

SHEA Newsletter

Edited by Robert A. Weinstein, MD

*The
Society
of Hospital
Epidemiologists
of America*

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SHEA Electronic Bulletin Board System (EBBS) Update

In September 1986, the SHEA Electronic Bulletin Board System (EBBS) went on-line for use by the members of the Society. The EBBS is a clearinghouse for information. Users can retrieve or leave information in the form of mail, downloadable programs and data files, comments, public messages, or data controlled by customized data base applications. The SHEA EBBS has a simple user interface. Major features are shown in Table 1.

The SHEA EBBS is equipped with an on-line users' guide; a printed copy can be obtained from the system operator. To communicate with the bulletin board, the caller needs a phone line, a modem, and a dumb terminal. (Most communication software packages for personal computers provide a modem that emulates a dumb terminal.) When calling the bulletin board, the modem should be set at 300, 1200, (or 2400 for the 1-800 line) baud rate with eight data bits, one stop bit, and parity set NONE. The bulletin board phone numbers are 318-233-3843 and 1-800-327-3623.

Several specific functions of the bulletin board should be of interest to SHEA members. A CONFERENCE is a special mailbox in which messages regarding a particular topic (Table 2) may be deposited and read. A second area of interest is GROUPS. Organizing GROUPS (Table 3) allows mem-

bers to "broadcast" a single message to all members of the GROUP. Members must have appropriate privileges in order to read the contents of the

GROUP. A member can belong to more than one GROUP. Entering a GROUP mailbox may require additional passwords.

A third area of interest is the mail system, which has been recently upgraded. The enhanced mail facility allows for mail forwarding, sending carbon copies of mail, instant replies to mail, longer messages, replies to

**TABLE 1
MAJOR FEATURES
OF THE SHEA EBBS**

- Simultaneous support for two users via a local line and a 1-800 number
- Password protection
- Privileges keyed into individual users
- File downloaded with security access to group files
- File upload
- Full-featured mail system
- Comment facility
- Conferencing
- Surveys
- System operator line monitoring
- Limited use access
- Automatic baud rate detection
- Maintenance of activity log files
- Detects attempted security violations

**TABLE 2
CURRENTLY AVAILABLE
CONFERENCES**

Name	Description
COLLABORATION	Research collaboration
GRANTS	Grant announcements
POSITIONS	Epidemiology positions
PRODUCTS	Product alert

Please send me an application form and information about membership in The Society of Hospital Epidemiologists of America (SHEA). (Eligibility for membership requires a doctoral degree and either activity in hospital epidemiology or current participation in a training program in this field.)

My address is:
(Please print)

Mall this request to Timothy R. Townsend, MD, SHEA Secretary, Brady 119, Johns Hopkins Hospital, 600 N. Wolfe St., Baltimore, MD 21205.

TABLE 3
SOME CURRENTLY AVAILABLE GROUPS

Name	Description
AHA	Liaison group for AHA
AIDS	SIG" on AIDS
ANTIBIOTICS	SIG on antibiotics
dBASE	dBASE™ users' group
EDUCATION	SIG on education
EH	SIG on employee health
JCAHO	Liaison group for Joint Commission
MICRO	SIG on microbiology
MYCOLOGY	SIG on mycology
NNIS	The NNIS Group
NOS03	NOSO-3™ users' group
OUTBREAK	SIG on outbreaks
PATHOGEN	SIG on pathogenesis
PH	SIG on public health
SEVERILL	SIG on severity of illness
STATISTICS	SIG on statistics

*SIG = special interest group.

CONFERENCES and GROUP messages, display of sent messages status, and the capability to download and upload binary files to and from mailboxes.

Another area of interest is the survey mechanism. Surveys allow SHEA users to query the membership on topics of timely interest. As users respond, the results are automatically tabulated.

To avoid subscription cost for SHEA members, the EBBS operates on a personal computer utilizing bulletin board software distributed by Dynamic Microprocess Associates, Inc. Funding for the 800 number was generously provided by the Hoechst-

Roussel Pharmaceutical Corporation. Technical support is provided by Epi Systems, Inc.

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Brief items of interest for the SHEA Newsletter may be sent to Robert A. Weinstein, MD, SHEA Newsletter Editor, Division of Infectious Diseases, Michael Reese Hospital, Lake Shore Drive at 31st St., Chicago, IL 60616. Copy must be typed, double-spaced, and may not exceed five pages.