SHEA Newsletter

Edited by Robert A. Weinstein, MD

The Society of Hospital Epidemiologists of America

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Presidential Priorities

WC are now more than four months into the year probably six months by the time this message is published It is time for me to outline my priorities for my term as president:

1. We wilt continue to develop new educational forums in which our members and others interested in hospital epidemiology might participate. The purpose of‘ these programs wilt be to communicate new ideas discuss controversial issues, and provide, guidance for the practice of‘ hospital epidemiology
   a. A training course, co-sponsored by SHEA and the Centers I&-Disease Control (CDC), will be inaugurated this year (see notice below). This course is &signed to provide new chairpersons of infection control committees and infectious disease fellows with the fundamentals of‘ hospital epidemiology and an approach to infectIon control. We anticipate that this program will be an annual offering.
   b. We have now finalized plans for a two and one-half clay international conference on controversial issues in hospital epidemiology. This conference wilt he cosponsored by SHEA and *InfectionControl and Hospital Epidemiology*. It wilt be held in Baltimore, Maryland on March 10, 11, and 12, 1989 and will feature theme days on AIDS, the expanded role of hospital epidemiology, and infection control.
   c. SHEA will continue to support selected local and regional programs in hospital epidemiology. We will work with the Infectious Diseases Society of‘ America (IDSA) to provide epidemiologic expertise in their educational undertakings.
   d. We will also maintain ‘involvement in international efforts to improve infection control worldwide.
2. SHEA will provide expertise and leadership in developing policies on issues that address the concerns of hospital epidemiology.
   a. Members will represent the Society and work with organizations such as the CDC, IDSA, the American Hospital Association, the Joint Commission on Accreditation of‘ Healthcare Organizations, the Association for Practitioners in Infection Control AAP, and SIS to define solutions for epidemiologic problems
   b. We have recharged the SHEA/APIC AIDS Task Force to be proactive in providing epidemiologic leadership on issues relating to this disease. For example, we participated in the recent CDC meeting to reassess guidelines for universal precautions.
   c. The Severity of‘ Illness Working Group will maintain a close working relation with the Joint Commission as they develop

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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severity modifiers to diagnostic-related groups and begin clinical studies to measure the quality ot patient care. (Look for an article in the July issue of the journal, by **the** Severity of Illness Working Group describing case-mix adjusters.)

3. We will continue our efforts t o enroll **as** many members into SHEA as possible, given our eligibility requirements.
   a. We will provide our members with tltc journal, educational programs, peer support, and other appropriate forums to attract their continued involvement in the Society.
   b. We will encourage new members from the ranks of' infectious disease fellows and chairpersons of' infection control committees t o join SHEA, receive our journal, and participate itt our educational offerings.
4. We will attempt to improve the financial base and stability of' the Society.
   a. We will evaluate the impact of our present dues structure and journal affiliation on membership enrollment and revenues.
   b. We will develop educational programs, such as the international conference, which have tltr potential to generate revenue for the Society.
   c. We will consider the pros and cons of' soliciting grant support from industry for selected societal projects.
5. Finally, we will begin to prepare for t h e future. Past, present, and future presidents of the Society will ttteet to delineate priorities and list specific goals for the next five years.

Richard A. Garibaldi, MD
SHEA President
Farmington, Connecticut

SHEA-CDC Training Course

The SHEA-CDC training program for new hospital epidemiologists and for infectious disease fellows interested in careers in infection control and hospital epidemiology (see February SHEA news) will have a pilot course August 11-13 1988 in Atlanta, Georgia. Because this is a pilot course, enrollment will be limited to approximately 20 students and the course fee will be waived. Individuals interested in attending should contact Allen B. Kaiser, MD, Chief, Department of Medicine, St. Thomas Hospital, PO Box 380, Nashville, TN 37202.

Joint Commission Revising Infection Control Standards

The Joint Commission is in the process of revising the "Infection Control" chapter of' the *Accreditation Manual for Hospitals*. An advisory group of experts on infection control, including representatives from SHEA, is reviewing and critiquing drafts of the revised standards developed by the Joint Commission staff. The product of this developmental process will be submitted for field review by 3000 to 5000 individuals and organizations. Any SHEA members interested in participating in the field review should *write* Carole Patterson, Department of Standards, Joint Commission on Accreditation of' Healthcare Organizations, 875 North Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60611.

Personnel Changes at CDC

James M. Hughes, MD, Director of the Hospital Infections Program, Centers for Disease Control, has been promoted to Deputy Director, Center for Infectious Diseases, CDC. William J. Martone, MD, has been appointed Acting Director, Hospital Infections Program.

Brief items of interest for the SHEA Newsletter may be sent to Robert A. Weinstein, MD, SHEA Newsletter Editor, Division of Infectious Diseases, Michael Reese Hospital, Lake Shore Drive at 31st St., Chicago, IL 60616. Copy must be typed, double-spaced, and may not exceed five pages.

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