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SHEA News

THE SOCIETY FOR HEALTHCARE EPIDEMIOLOGY OF AMERICA

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Interested in Being on SHEA's Speakers' Bureau?

SHEA's Organizational Liaison Subcommittee would like to offer a list of speakers on healthcare epidemiology topics to 30 liaison organizations that share areas of interest with SHEA. The goal of the speakers' bureau is to promote SHEA and to share the expertise of its members on hospital epidemiology issues of mutual concern. Speakers would be responsible for negotiating their own honorarium and expenses.

If you have a special interest or expertise in a specific hospital or healthcare epidemiology topic and would like to be included in SHEA's speakers bureau, please respond by February 3. Send your name, title, organization's name, address, telephone and fax numbers, and e-mail address to Gina Pugliese, RN, MS, Chair, SHEA Organizational Liaison Subcommittee, 1300 W Belmont Ave, Suite 205, Chicago, IL 60657; voice, 773-880-1354; fax, 773-883-5399; e-mail: gpugliese@aol.com.

Changing of the Guard

Thanks to Robert Weinstein, MD, former president of SHEA, for his service as 1997 president. Term of service for the SHEA president is 1 year. A continuum of leadership is assured by the process of elevating SHEA's vice-president to president-elect and the president-elect to president. Elias Abrutyn, MD, Medical College of Pennsylvania, is SHEA President for 1998, and John M. Boyce, MD, Brown University is President-Elect.

Reminder: SHEA Home Page Available on Net

Those wanting the most up-to-date SHEA news can find it on the Internet at http://www.medscape.com/SHEA. In addition to special notices and news, additional topics are organized under the headings "Background & Mission Statement," "Membership Information" (an application can be downloaded), "Annual Meeting Information" (the meeting brochure can be downloaded with Acrobat Reader), "SHEA Officers, Board Members, Committee Chairs, and Management," "Journals and Other Publications," "SHEA Courses" (Hospital Epidemiology and Improving Healthcare Through Clinical Epidemiology and Quality Improvement). There also are useful links to additional sources of epidemiology information. The page is provided by Medscape at no charge and is managed by Dr. John Sellick, Chair of the SHEA Publications Committee.

Update on Comment Period for OSHA's TB Standard

The comment period for the OSHA proposed rule on occupational exposure to tuberculosis (published in the *Federal Register* on October 17, 1997) has been extended by 60 days. The new deadline for written comments and notices of intent to appear at a public hearing is February 17, 1998; the deadline for written testimony and documentary evidence is February 27, 1998.

The public hearings are planned to begin in Washington, DC, on April 7, 1998. Subsequent hearings in May and June likely will be in Los Angeles, Chicago, and New York City.

As mentioned in the December 1997 SHEA News, Dr. Michael Tapper, Chair of SHEA's AIDS/TB Committee, is preparing a SHEA response to OSHA on the proposed standard. He can be reached by e-mail, mtapperd@aol.com, or fax, 212-434-2574. The number of individual responses on issues, such as the need for yearly fit-testing, is believed to influence the OSHA decision-making process.

Brief items of interest for the SHEA News or Newsletter may be sent to Murray D. Batt, MD, SHEA News Editor, Washoe Medical Center, 77 Pringle Way, Reno, NV 89520; fax (702) 328-4797.

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