

surveillance of epidemiologically important antibiotic resistance are inadequate and need to be improved. Additionally, a more effective national sentinel system involving hospitals and laboratories should be developed.

Working group 3 was chaired by Dr. Walter Hierholzer and examined methods for the control of vancomycin use in hospitals. Among the recommendations were the development of a set of acceptable indications for

primary use of vancomycin, implementation of a system of monitoring vancomycin use with feedback to hospital staff, the development of institutional guidelines to improve blood culture techniques to reduce contamination and inappropriate diagnosis, and institutional programs to improve use of all antibiotics.

The recommendations of the three working groups were presented to HICPAC. HICPAC

recommended 1) that these recommendations be incorporated in an *MMWR* alert that would summarize recent outbreaks of vancomycin-resistant enterococci and encourage the implementation of these recommendations as interim control measures, and 2) that a larger workshop on the general issue of antibiotic resistance be convened. Such a workshop, under the sponsorship of the CDC, is being planned for the fall of 1994.

'SHEA' Has a New Meaning

The membership of SHEA has voted unanimously to change the name of the society from The Society for *Hospital Epidemiology of America* to The Society for *Healthcare Epidemiology of America*. The name change reflects the broadening role of hospital epidemiology in the study and prevention of noninfectious diseases adverse outcomes in both the hospital and outpatient settings. The same epidemiological methods

applied to the control of nosocomial infections can be used to better manage noninfectious diseases problems in both inpatients and outpatients.

Our name change is similar to that made by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO), which also changed *Hospital to Healthcare*. Like other organizations who have recently changed their names (Centers for

Disease Control and Prevention [CDC] and Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology [APIC]), the acronym SHEA will not change with the substitution of *Healthcare for Hospital*. The name change reflects our interest in the epidemiological evaluation of performance measures and outcomes research and our ability to collaborate with other organizations concerned with safe and high-quality medical care.

SHEA Creates Three New Committees

SHEA has created three new committees to work on areas of special concern to the society including finances, long-range planning, and public policy. The Financial Advisory Committee is a new committee of the board, chaired by Dr. Matthew Levison. The Financial Advisory Committee is charged with raising funds for the society and its programs and overseeing the newly created reserve fund.

The Long-Range Planning Committee is a new standing committee of the president, chaired by Past-President Dr. Donald Craven. This committee is charged with strategic or long-range planning and was created to provide for continuous reevaluation and modification of

the strategic plan, rather than having sporadic strategic planning meetings when new developments or crises arise.

The Public Policy Committee also is a standing committee of the president and will be chaired by President-Elect Dr. Bryan Simmons. This committee is charged with the oversight of public policy as it relates to healthcare epidemiology and infection control and with recommending to the board

appropriate responses to pending actions by various legislative bodies that affect the fields of healthcare epidemiology and infection control.

Members of the society who would like to volunteer to serve on these or any other society committees should contact Coley Lyons, Executive Director, SHEA, 875 Kings Highway, Suite 200, Woodbury, NJ 08096; telephone (609) 845-1636; fax (609) 853-0411.

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 Burns 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 five pages.