

PSHP Post-Activity Report

The Pennsylvania SHP (PSHP) Annual Meeting was held from November 11–13 in Mars, Pennsylvania. **“Zero Tolerance for HAIs”**, a dinner symposium on November 11, was designed to address quality improvement and patient safety issues in hospitals with respect to hospital-acquired infections (HAIs).

Dr. David Nicolau provided a brief overview highlighting the need for pharmacists to prevent and properly manage HAIs in light of greater pressure to improve patient quality of care while minimizing healthcare costs.

“Very often, when thinking about cost, many focus on cost of medicine. We need to start focusing on opportunities to manage patients well through improved quality and safety, but also cost of care. Not necessarily cost of medicine as medicine typically is a small portion of patient costs.”

David Nicolau, PharmD

Dr. Scott Micek and Dr. Keith Rodvold discussed the challenges of emerging resistance by Gram-positive and Gram-negative organisms. They stressed the responsibilities of pharmacists to the patient and the community. They highlighted strategies pharmacists can use in the clinical setting to address the challenges posed by emerging resistance.

“Studies are demonstrating that vancomycin MIC values are increasing not only for MRSA isolates, but for MSSA isolates also. So a β -lactam should be considered when an MSSA infection is identified and we should not solely depend on vancomycin.”

Scott Micek, PharmD

“For Pseudomonas aeruginosa where resistance is so high and we don’t know which drug they may be susceptible to, it is recommended to start therapy with two drugs with the hope that the organism will be susceptible to at least one of them.”

Keith Rodvold, 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. Some of the discussion focused on the importance of identifying and addressing the source of infection.

“We must think about where the infection is coming from when managing these patients. We shouldn’t just concentrate on the drug but we should also focus on removing the source of infection.”

Keith Rodvold, PharmD

Antimicrobial Stewardship Meeting

The audience was able to witness a simulated Antimicrobial Stewardship Meeting by the faculty discussing how antimicrobial stewardship tactics can be implemented at an institution. Dr. Jason Gallagher described the setting of a hospital with a new pharmacist charged with the implementation of an antimicrobial stewardship program. The faculty explored the most efficient and effective ways to initiate stewardship tactics. An important starting point is identifying the main objectives and priorities of this program. This can include reducing the frequency of HAIs, improving the appropriate use of antimicrobials, or reducing costs. Once the primary objective is identified, this will help guide data collection to build the case for the need for stewardship tactics and will define the tactics needed to reach the goals.