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SHEA News

THE SOCIETY FOR HOSPITAL EPIDEMIOLOGY OF AMERICA

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NIOSH Workshop on Preventing Airborne Infections in Healthcare Workers

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, will convene a scientific workshop in mid-July 1993 in Cincinnati, Ohio, to develop a national research strategy on engineering controls for preventing airborne infections in workers in healthcare and related facilities.

The purpose of the workshop is to 1) review the nature and

extent of airborne transmission of infections in workers in healthcare and related facilities; 2) review current data and new findings regarding the engineering control of airborne infections that may have relevance to occupational exposures in healthcare and other institutions; 3) identify knowledge gaps that might be filled by directed research; and 4) recommend a national research agenda that, if implemented,

would close the gaps and permit reliable recommendations for protecting workers.

Persons interested in attending this workshop should write to Engineering Controls Workshop Project Coordinator (R-Z), NIOSH, 4676 Columbia Parkway, Cincinnati, OH 45226; telephone (513) 841-4321. Attendance will be limited to 400.

SHEA Continues to Expand Activities in Quality Management

The SHEA Quality Management (QM) Committee continues its activity in extending hospital epidemiology beyond infection control. A meeting of the "QM Enthusiasts" has been planned for Monday, April 19, 1993, from 6:00 to 7:00 PM, at the Palmer House during the SHEA Annual Meeting in Chicago. Dr. Susan Horn will discuss the advanced level QM epidemiology course that she and Dr. Brent James are planning. It is hoped that QM enthusiasts will become acquainted with one another and exchange ideas

during this session and at the QM sessions that are planned for all three days of the meeting (April 18-20, 1993).

The SHEA QM and Education Committees are continuing discussions of a possible SHEA course on QM epidemiology. Under active exploration is the possibility of cosponsorship with the Institute for Healthcare Improvement. Please let us know your opinions about the need for and content of a SHEA QM course.

SHEA's representation at the

Agency for Healthcare Policy and Research (AHCPR) includes Dr. Bryan P. Simmons, chair of the QM committee, and Dr. Peter A. Gross, president-elect of SHEA. Dr. Simmons is on AHCPR's working group to develop medical review criteria, standards of quality, and performance measures. Dr. Gross is liaison to AHCPR for SHEA and the Infectious Diseases Society of America. More information about the AHCPR will appear in a future issue of this journal.