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Third Decennial International Conference on Nosocomial Infections

Preventing Nosocomial Infections: Progress in the 80's, Plans for the 90's, was held July 31-August 3, 1990, in Atlanta, Georgia. This Third Decennial International Conference was sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases and attracted well over 1,500 attendees from 30 countries.

There were 99 oral presentations and 174 poster presentations, selected from over 400 submissions. The topics ranged from methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* and aminoglycoside-resistant enterococci to measures of intrinsic patient risk, particularly in the surgical setting. The use of nosocomial infections as a generic quality screen by PROs in Ohio was a lively topic of discussion. Clearly, infection control practitioners will need to be involved more directly when nosocomial infections are used as a PRO quality indicator.

The Third Decennial Conference also provided a forum for the National Nosocomial Infection Surveillance System to demonstrate the usefulness of data it collected with its intensive care unit, high-risk nursery and surgical patient components from 1986 through 1990. This was the first time that this data, which included more specific denominator information, had been presented.

The conference also featured a "late breakers" session at which a number of "hot" items were discussed, including the July 27, 1990 *MMWR* report on possible transmission of human immunodeficiency virus to a patient during an invasive dental procedure.

SHEA Luncheon, Business Meeting and Lecture

The SHEA annual luncheon, business meeting and lecture will be held in Atlanta, Tuesday, October 23, 1990, during the week of the Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy. The luncheon will be held at the Omni International Hotel, from 12 noon until 1:30 PM, with on-site registration beginning at 11 AM. John V. Bennett, MD, Director for Scientific Affairs, Task Force for Child Survival, Jimmy Carter Presidential Center, Atlanta, will speak on "Infection Control-A Personal Transition From the Hospital to the Community."

SHEA Board Meeting

The SHEA Board met Tuesday, July 31 in Atlanta during the Third International Conference on Nosocomial Infections.

Dr. William Scheckler, Chairman, Publications Committee, reported on the status of negotiations with journal publishers. The final Publication Committee report will be made at the annual meeting.

Dr. Glen Mayhall reported that he has interviewed a number of potential management firms and has narrowed the field to three choices, which he will be reviewing in more detail. He will make a final recommendation at the next SHEA Board meeting in October. He noted that, in addition to the usual dues collection and office functions, the management firm would help in planning an annual scientific meeting.

Dr. Goldmann noted that the 1990 SHEA/CDC course at Coconut Grove, Florida went swimmingly. With each presentation, the course continues to improve. Negotiations are currently underway for the next course offering, which is tentatively set for May 1991, in Chicago, under the cosponsorship of SHEA, CDC, and the American Hospital Association. Because of the enthusiastic physician interest in the course, the number of spots for attendees

https://doi.org/10.1086/646219 Published online by Cambridge University Press

will be increased to approximately 100.

Reporting for the Position Paper Committee, Dr. Henderson noted that the draft on the HIV-infected healthcare worker was coming to completion. Dr. Mayhall also noted that groups are working currently on a hazardous waste report and a surgical wound surveillance report.

The Board discussed in detail an issue raised by Dr. Jeffrey Band concerning PRO and Health Care Financing Administration (HFCA) use of nosocomial infections as a generic quality screen. Board members were assigned to review this issue with HFCA. SHEA members who have had specific problems with overzealous use of nosocomial infections as quality monitors, should contact the SHEA secretary, Dr. William Mar-tone.

The next meeting of the SHEA Board will be in October during the Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy.

ASM-Division L

The Nosocomial Infections Division (Division L) of the American Society for Microbiology has 522 members according to the 1989 Annual Report, issued July 1990. This represents an 18% growth in the Division L membership; an 8% growth was noted in the report for overall ASM membership. The current Division L officers are William R. Jarvis, Chair and Brian P. Simmons, Chair-elect. The Division L representative to the ASM council is Bruce Hamory. This year's annual ASM meeting will be held May 5-9, 1991, in Dallas, Texas.

International Congress on Sepsis

The Second International Congress on Immune Consequence of Trauma, Shock, and Sepsis: Mechanisms and Therapeutic Approaches will be held March 6-9, 1991 in Munich, West Germany.

This congress will provide a multidisciplinary look at basic and clinical research into these issues. Components of the host defense system will be reviewed and insights into the onset and sequence of cellular events surrounding the septic syndrome will be detailed. There will be a number of topics of interest to infection control physicians including bacterial translocation, interactions of host defense in healing, modification of the inflammatory response, and various aspects of the complex theme of immunoenhancement as a therapeutic strategy.

Individuals wishing to obtain abstract forms or conference registration materials should write Congress Organization AfF, Handelstrasse 1, 8000 Munchen 80, West Germany.

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, doublespaced and may not exceed five pages.

Membership Application Inquiry:

Mail to: Secretary
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Epidemiologists of America
c/o Slack, Incorporated
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NAME: _____
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