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SHEA News

THE SOCIETY FOR HEALTHCARE EPIDEMIOLOGY OF AMERICA

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New Training Opportunities for Infectious Disease Fellows

SHEA's Annual Meeting Planning Committee is pleased to announce the formation of two new training opportunities for infectious disease fellows: the SHEA/Ortho McNeil Fellowship in Antimicrobial Management, a 2-year award, \$30,000 per year, for a project to study novel and unique methods for improving use of antimicrobial agents; and the SHEA/GlaxoSmithKline Fellowship in Surgical Infections, a 2-year award, \$40,000 per year, for a project focusing on prevention, control, and surveillance of surgical-site infections. Institutional commitment to the fellow's

proposed project is important for the applicant to be successful.

The application process consists of two parts. A general application is due by December 15, 2001; by January 1, 2002, applicants will be notified whether they have been selected to submit part 2 of the application, a detailed description of the research project, which is due February 1, 2002. Awards probably will be announced by March 15, 2002, and will begin on July 1, 2002. Request an application from Leslie Thomas at SHEA, lthomas@talley.com.

Flu Vaccination Focus of Meeting

On behalf of SHEA, Rebecca Wurtz attended a meeting, jointly sponsored by the CDC and the AMA, reviewing the lessons learned from the 2000/01 influenza vaccine disruption in the United States. Representatives from government agencies, immunization advocacy organizations, professional societies, pharmacists, and vaccine manufacturers and distributors attended.

Lessons learned during the 2000/01 season include that supplemental recommendations from the CDC and others need to be made earlier and more clearly, uneven vaccine distribution needs to be minimized, later vaccination (ie, in December) is still beneficial for groups of lower priority, since the flu season does not start until late January and may persist into March.

Providers should target September through October vaccination to high-risk

individuals, which includes HCWs (although one participant suggested that HCWs should be termed "high-priority," not high risk) The public should be educated to seek vaccine, based on priority, echoing the UK media campaign "Get in line." Some participants doubted that Americans would get in line.

Manufacturers should ship some early vaccine to everyone who placed orders, they should delay workplace (ie, vaccine ordered by companies who vaccinate all employees, not just high-risk) orders, and inform those who have ordered vaccine about delivery dates as soon as possible.

More information is available at www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/flu/fluvirus.htm.

Calendar

2001

Dec 16-19. 41st International Conference on Antimicrobial Agents & Chemotherapy. Chicago, IL. Info: www.asmsa.org.

2002

Mar 3-8. Fifth International Conference Cryptococcus and Cryptococcosis. Adelaide, Australia. Info: www.sapmea.asn.au.

Mar 11-14. Tenth International Congress on Infectious Diseases. Singapore. Info: www.isid.org.

Apr 7-9. 12th Annual Scientific Meeting of SHEA. Salt Lake City, Utah. Info: www.shea-online.org.

Apr 24-27. 12th European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases. Milan, Italy. Info: www.escmid.org/eccmid2002.

May 5-8. Fourth European Congress of Chemotherapy and Infection. Paris, France. Info: www.congrex.com/ecc4.

May 19-23. 102nd ASM General Meeting. Salt Lake City, UT. Info: www.asmsa.org.

May 29-31. 20th Annual Meeting of the European Society for Paediatric Infectious Diseases. Vilnius, Lithuania. Info: info@espid.lt.

Jun 23-26. 12th International Symposium in Infections in the Immunocompromised Host. Bergen, Norway. Info: www.ichs.org.

Jul 7-12. 14th International Conference on AIDS. Barcelona, Spain. Info: www.aids2002.com.

Brief items of interest for SHEA News or the SHEA 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.