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SHEA News

THE SOCIETY FOR HEALTHCARE EPIDEMIOLOGY OF AMERICA

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1998 SHEA Elections Reminder

Ballots for new SHEA Officers and Councilors whose terms will begin on January 1, 1999, were included with the January *SHEA Newsletter*. For your ballot to be counted, you must mail it by March 20, 1998. SHEA management, at 609-423-0087, can answer any questions about the election process that are not addressed in the newsletter.

Additional Courses of Potential Interest to SHEA Members

Fourth National Conference on Measuring Performance and Implementing Improvement: Quality Indicators, a Practical Approach, to be held in San Francisco, California, April 2-4, 1998. Conference directors are Peter Gross, MD (Hackensack Medical Center), and Sheldon Greenfield, MD (Tufts-New England Medical Center). Further information is available at 800-227-4852.

SHEA Annual Meeting Early (Discounted) Registration Deadline

SHEA's Eighth Annual Scientific Meeting, to be held in Orlando, Florida, will be preceded by four concurrent workshops on Saturday, April 4. The meeting will run from Sunday, April 5, through Tuesday, April 7. March 20 is the deadline for early (discounted) registration. For readers who

need the meeting program, it can be downloaded from the SHEA home page (<http://www.medscape.com/SHEA>) or obtained from SHEA Meeting Management by telephoning 609-423-0087 or faxing to 609-423-3420.

Additional SHEA Sponsored (and Co-sponsored) Courses and Meetings for 1998

1. International Conference on Emerging Infectious Diseases, Atlanta, Georgia, March 8-11, 1998. Sponsors: CDC, Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists, ASM, and SHEA. Additional information available at 202-942-9257.
2. SHEA-CDC Training Course in Hospital Epidemiology, Baltimore, Maryland, May 16-19, and Redondo Beach

California, October 17-20.

3. SHEA-IHI Improving Healthcare Through Clinical Epidemiology and Quality Improvement, Marina Del Rey, California, February 7-9, 1998.

4. SHEA Course at the Pan-American Congress for Infectious Diseases in Hospitals, Mar Del Plata, Argentina, April 17-19, 1998.

Opportunities to Influence the Content of the Proposed OSHA TB Standard

Many readers are aware that OSHA has extended the deadline for written comments and notices of intent to appear at the scheduled public hearings until February 17, 1998, with a deadline for testimony and documentary evidence of February 27. Public hearings will begin in Washington, DC, on April 7; additional hearings are scheduled tentatively to take place in Los Angeles, beginning on May 5, Chicago on May 19, and New York City on June 2.

Issues related to the frequency of TB skin testing for healthcare workers, training, fit checking and fit testing, and distinctions between workplace-related and -unrelated TB illness already have been raised in the AHA's letter to OSHA, copies of which may be obtained electronically from Gina Pugliese (gpugliese@aol.com). OSHA's method of evaluating their guideline is weighted by the volume of responses received. Readers are encouraged not only

to communicate their concerns with regard to the proposed standard to SHEA's response coordinator, Michael Tapper, MD (mltappermd@aol.com), but also to respond directly to OSHA.

OSHA requires responses in quadruplicate to be sent to the Docket Officer, Docket No. H-371, Room N-2625, US Dept of Labor, 200 Constitution Ave NW, Washington, DC 20210.

Brief items of interest for the SHEA News or Newsletter may be sent to Murray D. Batt, MD, SHEA News Editor, Washoe Medical Center, 77 Pringle Way, Reno NV 89520; fax (702) 328-4797.