter of 1996.

Applications received by January 12, 1995, and accompanied by the $1,895 participation fee will provide a single pass to the briefing symposium scheduled for January 12, 1995, in Boston, as well as two passes to the planned summary congress in 1996. Other benefits to the participants in this collaborative study, according to the sponsor, would be central process tracking, data collection and analysis, and mentor networks in quality management and epidemiology. Plans also include provision of coaching as needed and development of a networking vehicle between participating hospitals.

Drs. Donald Goldmann and Donald Berwick have been involved with the planning of this collaborative project. For further details or application forms, call Sally Archer at the Juran Institute, (800) 338-7726.

State Liaison Reports

One of the most important developments for SHEA in 1994 was the establishment of the State Liaison Project. A liaison has been appointed for each of 48 states and an Alternate Liaison will also be appointed for each of these states. The first organizational meeting for state liaisons was held at the SHEA Annual Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, earlier this year. More than 30 liaisons and board members attended this first meeting. Nine topics were selected for the agenda for this meeting: goals and guidelines (handbook) for liaisons to follow; how to organize and structure the liaison group; how to introduce SHEA state liaisons to state elected officials and state agencies and boards; collaboration with Association for Practitioners in Infection Control and IDSA at the state level; identification and organization of epidemiologists at the state level; SHEA collaborative epidemiology projects at the state level (eg, antibiotic susceptibility data gathering and analysis); increasing SHEA membership by state level activities; naming alternate state liaisons; and setting a budget for state liaison activities.

After this first meeting, a steering committee was formed. The steering committee met in Orlando in October 1994 during Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy. During this meeting, several goals were set for the State Liaison Project: enhancing awareness of SHEA at the local level; promoting communication among SHEA members, state health departments, and legislators; achieving rapid and wider dissemination of SHEA positions to members; developing an "early warning system" for outbreaks, trends (eg, vancomycin-resistant enterococci), and legislative efforts allowing SHEA to develop intelligent responses through state liaisons and members (such as Dr. William Scheckler's work on the Maryland indicators); and developing a computer network (a "SHEA Forum," perhaps) for members and liaisons.

The steering committee is interested in learning about all of the efforts being made by SHEA members at the state level. Members and liaisons are invited to write to Dr. August Valenti (Maine Medical Center, 22 Bramhall St., Portland, ME 04102) so that some of these efforts can be brought up at the next meeting and reported to the board. The editors of *SHEA News* invite state liaisons and other SHEA members to submit reports on their liaison activities at the state level for publication in *SHEA News* under the heading State Liaison Reports.

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For application and information contact:

Dr. David Schottenfeld or
Jody Gray, Administrative Coordinator

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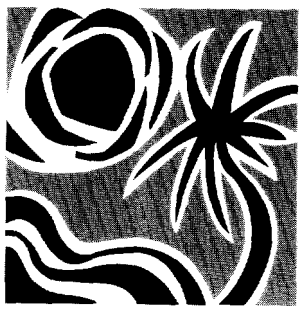
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EARLY REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MARCH IO, 1995

The Fifth Annual Meeting of

SHEA

The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America



APRIL 2-4, 1995
THE TOWN & COUNTRY HOTEL, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

15.5 hours of Category l/AMA Credit

For Preliminary Program and Registration Information, please contact SHEA at 609-845-l 720 or fax 609-853-0411

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For further information please contact SHEA Meetings Department, 875 Rings Highway, Suite 200, Woodbury, NJ 080963172 U.S.A. Tel. (609) 845-l 720; Fax (609) 853-0411.

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