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SHEA News

THE SOCIETY FOR HEALTHCARE EPIDEMIOLOGY OF AMERICA

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SHEA News and Newsletter, 1999 to 2001

Dear colleagues,

Beginning January 1999, I will have the pleasure of serving as editor of SHEA News and the *SHEA Newsletter*, a task so excellently done by Murray D. Batt, MD, for the past 3 years.

I joined SHEA during a research fellowship with Dick Wenzel at the University of Iowa in 1992-1993. Exchanging diverse views on infection control and hospital epidemiology with fellows from different countries made that period one of my more stimulating and unique work experiences, motivating me to apply for the editor position.

I am very grateful to the board of SHEA for appointing me as the first non-American newsletter editor, thereby once more establishing SHEA as a truly international society. By joining forces with Sigfrido Rangel-Frausto, MD, MS, Mexico City, Mexico, and Jan Kluytmans, MD, PhD, Breda, The Netherlands, we hope to manifest this unique spirit of international interaction into SHEA News and the *SHEA Newsletter*.

One of our goals for the upcoming

newsletters will be to introduce our readers to some of the international SHEA members and their respective infection control and healthcare epidemiology societies. Because SHEA, as other societies, largely depends on the activity and excellence of its members, we would like to introduce the outstanding ones, such as the SHEA award winners. Because most of us know the more senior VIPs, we will focus on the next generation, such as the SHEA Young Investigator Award winners.

An important request: SHEA News and the *SHEA Newsletter* can maintain their high standards only if you, the members, will share your plans and thoughts. We encourage you to contact any one of us. In particular, if you chair a committee or serve as a liaison, please help keep us, and thereby our membership, informed of activities in your domain. Andreas Voss, a.voss@mmb.azn.nl, fax: +31-24-354-0216; Jan Kluytmans, jkluytmans@ignatius.nl, fax: +31-76-513-8636; Sigfrido Rangel-Frausto, srangel@buzon.main.conacyt.mx, fax: +52-5-627-6949.

Spotted the Site?

Living in the age of the Internet, we can either be fed up with all of our friends hiding behind their computers or enjoy this great new medium and have a look at infection control sites such as: <http://www.md.ucl.ac.be/entites/esp/hosp/infcon.htm>. This site, maintained by Prof. J.J. Haxhe (haxhe@hosp.ucl.ac.be) at the Catholic University of Louvain, Brussels, Belgium, offers entry to the most important journals

on infection control, giving online access to selected abstracts of published articles, updated every 3 months. Since 1994, more than 1,000 abstracts have been made available in a database that can be downloaded or searched using key words, author names, or words in the title or in the abstract.

If you spot another exciting site related to infection control, healthcare epidemiology, or quality assurance, please let us know.

Calendar

We plan to institute a calendar column as a regular feature in the *SHEA Newsletter*. It will present selected meetings (according to the editor's bias as to what might be interesting); a shortened version will appear in selected issues of SHEA News.

- February 21-24. Ulmer Symposium "Hospital Infections," Ulm, Germany (ed: very interesting, but presented in the German language). For information, contact <http://www.uni-ulm.de/klinik/imi/mikrobio/hygiene99/hygiene.htm>.

- March 21-24. Ninth European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, Berlin, Germany. Info: berlin@cpo-hanser.de.

- April 14. Hospital Infection Society, Spring Meeting, Brighton, UK. Info: <http://www.his.org/main.htm>.

- April 15-16. Annual Meeting of the Society for Hospital Epidemiology of Switzerland (ed: guest speakers include Drs. Kassirer [NEJM] and Wenzel). Info: awidmer@uhbs.ch

- April 18-20. Ninth SHEA Annual Scientific Meeting, San Francisco, California. Info: <http://www.medscape.com/sheas>.

- May 19-21. European Society for Pediatric Infectious Diseases 17th Annual Meeting, Heraklion, Crete, Greece. Info: <http://www.upatras.gr/conferences/esp99>.

- May 30-June 3. 99th ASM General Meeting, Chicago, Illinois. Info: meetingsinfo@asmusa.org.

Brief items of interest for the SHEA News or Newsletter may be sent to Andreas Voss, MD, PhD, Dept. of Medical Microbiology, University of Nijmegen, Postbus 9101, 6500 HB Nijmegen, The Netherlands; fax, 31-024-354-0216; e-mail, a.voss@mmb.azn.nl.

SHEA

NINTH ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING

April 18 – 20, 1999 Hyatt Regency Embarcadero San Francisco, California



SATURDAY, APRIL 17, 1999

WORKSHOP 1

Update on Antimicrobial Resistance

WORKSHOP 2

Emerging Nosocomial Fungi

WORKSHOP 3

DNA Typing Techniques in Infection Control

WORKSHOP 4

How to Apply Clinical Epidemiology and Statistical Process Control Methods to Measure and Improve Quality of Care

APRIL 18-20, 1999

PLENARY SESSIONS:

BIOTERRORISM

1. The Threat
2. Public Health System Response
3. The Hospital Response

EMERGING INFECTIOUS HAZARDS IN THE HEALTHCARE SETTING

1. Infectious Risks & XenoTransplantation
2. Infectious Risks of Animals in the Healthcare Setting
3. The Hazards of Prions in the Healthcare Setting

IS THE ENVIRONMENT HAZARDOUS TO YOUR HEALTH?

1. Airborne Micro-organisms
2. Water
3. Inanimate Environment

BIOMATERIAL RELATED INFECTIONS

1. Pathogenesis
2. The Diagnostic Dilemma
3. We Should Use Therapeutic Antimicrobial Agents Incorporated Into or Onto Biomaterials to Prevent Infections-Point/Counter Point

**ABSTRACT DEADLINE:
JANUARY 8, 1999**

SYMPOSIA:

HOT ISSUES OF INFECTION CONTROL IN SPECIALIZED PEDIATRIC AREAS

1. New Challenges in the Very Low Birth Weight Infant
2. Emerging Problems in Immunocompromised Hosts
3. Emerging Controversies in the Pediatric Intensive Care Areas

CUTTING-EDGE CHANGES IN THE OPERATING ROOM

1. Surgical Site Infections in Minimally Invasive Surgery (MIS)
2. Environmental issues in the Operating Room and their Impact on Surgical Site Infections
3. Surgical Site Infection Prevention in Latin America

QUALITY ASPECTS RELATED TO THE USE OF MEDICAL DEVICES

1. Introductory Remarks: Systems are changing, where can they be improved?
2. How does industry design, evaluate, and demonstrate the safety and efficacy of a medical device?
3. How do regulatory agencies ensure release of a safe medical device?
4. Institutional epidemiologists' role(s) in evaluating medical devices
5. Panel Discussion & Concluding Remarks

CONTROVERSIES IN HAND WASHING

1. Review of the Data
2. Compliance Obstacles and Measures to Increase Compliance in Traditional and Non-Traditional Areas
3. Scientific Basis and Controversies Related to Waterless Systems

MEET THE CONSULTANT BREAKFASTS

Seven Meet the Consultant Sessions will be offered on the Monday and Tuesday of the Scientific Meeting. You can consult with specialists in your field of interest.

For additional information regarding the SHEA Annual Meeting, please contact:

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