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SHEA News

THE SOCIETY FOR HEALTHCARE EPIDEMIOLOGY OF AMERICA

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Hospital Infection Society Meeting

The Hospital Infection Society ([HIS] United Kingdom), publisher of the *Journal of Hospital Infection,* now has a web site. Details about the upcoming conference "Effective Infection Control: Ahead of Change," September 13-17, 1998, Edinburgh, Scotland, are available at <http://www.his.org.uk>. To sign up for the HIS discussion group, send an e-mail to <majordomo@his.org.uk> with the request 'subscribe his-l' (without the quotes).

38th ICAAC

Details about the American Society for Microbiology (ASM)'s 38th ICAAC are available on their web site at <http://www.asmusa.org>. The conference will be held September 24-27, in San Diego, California. Information about the meeting also can be obtained by e-mailing to <meetingsinfo@asmusa.org>. SHEA will collaborate with ASM by cosponsoring the session "More and More Vancomycin Resis-tance." ASM expects to have 36 symposia, 50 slide sessions, 1,500 posters, and 175 exhibitors at this meeting, which will be opened with the customary state-of-the-art AIDS session.

36th Annual Meeting of IDSA

The Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA)'s second stand-alone annual meeting will include 22 symposia, 20 Meet-the-Professor sessions, plenary sessions, clinical-case interactive sessions, as well as slide and poster sessions. The meeting will be held November 12-18, 1998, in Denver, Colorado. SHEA and several other of IDSA's sister societies also will have collaborative programming at this meeting. CME credit for the scientific aspects of this meeting will be available to physicians based on an arrangement that SHEA has made with IDSA. Further information is available on the IDSA web site at <http://www.idsociety.org>.

Reminder

SHEA, APIC, NFID, and CDC are cosponsoring a 2+ hour interactive video-teleconference, "Antimicrobial Use and Resistance" twice, on Thursday, August 20, 1998, beginning at 9:00 AM EDT and 1:00 PM EDT. More information is available from the CDC fax line at 888-232-3299, document #130018.

SHEA invites interested individuals who wish to be considered for the next 3 year's term, beginning with the January, 1999 issues, as editor of the SHEA News page and *SHEA Newsletter* to submit a letter of interest and relevant experience to John Sellick, DO, Chair of SHEA's Publications committee at 152 Crosby Blvd, Amherst NY 14226, or by e-mail at <jsellick@acsu.buffalo.edu>.

SHEA Comments to HCFA About Hospital-Based Performance Measures

SHEA's president and its Performance Improvement Com-mittee recently authored a thoughtful letter to the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), stimulated by the recent *Federal Register* publication of a proposed rule on Hospital Conditions of Participation (COP); Provider Agreements and Supplier Approval for Medicare and Medicaid Programs (42 CFR Part 416, 482, and 485).

SHEA's general comments expressed satisfaction that, ". . . HCFA has decided *not* to include in the hospital COPs any requirements for hospitals to collect and report standard data items (eg, nosocomial infection rates, medication errors), that HCFA states "could provide quality care predictors in the future," because ". . . at this time . . . of the lack of any current consensus or science that could establish a reliable and valid set of measures."

The full contents of this letter are available to those who would like more information on SHEA's current stance on hospital-based performance-measurement systems, on the SHEA Web Site at <http://www.medscape.com/SHEA>.

Brief items of interest for the SHEA News or SHEA Newsletter may be sent to Murray D. Batt, MD, SHEA News Editor, United Hospital Center, PO Box 1680, Clarksburg, WA 26302-1680; fax 304-624-2909; e-mail <battm@uhcwv.org>.

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