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SHEA News

THE SOCIETY FOR HEALTHCARE EPIDEMIOLOGY OF AMERICA

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SHEA 1997 Election Results

The 1997 ballots have been counted and certified by SHEA Secretary Lindsay Nicolle.

The new officers elected will begin their terms of service in calendar year 1998. Dale Gerding, MD, will be the next Vice-President (to succeed the current Vice-President, John Boyce, MD, who becomes SHEA's 1998 President-Elect). Loreen Herwaldt, MD, will succeed Alan Hartstein, MD, as Treasurer. Leonard Mermel, MD, has been elected to serve as Academic Councilor, replacing Barry Farr, MD. Donald Graham, MD, has been elected as Practice Councilor, to succeed Martha Tanner, MD. These newly elected individuals, with Drs. Robert Weinstein, Eli Abrutyn, John Boyce, Lindsay Nicolle, Rebecca Wurtz, and Victoria Fraser, will constitute the Board of Directors for SHEA as of January 1, 1998.

Proposed Patient Safety Act

A bill reintroduced this spring in the House of Representatives (HR 1165) with the misleading name of the Patient Safety Act would, among its provisions, mandate public disclosure of hospital infection rates and nursing staffing and composition ratios. SHEA's Project to Monitor Indicators recently demonstrated the unreliability of interhospital comparisons based on outcomes measured with different indicator systems. Extensive detail on this proposed legislation is available electronically from SHEA at headquarters@shea.smarthub.com, which could be useful to those who are willing to attempt to educate their Congressional Representatives on this issue.

SHEA to Facilitate CDC Guidelines Publication Project

SHEA has agreed to work with ETNA Publications to make available for sale in a single volume 11 current CDC infection control guidelines. These guidelines cover the following areas: handwashing-environmental control, personnel health, isolation practices, surgical-wound infection prevention, nosocomial pneumonia, intravenous infections, tuberculosis transmission, urinary tract infection, vancomycin-resistant *Enterococcus,* HIV prophylaxis, and prevention of HIV/HBV transmission during exposure-prone procedures. (See ad on this page for pricing and ordering details.)



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.

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