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SHEA News

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Takeaways From SHEA's Seventh Annual Meeting

SHEA's annual scientific meeting in St Louis featured scientific presentations at 14 concurrent and 4 plenary sessions, 170 poster presentations, and 6 Meet-the-Consultant Breakfasts. Many of the 750+ registrants present were looking for ideas to use or to explore further at their own institutions. Of the hundreds of examples that were addressed at the meeting, these two are highlighted: At their Meet-the-Consultants Breakfast, the CDC's David Bell and San Francisco General Hospital's Julie Gerberding shared with participants the practicalities of administering the new HIV postexposure management guidelines published in *MMWR* this past year. Although her goal remains to initiate postexposure prophylaxis with two or three antiretro-

virals, when appropriate and as rapidly as possible, Dr. Gerberding pointed out that, at her center, a 4-hour postexposure interval until the first dose of medications ingested by the exposed HCW is not considered unreasonable.

The interaction between infection control and process improvement was illustrated well in a storyboard poster presented by the University of Pennsylvania's Maryann McGuckin, "Did You Wash Your Hands? A Handwashing Education Model for Patients," which was developed at the West Jersey Health System. The possible relevance of this poster to the vancomycin-resistant *Enterococcus* (VRE) control issue that was discussed at so many sessions was not lost on those who stopped to read it.

SHEA to Cosponsor National Continuing Education-Accredited Satellite VRE Videoconference in September

SHEA will be using its various publications and electronic capabilities to bring attention to a program on VRE control being presented on Thursday, September 25, 1997, from 1:00-3:30 PM (EST), by the Hospital Infections Program of the Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention. Faculty will include SHEA's president, Robert Weinstein, MD, as well as Bill Jarvis, MD, acting director of the Hospital Infections Program, and D. Lancaster, RN, CIC. For more information on hookup details, call 404-639-6482.

Draft OSHA TB Guidelines Appear in the *Federal Register*

The appearance of the OSHA draft TB guidelines in the *Federal Register* was expected to happen by mid-year. Because many of who will want to respond to these draft guidelines during the period for public comment do not have ready access to the *Federal Register*, SHEA planned to publish the World Wide Web address for downloading this document on the SHEA web site (<http://www.medscape.com/SHEA>). SHEA also planned to notify electronically those SHEA members whose e-mail addresses were current at SHEA headquarters, on the date of the OSHA TB guidelines publication in the *Federal Register*, with downloading instructions for the complete document.

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.