
SHEA Newsletter

Edited by Robert A. Weinstein, MD

*The
Society
of Hospital
Epidemiologists
of America*

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President's End of Year Report

The Board of Trustees of SHEA met on September 16, 1989 in Houston, Texas, and the annual luncheon and business meeting of the Society was held two days later on September 18 at the Four Seasons Hotel. At these meetings Timothy Townsend, MD, the secretary of SHEA, reported that 73 new members had joined the organization in 1989. Results of the election were announced. John Burke, MD, was elected as vice president, Bill Martone, MD, as secretary, David Henderson, MD, as academic councilor and Mike Tappan, MD, as practice councilor. The bylaw change to allow increased liability protection of the councilors and officers under the incorporation laws of New Jersey was approved. Bruce Hamory, MD, SHEA treasurer, reported a balance of \$52,332.95 with expenses running slightly under the budget approved by the board for the year.

In the president's report to the board and to the business meeting, I was pleased to note that the first national meeting of the Society, held in Baltimore in March, 1989, was an educational, scientific and business success. Feedback evaluation from the 300 attendees and a formal internal review by a commit-

tee chaired by Dennis Schaberg, MD, for the board indicated that it was a valuable addition to our programs and has opened the way to plan for similar meetings as a regular part of future SHEA activities.

A second very successful initiative for SHEA has been the course for hospital epidemiologists, cosponsored by the Hospital Infections Program of the CDC. A second program was oversubscribed and had a long waiting list, and plans are underway to develop two or more programs per year, with sites alternating between Atlanta, Georgia, and other regional centers. The SHEA Education Committee under Chair Donald Goldmann, MD, is actively coordinating these developments with Bill Martone, MD, and the CDC/HIP group. The next site is in Miami, Florida, on March 29 through April 1. The course director will be N. Joel Ehrenkranz, MD. The scholarship support for students to this program by Merck, Inc., has been increased from five to seven, in addition to local support for a social event during the program. Dr. Goldmann hopes to announce future program times and sites at the board meeting in January, 1990.

The Education Committee has been asked by the Pan American Health Organization to assist in planning and delivering a regional

conference on hospital infection control scheduled for December 11-15, 1989 in Washington, D.C., and the Society has assisted the NFID with sponsorship, planning and member participation in its annual forum on AIDS and hepatitis B. The board is attempting to coordinate all such requests for educational assistance through the Education Committee in order to avoid duplication, ensure appropriate content and quality and to identify SHEA sponsorship through its members' activities. Individual SHEA members wishing to contribute to future educational activities or to seek SHEA sponsorship for regional programs should contact Dr. Goldmann, Children's Hospital, Medical Center, 300 Longwood Avenue, Boston, MA 02115. Telephone (617) 735-7623.

In other board programs, Glenn Mayhall, MD, vice president, has assumed the chair of a new committee charged with supervision and coordination of position statements developed or endorsed for the Society. Under this new program, response to the OSHA-proposed blood and body fluid guidelines was developed by Michael Decker, MD, reviewed by the board and delivered as a SHEA statement. Other documents under development or review include a discussion on the HIV-positive healthcare

worker (in cooperation with APIC), a statement on biomedical waste for the EPA and a document on surgical wound reporting. Under board direction, the vice president each year will be charged with supervision of the review and release of statements developed for the Society or for review of statements developed by peer organizations seeking SHEA cosponsorship. Members interested in assisting in the development of such statements or wishing to draw attention to candidate topics should contact John Burke, MD, our newly-elected vice president: Division of Infectious Disease, LDS Hospital, 8th Avenue and C Street, Salt Lake City, UT 84143. Telephone (801) 321-1006.

Richard Garibaldi, MD, past president of SHEA, noted in his final presidential statement that SHEA has passed its adolescence and is emerging into its adulthood. As a part of that natural transition, Dr. Garibaldi implemented a societal review with the past presidents of SHEA in a meeting in Chicago, Illinois, in 1988. From this meeting, a group of priorities was developed, some of which have been implemented in the committee activities described above. As a continuation of this planning and priority-setting activity, the board has approved a strategic planning initiative, and under a grant from Merck, Inc., will have a special strategic planning meeting in Florida in January, 1990. Preparation for this meeting began prior to the board meeting in Boston and, with the assistance of a consultant retained under the conditions of the grant, will proceed through and beyond the January meeting. Meeting participants will include all current and immediate past board members and all committee chairs. It is expected that discussions will include the future goals of SHEA, financial planning, membership goals and other issues critical to the successful future of the Society.

It is an opportune time for SHEA to consider its future and to focus on achievable goals for the organization's "adulthood." The officers

and the board are very appreciative of Merck's continuing support of the Society, and this project in particular.

With this column, my tenure as president of SHEA comes to an end. I wish to thank the members of the Society for the opportunity to serve in this capacity, to thank the members of the board for their support and continuing hard work over the year and to give a special vote of thanks to Dr. Townsend, retiring secretary of SHEA, for his three years of exemplary service.

Finally, we welcome our new president, Dennis Maki, MD, to office. We wish him well and offer our continuing support to him for the year ahead.

Season's greetings to all.

Walter J. Hierholzer, Jr., MD
New Haven, Connecticut

Job Market

The FDA has junior- and senior-level epidemiologist positions available in the Office of Epidemiology and Surveillance. Epidemiologists are assigned to teams formed around specific drug classes. The teams, which include physicians, statisticians, pharmacists and data base experts, do adverse drug reaction surveillance, analyze drug usage patterns and design and conduct case-control and cohort studies using intramural and extramural data bases. Interested individuals should call the Director, Office of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Dr. Gerald A. Faich or Chuck Anello at (301) 443-4227.

The Epidemiology Branch, AIDS Program, Center for Infectious Diseases, CDC has a vacancy for an MD or PhD-level scientist in the Special Studies Section. This section has broad responsibilities for investigation of HIV transmission by sexual and bloodborne routes. Interested individuals should send a copy of their CV to Scott Holmberg, MD, AIDS Program, CID, CDC, 1600 Clifton Road, N.E., Atlanta, GA 30333, Mailstop G-29.

The Division of Environmental Hazards and Health Effects, Center for Environmental Health and

Injury Control has a position for a doctoral level epidemiologist. The incumbent will conduct epidemiologic investigations of public health problems associated with risks to humans from exposures to acute and natural hazards (e.g., floods, earthquakes, explosions). Interested persons should call the Section Chief, Dr. Lee Sandersen (404) 488-4682.

The Division of Tuberculosis Control, CDC, is seeking a medical epidemiologist to help assess the impact of AIDS and HIV infection on tuberculosis morbidity in the United States and to conduct epidemiologic investigations on the relationship between tuberculosis and AIDS/HIV infection. Interested persons should call the Branch Chief, Dr. Alan Bloch or Deputy Chief Walter Ihle at (404) 639-2519.

SHEA/CDC Training Program

This annual program, developed by SHEA and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), is intended for infectious disease fellows and new hospital epidemiologists. It will be held March 29-April 1, 1990, at the Grand Bay Hotel in Coconut Grove, Florida. N. Joel Ehrenkranz, MD, will host the program, and Donald Goldmann, MD and William Martone, MD, are the co-chairs.

This program includes an introduction to epidemiologic methodology and hands-on exercises in which participants work in small groups to detect, investigate and control epidemiologic problems encountered in a hospital setting. These working sessions are supplemented with lectures and seminars covering fundamental aspects of hospital epidemiology.

For information regarding program specifics or registration, please contact Donald Goldmann, MD, Hospital Epidemiologist, Division of Infectious Diseases, Children's Hospital, 300 Longwood Avenue, Boston, MA 02115. Telephone (617) 735-7623.