SHEA Newsletter

Edited by Robert A. Weinstein, MD

The Society of Hospital Epidemiologists of America

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Annual SHEA Meeting

The SHEA luncheon was held Monday, September 18 in Houston, Texas, in conjunction with the Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy (ICAAC). The business portion of the meeting included reports from the secretary, treasurer and president.

Tim Townsend, MD, secretary, reported that 73 individuals have joined SHEA since the last business meeting. He also announced the results of the election for the 1990 officers. John Burke, MD, was elected vice-president, William Martone, MD, was elected secretary and David Henderson, MD, and Michael Tapper, MD, were elected councilors. The by-law amendment regarding indemnification was approved.

Bruce Hamory, MD, treasurer, reported that the budget remains balanced.

Walter Hierholzer, MD, president, noted that the first national meeting cosponsored with *Infection Control und Hospital Epidemiology* had been a huge academic success. The conference had over 300 attendees, had paid for itself and received very positive comments. A subgroup of the board has evaluated the national meeting and is discussing a date for the next national meeting, probably in 1991 or 1992.

The second SHEA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) course for Infectious Disease fellows and Hospital Epidemiologists had been held in March in Atlanta. Because there had been so many applications (60 for the 30 positions) enrollment had been extended to 36. The Education Committee and course planners are currently formalizing the content of the course, upgrading the handouts, reviewing the basic epidemiologic concepts section format and considering a variety of sites for the next course offerings.

Dr. Hierholzer noted the function of the Resource Committee, headed by Richard Garibaldi, MD, and asked any members of SHEA who might have industry contacts to get in touch with Dr. Garibaldi.

The Position Paper Committee, chaired by Glen Mayhall, MD, prepared a formal SHEA response to recent Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) proposals (see "SHEA Newsletter," October 1989) and is involved in an ongoing joint effort with the Association for Practitioners in Infection Control (APIC) to produce a position paper on the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS)-infected healthcare worker. The Committee is also developing position papers on medical waste and surgical wound surveillance. Members interested in contributing should contact Dr. Mayhall.

The Education Committee is assisting the Pan American Health Organization in developing and presenting a course on infection control for member countries. This meeting will be held in Washington, D.C., December 11-15, 1989.

SHEA is cosponsoring the Fourth Annual National Forum on AIDS and Hepatitis B, November 19-21, at the Washington, D.C. Hilton with the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases. Several members of SHEA are also involved in helping plan the CDC's Third International Conference on Nosocomial Infections, planned for July 31-August 3, 1990 in Atlanta.

With a grant from Merck, Sharp and Dohme, the SHEA board is having a long-term Strategic Planning meeting in January. The meeting will be conducted by a trained facilitator. Dr. Hierholzer noted that the Society is a a critical juncture and urged members who have specific ideas regarding long-term planning for SHEA to contact either him or Dennis Maki, the incoming president.

Paul Glezen, who discussed influenza in the hospital, followed the business portion of the luncheon.

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