

SHEA Newsletter

THE SOCIETY FOR HOSPITAL EPIDEMIOLOGY OF AMERICA

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Announcement: SHEA's Second Annual Scientific Meeting

Get ready for some good crab cakes and hospital epidemiology! Our second annual scientific meeting will be April 12-14, 1992, at the Omni Inner Harbor Hotel, Baltimore, Maryland. Reserve the date now.

The objectives of the conference are: to review methods for surveillance and prevention of adverse clinical outcomes; to update and review trends in nosocomial infections and pathogens, antimicrobial resistance, and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) /acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) prevention; to review

progress in achieving National Year 2000 objectives for preventing nosocomial infection in intensive care units and in surgical patients; to present information on surveillance and prevention of occupational infections and injuries; and to identify areas for future research.

These broad objectives should interest a large target audience, including not only hospital epidemiologists and infection control practitioners, but also quality improvement professionals, hospital administrators, surgeons, intensivists, and microbiologists.

The conference format will include symposia, scientific sessions, poster sessions, and industry exhibits. Original scientific contributions will be solicited actively. Abstract forms, registration forms, and housing forms will be included in the preliminary program.

The chair and co-chair for this exciting event are Drs. C. Glenn Mayhall and John P. Burke, respectively. For further information, please contact SHEA, 875 Kings Highway, Suite 200, West Deptford, NJ 08096. Telephone (609) 845-1636.

Nominating Committee Chair Appointed for 1991

Dale N. Gerding, MD, has been appointed chairperson of the Nominating Committee for 1991. The Committee will develop a slate of candidates for the election, to be held in the fall of 1991, for offices to be filled in

January 1992. The Committee will nominate candidates for vice president, treasurer, and two of the councilor offices. Members of SHEA who wish to suggest names to the Committee for consideration as candidates

should submit the name(s) in writing to Dr. Gerding by June 1, 1991, at VA Medical Center, 111F, 1 Veterans' Drive, Minneapolis, MN 55417. His telephone number is (612) 725-2000 extension 4185.

Job Board-Centers for Disease Control

There is a job opening for a medical officer in the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Hospital Infections Program, AIDS Activity. The Activity is the Public Health Service (PHS) component responsible for the evaluation of

the risk of transmission of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and HIV-related infection in healthcare settings and for the development, promulgation, and evaluation of guidelines to reduce this risk. Ongoing activities

include multicenter observational studies in hospital emergency departments and operating and delivery rooms to assess the nature and frequency of occupational blood contact and efficacy of preventive measures;

surveillance of healthcare workers following documented exposures to HIV-infected blood; HIV seroprevalence surveys in surgeons; evaluation of the use of zidovudine prophylaxis in healthcare workers following exposure to HIV; and development of guidelines to protect healthcare workers and patients from nosocomial acquisition of HIV and HIV-related infections.

The incumbent would be the lead epidemiologist responsible for one or more epidemiologic studies of the following areas:

studying the risk of transmission of HIV and HIV-associated opportunistic infections from patients to healthcare workers, patients to patients, and healthcare workers to patients; designing and evaluating strategies to protect healthcare workers and patients from nosocomial infection with HIV and HIV-associated opportunistic infections; evaluating the safety and efficacy of postexposure prophylaxis of HIV infection with zidovudine and other agents; studying the risk and prevention of nosocomial infections in

patients with HIV infection; and conducting "lookback studies" to assess the risk of HIV transmission to patients who have undergone invasive procedures by HIV-infected healthcare workers.

An MD degree and EIS or comparable epidemiologic training/experience is desirable. For additional information about the position, contact Mary E. Chamberland, MD, Chief, Epidemiologic Studies Unit, AIDS Activity, HIP or David M. Bell, MD, Chief AIDS Activity, HIP at (404) 639-1644.

Job Board-Infection Control Practitioners

The Los Angeles County-University of Southern California Medical Center has two positions open for nurse epidemiologists. The infection control program is well established with five nurse epidemiologists, three clerical staff, and a full-time physician.

The hospital, a large primary-care institution, is the principal teaching hospital of the University of Southern California. Los Angeles County is an equal opportunity employer. Applicants should have a BSN and several years of experience in infection

control or public health. For more information please contact Peter Heseltine, MD, LAC + USC, Box 596, 1200 North State Street, Los Angeles, CA 90033-1084. Telephone (213) 2266705 or FAX (213) 2267726.

SHEA/CDC/AHA Hospital Epidemiology Course

The May 16-19, 1991, offering of this course is completely filled! The course, which emphasizes hands-on problem solving, has been

enlarged to accommodate approximately 100 attendees, and there is still a large number of individuals who were not able to register.

More next month on the course and the response of the sponsoring organizations to this high level of interest.