

INFECTION CONTROL AND HOSPITAL EPIDEMIOLOGY[®]

EDITORIAL

- The Medical Waste Conundrum Revisited 385
STEPHEN A. STREED, MS, CIC

ORIGINAL ARTICLES

- Evaluation of a Mechanical/Chemical Infectious Waste Disposal System 387
L.P. JETTÉ, BSC; S. LAPIERRE, BSC
- Delayed Detection of an Increase in Resistant *Acinetobacter* at a Detroit Hospital 394
DAVID R. JOHNSON, MD; MELINDA A. LOVE-DIXON, MD; WILLIAM J. BROWN, PHD; DONALD P. LEVINE, MD; FRANCES P. DOWNES, DRPH; WILLIAM N. HALL MD
- Epidemiology of Measles Immunity in a Population of Healthcare Workers 399
MARY KIM, MSPH, CIC; JUDITH LAPOINT, RN, BSN, CIC; FRANCIS J.G. LIU, MD

BRIEF REPORT

- Applying a Standard of Care to the Quality Assessment of Bacteremia 403
PETER A. GROSS, MD; ZANE K. SAUL, MD; ARPI KUYUMCU, PHARM D

AIDS

- The OSHA Bloodborne Hazard Standard 407
MICHAEL D. DECKER, MD, MPH

STATISTICS FOR HOSPITAL EPIDEMIOLOGY

- Aspects of Truth: Statistics, Bias, and Confounding 418
SAM SHEPS, MD, MSc, FRCPC; DAVID BIRNBAUM, PHD, MPH

TOPICS IN LONG-TERM CARE

- Scabies in Long-Term Care Facilities 421
JOHN DEGELAU, MD

READERS' FORUM

- AIDS: Is It an Ill Wind? 426
W.C. BECK, MD; KENNETH MEYER, MD
- When Your Patient Complains 428
RUTH DAVIDHIZAR, RN, DNS, CS; ANNA VANCE, RN, MSN

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

- Allergic Reactions to Latex Gloves 382
JOHN DAVISON

- SHEA NEWS 433

What do you mean I'm *not* protected?

If you are in the habit of applying hand cream after using a Chlorhexidine Gluconate (CHG) handwash, you may actually be losing your protection! A recent study* confirms that residual CHG can be neutralized by anionic hand creams.

Introducing.. **Lotion Soft@ Skin Conditioner**, a nonionic skin care lotion compatible with any CHG handwashing product. **Lotion Soft@ Skin Conditioner** contains emollients and moisturizers, which are soothing and last through several handwashes.

When you scrub with CHG for antimicrobial protection, you should be using a compatible product for skin conditioning. Try new **Lotion Soft@ Skin Conditioner**. It will not interfere with the cumulative effects of CHG.

Contact your local Calgon Vestal Healthcare Market Specialist or call toll-free 1-800-325-8005 to find out about new CHG compatible **Lotion Soft® Skin Conditioner**.

Lotion Soft Skin Conditioner
The compatible companion



DIVISION OF CALGON CORPORATION
SUBSIDIARY OF **MERCK**
& CO., INC.

Box 147, ST. LOUIS, MO 63166

1-800-325-8005

**test data on file*

INFECTION CONTROL AND HOSPITAL EPIDEMIOLOGY TM

CONTENTS

EDITORIAL

- The Medical Waste Conundrum Revisited 385

STEPHEN A. STREED, MS, CIC

ORIGINAL ARTICLES

- Evaluation of a Mechanical/Chemical Infectious Waste Disposal System 387

L.P. JETTÉ, BSc; S. LAPIERRE, BSc

- Delayed Detection of an Increase in Resistant *Acinetobacter* at a Detroit Hospital 394

DAVID R. JOHNSON, MD; MELINDA A. LOVE-DIXON, MD; WILLIAM J. BROWN, PhD;
DONALD P. LEVINE, MD; FRANCES P. DOWNES, DRPH; WILLIAM N. HALL, MD

- Epidemiology of Measles Immunity in a Population of Healthcare Workers 399

MARY KIM, MSPH, CIC; JUDITH LAPOINT, RN, BSN, CIC; FRANCIS J.G. LIU, MD

BRIEF REPORT

- Applying a Standard of Care to the Quality Assessment of Bacteremia 403

PETER A. GROSS, MD; ZANE K. SAUL, MD; ARPI KUYUMCU, PHARM D

AIDS

- The OSHA Bloodborne Hazard Standard 407

MICHAEL D. DECKER, MD, MPH

STATISTICS FOR HOSPITAL EPIDEMIOLOGY

- Aspects of Truth: Statistics, Bias, and Confounding 418

SAM SHEPS, MD, MSc, FRCPC; DAVID BIRNBAUM, PHD, MPH

TOPICS IN LONG-TERM CARE

- Scabies in Long-Term Care Facilities 421

JOHN DEGELAU, MD

DEPARTMENTS

- Readers' Forum 426

- Letters to the Editor 382

- SHEA News 433

- Meeting Abstracts 435

- Medical News 437

THE PUBLICATION OF ADVERTISING IN THE JOURNAL DOES NOT CONSTITUTE ANY GUARANTEE OR ENDORSEMENT BY THE SOCIETY FOR HOSPITAL EPIDEMIOLOGY OF AMERICA OR SLACK INCORPORATED OF THE ADVERTISED PRODUCT OR SERVICE OR OF CLAIMS MADE BY THE ADVERTISER. THE PUBLICATION OF ARTICLES AND OTHER EDITORIAL MATERIAL IN THE JOURNAL DOES NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT THE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS OR ENDORSEMENT BY THE SOCIETY.

PUBLISHER Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology (ISSN-0899823X, Canadian GST#129780466) is published exclusively by SLACK Incorporated 12 times a year. Address: 6900 Grove Rd., Thorofare, NJ 08086. Telephone: (609) 848-1000.

COPYRIGHT 1992 by The Society for Hospital Epidemiology of America, Inc. and SLACK Incorporated. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced without written permission from the publisher.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Requests should be addressed to the publisher (except Japan). In Japan, contact Woodbell Incorporated, 4-22-11, Kitakasai, Edogawaku, Tokyo 134, Japan. Subscription rates in the United States and possessions: Individual: One year-\$80.00; Two years-\$115.00; Three years-\$145.00; Institutional: One year-\$90.00; Two years-\$130.00; Three years-\$170.00. Fellows: \$40 per year. Canada: \$18.00 additional each year plus 7% for Canadian Goods & Services tax; all other countries: \$36.00 additional each year. Single copies of current issues may be obtained for \$15.00, United States and possessions; \$20.00 all other countries.

REPRINTS: All requests to reprint or use material published herein should be addressed to Lester J. Robeson, SLACK Incorporated, 6900 Grove Rd., Thorofare, NJ 08086. For reprint orders and prices, contact Lester J. Robeson at (609) 848-1000. Authorization to photocopy items for internal or personal use, or the internal or personal use of specific clients, is granted by SLACK Incorporated, provided that the base fee of \$1.00 per copy, plus \$.15 per page is paid directly to Copyright Clearance Center, 27 Congress St., Salem, MA 01970. This consent does not extend to other kinds of copying, such as for general distribution, resale, advertising and promotional purposes, or for creating new collective works.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Notice should be sent to the publisher six weeks in advance of effective date. Include old and new addresses with zip codes. The publisher cannot accept responsibility for undelivered copies. Second-class postage is paid at Thorofare, New Jersey 08086, and additional entry points. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to SLACK Incorporated, 6900 Grove Rd., Thorofare, NJ 08086.

INFECTION CONTROL AND HOSPITAL EPIDEMIOLOGY is listed in Index Medicus, Current Contents-Clinical Practice, Hospital Literature Index, Cumulative Index to Nursing & Allied Health Literature, Nursing Abstracts, and Laboratory Performance Information Exchange System.

EDITORIAL OFFICES

Vanderbilt University School of Medicine
A-1131 Medical Center North
Nashville, TN 37232-2637
(615) 343-1095; (615) 343-1882 (FAX)
Email: iche@mcmail.vanderbilt.edu

EDITOR

Michael D. Decker, MD, MPH

MANAGING EDITOR

Susan Cantrell

STATISTICAL EDITOR

Beverly G. Mellen, PhD

SENIOR ASSOCIATE EDITORS

C. Glen Mayhall, MD

Gina Pugliese, RN, MS

William Schaffner, MD

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Donald A. Goldmann, MD

Didier Pittet, MD, MS

Andreas Widmer, MD, MS

SECTION EDITORS

Beyond Infection Control:

The New Hospital Epidemiology

Bryan P. Simmons, MD

Stephen B. Kritchevsky, PhD

Memphis, Tennessee

Wing Hong Seto, MD

Hong Kong

Disinfection and Sterilization

William A. Rutala, PhD, MPH

Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Emerging Infectious Diseases

Larry J. Strausbaugh, MD

Portland, Oregon

Robert W. Pinner, MD

Atlanta, Georgia

From the Laboratory

Marcus Zervos, MD

Royal Oak, Michigan

Fred C. Tenover, PhD

Atlanta, Georgia

Information Management

John A. Sellick, DO

Buffalo, New York

The International Perspective

Mary D. Nettleman, MD, MS

Richmond, Virginia

Issues in Surgery

James T. Lee, MD, PhD

St. Paul, Minnesota

Medical News

Gina Pugliese, RN, MS

Chicago, Illinois

Martin S. Favero, PhD

Irvine, California

Practical Healthcare Epidemiology

Loreen A. Herwaldt, MD

Iowa City, Iowa

SHEA News

Murray D. Batt, MD

Clarksburg, West Virginia

Statistics for Hospital Epidemiology

David Birnbaum, PhD, MPH

Sidney, British Columbia, Canada

Topics in Long-Term Care

Philip W. Smith, MD

Omaha, Nebraska

Topics in Occupational Medicine

David Weber, MD, MPH

Chapel Hill, North Carolina

INFECTION CONTROL AND HOSPITAL EPIDEMIOLOGY®

EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD

Jacques F. Acar, MD	Paris, France
J. Wesley Alexander, MD	Cincinnati, Ohio
Paul Arnow, MD	Chicago, Illinois
Graham A.J. Ayliffe, MD	Birmingham, United Kingdom
Neil L. Barg, MD	Yakima, Washington
Elizabeth Ann Bolyard, RN, MPH, CIC	Atlanta, Georgia
John M. Boyce, MD	Providence, Rhode Island
Professor Dr. Ilja Braveny	Munich, Federal Republic of Germany
Charles Bryan, MD	Columbia, South Carolina
Christian Brun-Buisson, MD	Creteil, France
Donald E. Craven, MD	Boston, Massachusetts
Sue Crow, MSN, RN, CIC	Shreveport, Louisiana
Franz Daschner, MD	Freiburg, Federal Republic of Germany
Leigh G. Donowitz, MD	Charlottesville, Virginia
Charles E. Edmiston, Jr., PhD	Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Theodore C. Eickhoff, MD	Denver, Colorado
Bruce Farber, MD	Manhasset, New York
Victoria J. Fraser, MD	St. Louis, Missouri
Peter C. Fuchs, MD, PhD	Black Butte, Oregon
Richard A. Garibaldi, MD	Farmington, Connecticut
Velvl Greene, PhD, MPH	Beer Sheva, Israel
Robert Gaynes, MD	Atlanta, Georgia
David W. Gregory, MD	Nashville, Tennessee
David K. Henderson, MD	Bethesda, Maryland
Peter N.R. Heseltine, MD	Los Angeles, California
Karen Hoffmann, RN, CIC, MS	Chapel Hill, North Carolina
Marguerite McMillan Jackson, RN, PhD	San Diego, California
Janine Jagger, MPH, PhD	Charlottesville, Virginia
William R. Jarvis, MD	Atlanta, Georgia
Douglas S. Kernodle, MD	Nashville, Tennessee
Robert H. Latham, MD	Nashville, Tennessee
Lewis B. Lefkowitz, MD	Nashville, Tennessee
Hsieh-Shong Leu, MD, MSc	Taipei, Taiwan
Jack Levy, MD	Brussels, Belgium
Victor Lorian, MD	Bronx, New York
Dennis G. Maki, MD	Madison, Wisconsin
Professor Dr. Walter Marget	Munich, Federal Republic of Germany
William J. Martone, MD	Bethesda, Maryland
Allison McGeer, MD	Toronto, Ontario, Canada
John E. McGowan, Jr., MD	Atlanta, Georgia
Jonathan L. Meakins, MD, DSc	Montreal, Quebec, Canada
Raf Mertens, MD	Brussels, Belgium
Robert R. Muder, MD	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Joseph M. Mylotte, MD, CIC	Buffalo, New York
Lindsay Nicolle, MD	Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada
Juhani Ojajarvi, MD	Helsinki, Finland
Michael T. Osterholm, PhD, MPH	Minneapolis, Minnesota
Jan Evans Patterson, MD	San Antonio, Texas
Sindy M. Paul, MD	Trenton, New Jersey
Michael A. Pfaller, MD	Iowa City, Iowa
Samuel Ponce de Leon, MD, MSc	Mexico City, Mexico
Isaam Raad, MD	Houston, Texas
Manfred L. Rotter, MD, DipBact	Vienna, Austria
Theodore Sacks, MD	Jerusalem, Israel
William E. Scheckler, MD	Madison, Wisconsin
Kent Sepkowitz, MD	New York City, New York
Denis Spelman, MD	Prahran Victoria, Australia
Michael L. Tapper, MD	New York, New York
Clyde Thornsberry, PhD	Brentwood, Tennessee
Professor Leonid P. Titov	Minsk, Republic of Belarus
Timothy R. Townsend, MD	Millwood, Virginia
Antoni Trilla, MD, PhD	Barcelona, Spain
Professor Wang Shu-Qun	Beijing, People's Republic of China
J. John Weems, Jr., MD	Greenville, South Carolina
Robert A. Weinstein, MD	Chicago, Illinois
Professor Dr. W. Weuffen	Greifswald, Federal Republic of Germany
Sergio B. Wey, MD	São Paulo, Brazil
Rebecca Wurtz, MD	Evanston, Illinois

SLACK Incorporated

6900 Grove Road
Thorofare, New Jersey 08086
(609) 848-1000

Vice President/Group Publisher

Richard N. Roash

Publisher

John C. Carter

Editorial Director

Jennifer Kilpatrick

Production Editor

Shirley P. Strunk, ELS

Assistant Editor

Eileen C. Anderer

Circulation Manager

Lester J. Robeson, CCCP

Production Director

Christine Malin

Production Coordinator

Joanne Patterson

Publishing Director/ Advertising

Wayne McCourt

Pharmaceutical Group Sales Director

Michael LoPresti

Advertising Sales Representative

Jennine Kane

Classified/Recruitment Sales Manager

Michele Burch

Techni-CareTM Surgical Scrub

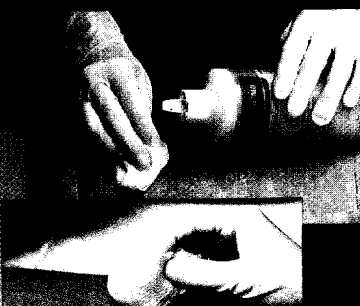
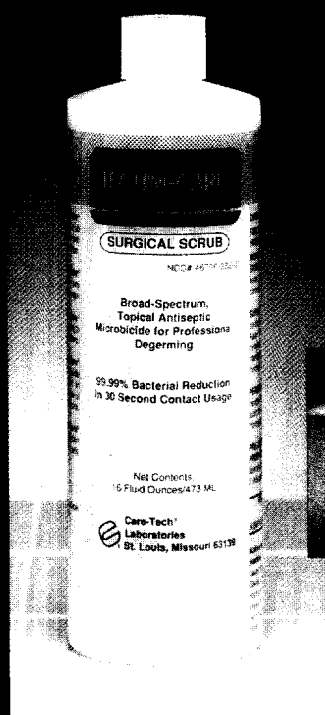
99.99% Bacterial Reduction
in only 30 seconds

Techni-Care...A new technology in a surgical scrub exhibits outstanding antimicrobial efficacy *without* dermal irritation.

Fully substantiated by independent testing in vivo and in vitro, Techni-Care Surgical Scrub

both disinfects and conditions in less time than any prior technology available to healthcare personnel.

Results of Time Kill tests demonstrate that Techni-Care eliminates gram negative and gram positive bacteria at 99.99% in 30 second contact.



Outstanding Bactericidal Activity without skin irritation

Techni-Care's active ingredient, chloroxylonol (PCMX) at 3%, eliminates bacteria, while a host of skin conditioning agents work synergistically to condition and soften the skin. Exceptionally mild, Techni-Care's dermal conditioning ingredients, include cocamidopropyl PG-Dimonium Chloride Phosphate, Aloe Vera Gel, Collagen and Propylene Glycol.

Techni-Care has rated a "minimal irritation" in the Draize Dermal irritation test. Specially blended formulation for dermal conditioning, as well as for bacterial reduction. Techni-Care Surgical Scrub is soothing to dermal tissue while phospholipids promote natural turgor.



CARE-TECH[®] LABORATORIES

Advanced Skin Care Technology

1-800-325-9681



The Society for Hospital Epidemiology of America

Position Search Announcement for Chief Editor, *Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology* The Official Journal of the Society for Hospital Epidemiology of America

With the decision of founding Chief Editor, Dr. Richard Wenzel, to move on to other activities, the President and Board of the Society for Hospital Epidemiology of America announce the formation of a Search Committee to review candidates and make a recommendation to the Publications Committee and the Board for a successor. All members of SHEA who might be interested in the editorship are urged to submit the following:

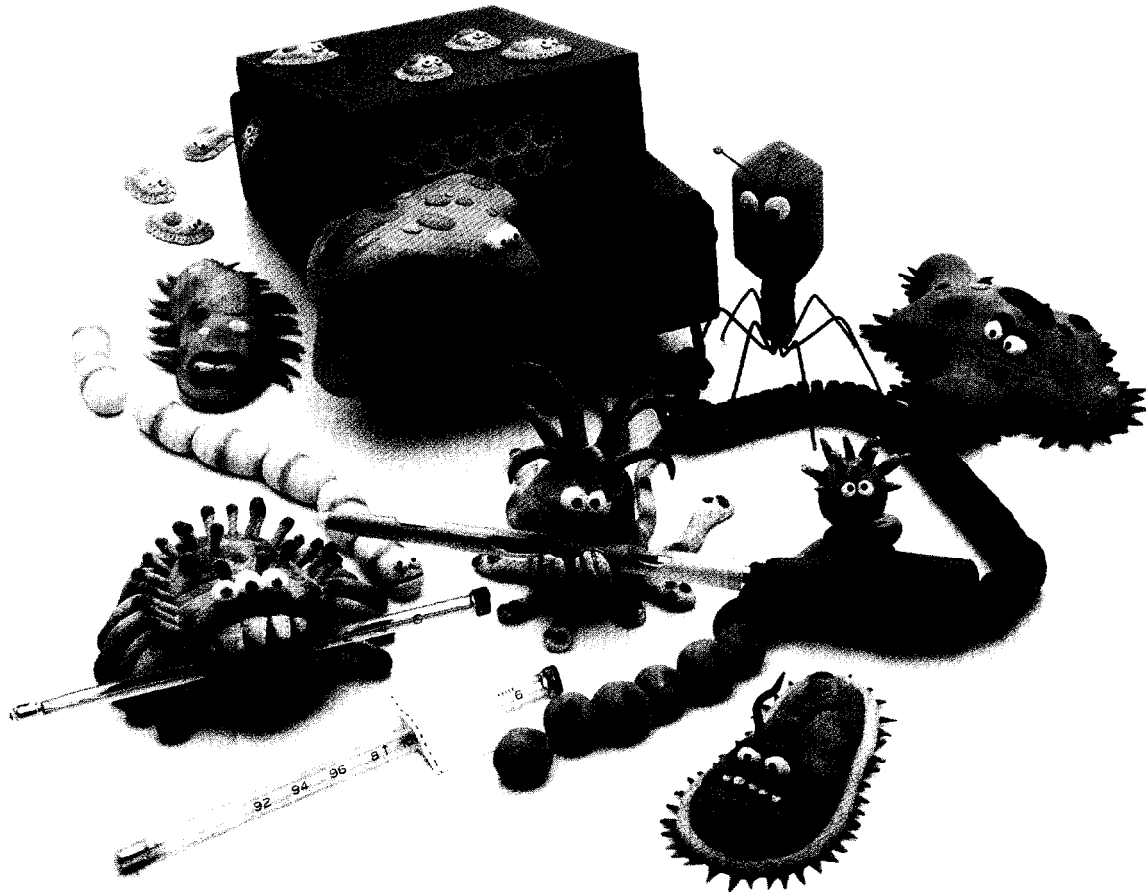
- 1) a copy of your CV and bibliography
- 2) a letter of no more than two pages containing:
 - your proposal on how to further strengthen and improve the journal
 - the potential for local editorial board support and the recruitment of a managing editor to work under your direction
 - your experience to date in journal editing or reviewing journal articles.

An annual budget is provided to help you accomplish your work. Send your letter and CV to:

Chair, Chief Editor *Infection Control and
Hospital Epidemiology* Search Committee
SHEA National Office
875 Kings Highway
Suite 200
West Deptford NJ 08096

74% of plastic thermometer sheaths are perforated after use.. significantly increasing the threat of infection.

Minimize this risk with the Tempa•DOT[®]
Single-Use Clinical Thermometer System



Sterile—
each Tempa•DOT
Thermometer is
used only once and
discarded, mini-
mizing the risk of
passing harmful
microorganisms
from patient to
patient.

Accurate—
innovative thermo-
metric technology
provides consis-
tently exact read-
ings. Proven on
patients of all ages.

Fast—
Tempa•DOT
Thermometers give
oral readings in just
60 seconds!

**Versatile and
Economical—**
suitable for oral,
axillary and rectal
use throughout the
institution, no back-
up system necessary.
Costs no more than
other systems.

1 William Valenti, MD, Kathleen
Takacs, RN, MS, Infection Control and
Clinical Thermometry Perforation of
Soft Plastic Thermometer Sheaths
During Temperature Measurement
American Journal of Infection Control,
February 1981; Vol. 9, No. 1; pp 1-5.

For a free Tempa•DOT
Thermometer trial, call 1-800-526-3538
(In New Jersey, call 908-526-1222)

Tempa•DOT[®]
Single-Use Clinical Thermometers

PyMaH Corporation, 89 Route 206, P.O. Box 1114, Somerville, NJ 08876 USA