

MSHP Post-Activity Report

The Minnesota SHP (MSHP) Midyear Meeting was held on September 17 in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota. **“Zero Tolerance for HAIs”**, a morning symposium, was part of the official program and was attended by 275 participants.

Dr. David Nicolau welcomed the audience and provided a brief overview of the program, highlighting the need for pharmacists to prevent and properly manage HAIs in light of the lack of new antimicrobials under development. Dr. Nicolau also mentioned the need to be aware of changes in reimbursement policies for some “preventable” infections.

“Discounted reimbursement is now being offered for certain hospital-acquired conditions. And as you know, discounted reimbursement for the government means no reimbursement in many cases.”
David Nicolau, PharmD

“When treating serious infections in patients who are severely ill, you have to give the right therapy up front and you have to be aggressive because you may not get a second chance. This means starting with broad-spectrum activity and then thinking about de-escalation of therapy.”
David Burgess, PharmD

Dr. Debra Goff highlighted strategies pharmacists can use in the clinical setting to address the challenges posed by emerging resistance.

“One of the simplest things you can do as pharmacists to preserve drugs with Gram-negative activity is to use prolonged or extended infusions.”
Debra Goff, PharmD

Clinical Skills Workshop

Dr. David Nicolau led the audience through a detailed case study translating the evidence-based presentations into clinical practice. The ensuing interactive discussion allowed constructive feedback between the faculty and the audience on how they would handle clinical decisions during the case.

Dr. David Burgess discussed the challenges of emerging resistance by Gram-positive and Gram-negative organisms and described the clinical and economic costs of resistance in the hospital setting. Dr. Burgess emphasized the need to choose appropriate therapy early in the infection.

Antimicrobial Stewardship Meeting

During the final part of the program, the audience was able to witness a simulated Antimicrobial Stewardship Meeting by the faculty. Led by Dr. John Rotschafer, the discussion revolved around trying to initiate a formal antimicrobial stewardship program at their institution. A number of barriers were identified, including devoting time and resources for antimicrobial stewardship efforts. However, several steps were identified to initiate the process.

Identify the key players who need to be involved

Communicate with the microbiologist and epidemiologist to identify areas for improvement

Identify the outcomes that will be measured to evaluate the effectiveness of stewardship tactics

Determine the data that are already being collected at the institution

Involve the administration in the process and get their support