SHEA Newsletter

Edited by Robert A. Weinstein, MD

The Society of Hospital Epidemiologists of America

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SHEA National Meeting a Hit

Our first official, national scientific meeting, "Hospital Epidemiology: New Challenges and Controversies," was held March 10-12 in Baltimore. The meeting, cosponsored by SHEA and the *Journal*, was a resounding educational and scientific success. Clearly, two "thumbs up" were accorded by the delighted audience.

Meeting attendance topped the 300 mark, with participants coming from as far away as the United Kingdom, India, and Japan. Despite the balmy early spring weather and the sightseeing-packed venue of Baltimore's charming Inner Harbor area, our meeting hall was full for *every* session—up through the final presentations Sunday morning. Such a level of interest in a scientific meeting is probably unparalleled in recent history.

The 30-person faculty provided information, data, and opinions that were virtually up-to-the-minute. The postpresentation question-and-answer sessions were especially lively, and the extremely well-informed audience members never seemed to tire of collegially quizzing the speakers and sharing their own insights and new information.

The Poster Session included 22 abstracts and posters, which were well displayed and heavily viewed.

The triumphant Program Committee (Ms. Bolyard and Drs. Garibaldi, Hierholzer, Schaffner, Townsend, and Wenzel) and the session chairmen plan to publish a summary of the meeting's scientific sessions in the *Journal* later this year.

The National Meeting Evaluation Committee (Drs. Schaberg, Mayhall, Garibaldi, and Townsend) will be evaluating the written comments of the meeting attendees and will make recommendations regarding subsequent national scientific offerings by the Society.

Nominating Committee Appointed

A nominating committee (Dr. Murray Batt, chair, with members Drs. Frank Check, Jr.; Kenrad Nelson; Frank Rhame; and Michael Tapper) has been appointed by Dr. Hierholzer to prepare a slate for the fall SHEA elections. Candidates will be named for the positions of Vice-President and Secretary as well as for two councilor positions. SHEA members who wish to suggest candidates for nomination should submit those suggestions in writing by May 19, 1989 to Murray

Please send me an application form and information about membership in The Society of Hospital Epidemiologists of America (SHEA). (Eligibility for membership requires a doctoral degree and either activity in hospital epidemiology or current participation in a training program in this field.)

My address is:
(Please print) _____

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Mail this request to Timothy R. Townsend, MD, SHEA Secretary, Brady 119, Johns Hopkins Hospital, 600 N. Wolfe St., Baltimore, MD 21205.

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Batt, MD, Department of Medicine, Lutheran General Hospital, 1775 Dempster Street, Park Ridge, IL, 60068.

Hospital Infection Director—CDC

William J. Martone, MD, has been promoted from the position of Acting Director to Director, Hospital Infections Program of the Center for Infectious Diseases at the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta.

Nosocomial Sessions at Upcoming ASM Meetings

Division L (Nosocomial Infections) of the American Society for Microbiology (ASM) has an active agenda planned for the annual ASM meeting, May 14-18, 1989, in New Orleans. The outgoing Division L chairman, David Shlaes, MD, and the 1989 chairman, Glen Mayhall, MD, encourage their SHEA colleagues to attend this excellent and exciting meeting.

Division L will sponsor six seminars, two poster sessions, and one slide session. The seminars are: 1) *Clostridium difficile* Infections: New Lessons from Bacterial Typing Systems; 2) Computerized Information Systems and Hospital Epidemiology; 3) Current Concepts in Biosafety; 4) Rapidly Growing Non-Tuberculous Mycobacteria; 5) Surgical Wound Infection Update: Epidemiology, Pathogenesis, and Prevention; and 6) Antibiotic Resistance. There will be a slide presentation on "Molecular Markers for Hospital-Acquired Microorganisms," and poster sessions on "Hospital Outbreaks of Nosocomial Pathogens" and "Surveillance, Cost, and Prevention of Nosocomial Infections." The Division L speaker will be Richard Wenzel, MD, who will present "New Frontiers for Hospital Epidemiology: Assuring Quality Care."

Division L currently has 450 members. A meeting for division members will be held in New Orleans on Wednesday, May 17, at noon. Please consult the ASM schedule for location.

Infection Control Meeting—China

The Chinese Association of Preventive Medicine will sponsor the founding meeting of its Society of Nosocomial Infection Control. This momentus event will be held in Changsha City, Hunan Province this summer.

The meeting will include scientific presentations and will be followed by a training course in nosocomial infection surveillance and control. More information may be obtained from Professor Wang Shuqun, Department of Epidemiology, 3 Yabao Road, Chaoyang District, Beijing, PR China.

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