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# SHEA News

## THE SOCIETY FOR HEALTHCARE EPIDEMIOLOGY OF AMERICA

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## Fifth Annual Meeting of SHEA Most Successful Ever

The Fifth Annual Meeting of the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America, held in San Diego, California, April 2-4, 1995, set new records for attendance and abstracts. The 595 paid attendees exceeded the number of registrants for past meetings by approximately 77. The 247 abstracts received also was a new record. The increase in number of abstracts was accompanied by a

higher quality of submissions, resulting in a record 57 platform presentations. These presentations were divided among nine slide sessions. One hundred forty papers were presented as posters. Feedback from meeting attendees indicated that the plenary sessions and symposia were very well received.

Plan now to attend the Sixth Annual Meeting of SHEA next year at

the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC, April 21-23, 1996. Attendees at the Fifth Annual Meeting know that, to be on the cutting edge of the science of hospital epidemiology and infection control, the annual meeting of the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America is the place to be.

## Healthcare Epidemiologists: Considerations for Use of Hepatitis A and Varicella Vaccines

Recent licensure of hepatitis A vaccine and varicella vaccine highlights the opportunity for healthcare epidemiologists to develop cost-benefit strategies for the use of these biologicals within their organizations. Although the Public Health Service's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) was near the final draft of its recommendations for the use of these products at the time of their respective licensures, it is likely that each product will be available, at approximately \$45 to \$50 per adult dose, at least several weeks before

the dissemination in *MMWR* of ACIP guidelines for their use. Issues that epidemiologists will consider, in addition to the likely recommendations for universal application to small children as a part of their primary immunization schedule, will include:

1. assisting healthcare organizations and public policy makers in determining the benefit of underwriting the costs for administering this vaccine to individuals who are in groups identified as candidates for the vaccine(s);

2. determining whether and how to identify and immunize older children who have not yet had the illness;
3. determining whether and how to identify and immunize adults who have not yet had the illness;
4. identifying persons in the groups identified by ACIP or others as targets for immunization and determining which of these persons are susceptible and whether they should be immunized.

**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, double-spaced, and should not exceed 5 pages.**