

EDITED BY C. GLEN MAYHALL, MD
MURRAY D. BATT, MD
EDWARD S. WONG, MD

SHEA News

THE SOCIETY FOR HEALTHCARE EPIDEMIOLOGY OF AMERICA

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Healthcare Epidemiology: Measuring Performance and Implementing Improvement

Three SHEA presidents (one current, two past, including the founding editor of *Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology*) participated in a recent conference in Chicago, "Measuring Performance and Implementing Improvement." The JCAHO's Paul Schvye (one of the few session moderators who were not SHEA members) linked the discussions of quality improvement, guidelines utilization, and outcomes management (patient-perceived, as well as clinically defined outcomes) to the JCAHO's "Framework for Improving

Institutional Performance," described in the current edition of the *Comprehensive Accreditation Manual for Hospitals*, as an integrating mechanism for these topics.

Peter Gross and Sheldon Greenfield, the conference organizers, assembled nationally recognized leaders to summarize the state-of-the-art in outcomes-validated guidelines (Scott Weingarten), patient satisfaction survey methodology (Gene Nelson), acute care severity systems (Lisa Iezzoni), and intelligent medical records and com-

puterized physician ordering systems (Reed Gardner and Clem MacDonald).

Based on the favorable response to this year's 2¹/₂-day conference, Gross and Greenfield indicated to the audience (a balanced mix of physicians, other quality measurement professionals, and hospital and health plan administrators) that they already are planning a follow-up meeting next year to address further progress in this growing area of healthcare epidemiology.

Dr. James Lee Heads Effort to Attract Surgeons to SHEA

Dr. James Lee has been appointed chair of a SHEA Special Interest Group on Surgery and Invasive Procedures. The group will focus on infections that occur in surgical patients, as well as other complications, and quality of care issues that relate to the practice of surgery. Dr. Lee is an academic general surgeon with an interest in surgical infectious diseases. He has a particular interest in the surveillance of surgical site infections and has headed the global surgical site infection surveillance and control program at the 800-bed Minneapolis VA Medical Center for the last 14 years. Given that infection surveillance programs unquestionably are prototypes for meeting the quality assessment chal-

lenges surgery now faces for all issues of quality of care, Dr. Lee is well prepared to lead a group within SHEA that will focus on these issues in surgery. The group also will seek to build a constructive, meaningful partnership between SHEA and the surgical community. The group also will pursue a strategy to increase attention to excellence of surgical care. Membership in SHEA will be promoted for surgeons and other physicians or scientists interested in surgical infections and other aspects of quality of care in surgery, and an effort will be made to recruit abstracts and manuscripts on surgical infections and other quality issues in surgery for the Annual Meeting and for

Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology

SHEA is delighted that Dr. Lee has agreed to head this effort to include surgery as it attempts to move into all areas of epidemiology related to the quality of healthcare. Dr. Lee has been appointed editor of a new section in *Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology*, "Issues in Surgery." Watch for articles in this new section, and call or write to Dr. Lee if there are issues that you would like for him to address in his section: James T. Lee, MD, PhD, VA Medical Ctr., One Veterans Dr., Minneapolis, MN 55417; telephone (612) 725-2065, fax (612) 7252227.

Brief items of interest for the SHEA News or Newsletter may be sent to C. Glen Mayhall, MD, SHEA, Newsletter Editor, Division of Infectious Diseases, Route 1092, The Former Shriner's Bldg, Room 2-64B; University of Texas Medical Branch; Galveston, TX 77555-1092; FAX (409) 772-6527. Copy should be typed, doublespaced, and should not exceed 5 pages.