

SHEA Newsletter

Edited by Robert A. Weinstein, MD

*The
Society
of Hospital
Epidemiologists
of America*

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SHEA Members Participate in Chilean Infection Control Course

Three SHEA representatives, Jane Siegel, MD, Donald Goldmann, MD, and Robert Weinstein, MD, recently participated in a four-day International Course on Hospital Infections in Chile. The course was attended by 250 medical personnel from Chile, 80% of whom were physicians in internal medicine, infectious diseases, obstetrics and gynecology, surgery, pediatrics, and medical microbiology.

The Chilean Society of Infectology sponsored the course under the auspices of the Chilean Ministry of Health, the United Nations Development Program for Hospital Infections and the Pan American Health Organization. Dr. Jorge Vergara and Dr. Guillermo Acuna organized the course. Drs. Maria Eugenia Pinto, Valeria Prado, and Fernando Otaiza comprised the scientific committee.

The course was held June 21-24 in Santiago. During the morning sessions, the SHEA representatives and members of The Chilean Society of Infectology presented a broad range of lectures on nosocomial infections. The SHEA presentations included lectures on infections in intensive care units, catheter-associated septicemia, viral infections of nosocomial importance, infections in the immunocompromised patient, control of anti-

microbial resistance, use antimicrobial prophylaxis, newer antibiotics, newer microbiologic tools for epidemiologic use, assessment of efficacy of infection control programs, and risk of AIDS to hospital workers. Afternoons were spent in working groups during which each of the SHEA members met with a group of interested conference attendees to discuss in more detail issues raised at the morning lectures.

As part of this visit, the SHEA representatives each toured a different hospital in Santiago where they presented a hospital-wide grand rounds and met with the hospital infection control committee to discuss local problems. The SHEA representatives were very impressed by the comprehensive infection control programs that have been established in Chile and by the overall quality of this

course, which is part of a two-year plan, directed by Dr. Otaiza of the Chilean Ministry of Health, to develop an extensive network of nosocomial surveillance and infection control among Chilean hospitals. (Further details about the substantial Chilean accomplishments appeared in the article "Infection Control in Latin America" in the July issue of the journal, pp 291-301.)

Several conference attendees requested SHEA applications and reminded us that the term "America" included them! Several physicians also expressed interest in observing infection control programs in the United States. *Any SHEA members who are interested in hosting visits by Chilean physicians should contact Fernando Otaiza, MD, Ministerio de Salud, Mac Iver 541, Santiago, Chile.*

Please send me an application form and information about membership in The Society of Hospital Epidemiologists of America (SHEA). (Eligibility for membership requires a doctoral degree and either activity in hospital epidemiology or current participation in a training program in this field.)

My address is:
(Please print)

Mail this request to Timothy R. Townsend, MD, SHEA Secretary, Brady 119, Johns Hopkins Hospital, 600 N. Wolfe St., Baltimore, MD 21205.
