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March 9, 2015

Michael R. Craig, MPP  
Program Analyst  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
395 E Street, SW  
Suite 9100  
Washington, DC 20201

RE: Proposed White House Summit on Combating Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria

Dear Mr. Craig,

The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA) is grateful for your outreach on the issue of combating antibiotic resistant bacteria. SHEA is the preeminent professional society committed to providing expertise in infection prevention and control, antimicrobial stewardship, and infectious disease outbreak preparedness and response in all healthcare settings, as well as preventing and controlling morbidity, mortality, and the cost of care linked to healthcare-associated infections and antibiotic resistance. SHEA has been, and continues to be, committed to being the primary resource for healthcare facilities and their antimicrobial stewardship teams for educational programs, tools and resources, implementation guidance and representation before policymakers in all areas related to antimicrobial stewardship.

In a teleconference held February 20, you shared with us the Obama Administration's intent to host a summit on the issue of combating antibiotic resistant bacteria sometime in the spring or early-summer. We understand that this summit is an outgrowth of the White House National Strategy for Combating Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria published September 2014. SHEA is committed to supporting the execution and achievement of the stated goals under the National Strategy and therefore formally supports this initiative.

SHEA respectfully requests an invitation for a SHEA leader representative to be in attendance at the upcoming summit. SHEA's president, Anthony D. Harris, MD, MPH, FSHEA, FIDSA, would be the Society's representative and an expert contributor to this national dialogue. Please find attached to this letter Dr. Harris' biographical sketch.

SHEA is pleased to make a formal commitment to achieving measurable outcomes through its support of the National Strategy. Below is a summary of SHEA's commitment to this effort, which includes a description of programs currently in place or planned in support of combating antibiotic resistant bacteria. SHEA's participation in this initiative will be an important element in seeing through the National Strategy's goals over the next five years.

Please contact me at [ehumphreys@shea-online.org](mailto:ehumphreys@shea-online.org) or 703-684-1007 to facilitate SHEA's commitment under the National Strategy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eve Humphreys". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Eve Humphreys, MBA, CAE  
Executive Director

Enclosures

## **The National Strategy for Combating Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria: Commitments on Behalf of The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America**

SHEA is committed to supporting the President's goals outlined in the National Strategy through the execution of objectives and the achievement of anticipated outcomes. As the only professional society that has at our core expertise in both antimicrobial stewardship and transmission prevention, SHEA is poised to lead an effort to achieve these goals through its own initiatives, as well as through collaborative partnerships across the healthcare continuum.

SHEA has committed to establishing a multi-stakeholder advisory group of organizations committed to meeting targets identified under the goals of the Combating Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria (CARB) National Strategy as it relates to human antimicrobial stewardship and implementation of stewardship programs. The advisory group will be a forum for collaborating on key areas to inform specificity in implementation efforts of the CARB National Strategy as they relate to antimicrobial stewardship in humans. The advisory group also will serve as a forum for other interested parties not formally engaged in the National Strategy, but have a vested interest in supporting the National Strategy and other antibiotic stewardship initiatives.

In addition, below is a summary of SHEA goals and initiatives that align with the President's National Strategy goals and will achieve anticipated outcomes. SHEA welcomes the opportunity to discuss these initiatives as part of the national dialogue hosted in the President's National Strategy summit.

### **GOAL 1: Slow the Development of Resistant Bacteria and Prevent the Spread of Resistant Infections**

1.1 Implement public health programs and reporting policies that advance antibiotic resistance prevention and foster antibiotic stewardship in healthcare settings and the community.

Through its existing educational program platform, SHEA will offer programs designed for adult learners that include online and in person opportunities, specified by practitioner (pharmacist, IP, physician, public health officers, etc.). Special attention to will be paid developing audiences' expertise in infection prevention practices. Examples include: national scientific meetings, such as IDWeek and the SHEA Annual Spring Conference, with cutting-edge content related to infection prevention, outbreaks, antibiotic stewardship and antibiotic resistance. SHEA also offers online, case-based modules for practitioners and training workshops for practitioners in all healthcare settings.

#### **SHEA commits to:**

- On a national and regional scale, educating practitioners in all healthcare settings (health systems, acute-care hospitals, community-based hospitals, public health departments, long-term care facilities, etc.) about the importance of stewardship and the optimal infrastructure and core competencies of an effective antibiotic stewardship program.

- The delivery of education on, and promoting the use of, basic infection prevention practices for all practitioners, and educating them on their critical role in preventing antibiotic resistance.
- SHEA will maintain a speaker registry of nationally recognized antibiotic stewardship experts to speak at other scientific and educational meetings and respond to press inquiries.
- Maintaining a web-based clearinghouse of antibiotic stewardship resources, best practices, policy updates, checklists, and other tools for implementing antibiotic stewardship programs in facilities across the continuum of care. SHEA will also develop tools stewardship program leaders can use to educate leadership and practitioners within their own facilities (peer-learning).
- Developing, updating and maintaining enduring materials, such as textbooks, on stewardship and infection prevention and control practices for practitioners to use as a resource for development and ongoing maintenance of an effective stewardship and infection prevention and control programs.
- Continuing to grow the body of scientific knowledge in antibiotic stewardship and infection prevention through the promotion of sound and relevant research, the development of clinical practice guidelines and expert guidance, and implementation guides to improve patient care and patient safety and across the continuum of care to slow the pace of antibiotic resistance.
- Collaborating with the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) to publish new clinical practice guidelines on antimicrobial stewardship. SHEA will also develop a set of implementation guides for these recommendations to improve adoption, practice patterns, and patient safety.
- Collaborating with IDSA on developing educational materials supporting the use of new and existing antimicrobial stewardship clinical practice guidelines, along with corresponding implementation guides, which can be disseminated to practitioners across all healthcare settings.
- Facilitating the translation of evidence-based guidelines into implementation of meaningful policies at the organizational level to ensure best practices are brought to the bedside; reflecting state of the art research and guidelines.
- Preparing facilities and practitioners to meet state legislative and regulatory requirements.
- Working with state legislatures on state legislation, policy development and implementation related to antimicrobial stewardship.
- Partnering with other stakeholder organizations and industry to develop tools and materials for patients and public education on the importance of antimicrobial stewardship and the threat of antibiotic resistance.

## **GOAL 2: Strengthen National One-Health Surveillance Efforts to Combat Resistance**

- 2.1 Create a regional laboratory network to strengthen the nation's capacity to detect resistant bacterial strains and a specimen repository to facilitate development and evaluation of diagnostic tests and treatments.

SHEA believes that advocacy for adequate governmental funding and resources to strengthen our national capacity to detect resistant bacteria strains, and advocacy for full funding of the President's FY2016 funding request are essential to implementing and executing the National Strategy.

### **SHEA commits to:**

- Advocating for funding the development of a regional laboratory network to strengthen national capacity to detect resistant bacteria strains, hosting a specimen repository, and evaluating diagnostic tests and treatments.
- Working with stakeholder organizations like the Clinical Laboratory Standards Institute and the American Microbiology Society on how practitioners can work with labs on antimicrobial stewardship efforts.
- Supporting and promoting national and regional surveillance efforts for multi-drug resistant pathogens to both assist in measuring the magnitude of the problem and to further delineate the epidemiology of these pathogens.

- 2.2 Expand and strengthen the national infrastructure for public health surveillance and data reporting, and provide incentives for timely reporting of antibiotic resistance and antibiotic use in all healthcare settings.

SHEA believes that advocacy for adequate governmental funding and resources to strengthen our national capacity to detect resistant bacteria strains are essential to implementing and executing the National Strategy.

### **SHEA commits to:**

- Advocating for public and private funding and resources to strengthen the national infrastructure for public health surveillance and data reporting, and providing incentives for timely reporting of antibiotic resistance and antibiotic use in all healthcare settings.
- Providing and disseminating resources to educate practitioners on surveillance and reporting methods.
- Encouraging Electronic Health Records manufacturers to integrate antimicrobial stewardship principles into their systems to enhance surveillance efforts and improve

patient safety using the National Health Safety Network Antimicrobial Usage and Resistance Module. Encouraging and educating healthcare facilities on implementation and usage; evaluating systems to assist facilities, including health systems and long term care facilities with navigating different healthcare vendors. Providing a user group setting for SHEA members to provide feedback across systems to EHR manufacturers for continuous improvement of technology.

- Updating multi-organization endorsed SHEA Whitepaper "SHEA Guidance for the Knowledge and Skills Required for Antimicrobial Stewardship Leaders" together with partners to address new strategies and policy shifts.
- Collaborating with IDSA under the auspices of the National Quality Forum to develop antimicrobial stewardship quality measures and process measures.
- Providing comments and guidance on the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS') pending proposed Conditions of Participation for Medicare providers requiring healthcare facilities to have antimicrobial stewardship programs. SHEA will have training resources and materials in place to assist healthcare epidemiologists and other healthcare providers that serve on antimicrobial stewardship teams once the antimicrobial stewardship Conditions of Participation policy is final.

### **GOAL 3: Advance Development and Use of Rapid and Innovative Diagnostic Tests for Identification and Characterization of Resistant Bacteria**

- 3.2 Expand availability and use of diagnostics to improve treatment of antibiotic-resistant infections, enhance infection control, and facilitate outbreak detection and response in healthcare and community settings.

SHEA is the preeminent organization to support outbreak preparedness and response and infection prevention and control. The Society is committed to helping to educate facilities on how to utilize diagnostics in collaboration with a stewardship team to maximize the effectiveness of their stewardship programs, to control outbreaks, and to identify HAIs to isolate the best clinical approaches that minimize antibiotic use.

#### **SHEA commits to:**

- Advocating for well-defined reimbursement policies and incentives to encourage routine use of diagnostics in clinical settings to distinguish between bacterial and viral infections to ascertain the antibiotic susceptibilities of bacteria.
- Advocating for the expansion of access to new diagnostic technologies for all patients, communities and to the broadest population possible.

### **GOAL 4: Accelerate Basic and Applied Research and Development for New Antibiotics, Other Therapeutics, and Vaccines**

SHEA is the recognized content expert resource among infectious diseases professionals and investigators conducting research in the area of antibiotic stewardship, specifically the benefits

of these programs on patient outcomes and facilities along with key reductions of use, and the impact of these programs on HAIs and other illnesses. In addition to providing educational tools and resources and supporting research initiatives, SHEA hosts the SHEA Research Network (SRN), a consortium of over 200 hospitals collaborating on multi-center research projects aimed at identifying important gaps in the healthcare epidemiology science base and addressing them by contributing data and expertise. The SRN is competitive in obtaining federal funding from agencies including CDC, AHRQ, and NIH.

- 4.1 Conduct research to enhance understanding of ecological determinants and environmental factors that facilitate the development of antibiotic resistance and the spread of resistance genes that are common to animals and humans.
- 4.2 Increase research focused on understanding the nature of microbial communities, how antibiotics affect them, and how they can be harnessed to prevent disease.
- 4.6 Enhance opportunities for public-private partnerships to accelerate research on new antibiotics and other tools to combat resistant bacteria.

**SHEA commits to:**

- Exploring funding for research grant awards for investigators in the area of antibiotic resistance and stewardship.
- Providing high-quality opportunities for investigators to present and publish their research to the wider community at best-in-class scientific meetings, such as IDWeek, and the peer-reviewed scientific journal, *Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology (ICHE)*.
- Promoting access to the SHEA Research Network (SRN) for organizations and investigators conducting research in the area of antibiotic resistance and stewardship.

**GOAL 5: Improve International Collaboration and Capacities for Antibiotic Resistance Prevention, Surveillance, Control, and Antibiotic Research and Development**

SHEA has an existing platform that identifies educational and resource needs for hospital epidemiologists outside of the United States. Through these programs, SHEA offers educational materials developed for international audiences and identifies opportunities for funding travel and access to scientific needs. Further, SHEA is a collaborator and convener of infectious diseases stakeholder organizations involved in many facets of infectious diseases issues.

- 5.3 Develop a mechanism for international communication of critical events that may signify new resistance trends with global public and animal health implications.

**SHEA commits to:**

- Convening a multi-stakeholder advisory group of organizations committed to meeting targets identified under the goals of the CARB National Strategy as it relates to human antimicrobial stewardship and implementation of stewardship programs. The advisory group will serve as a forum for collaborating on key areas to inform specificity in

implementation efforts of the CARB National Strategy as they relate to antimicrobial stewardship in humans. The advisory group also will serve as a forum for other interested parties not formally engaged in the National Strategy, but have a vested interest in supporting the National Strategy and other antibiotic stewardship initiatives.

5.4 Promote the generation and dissemination of information needed to address antibiotic resistance by:

5.4.1 Promote consistent international standards for determining whether bacteria are resistant to antibiotics; and

- a) Develop international collaborations to gather country-specific and regional information on drivers of antibiotic resistance, identify evidence-based interventions, adapt these strategies to new settings, and evaluate their effectiveness; and
- b) Provide technical assistance as needed to underdeveloped and developing nations to improve their capacity to detect and respond effectively to antibiotic resistance.

**SHEA commits to:**

- Encouraging and showcasing international antibiotic resistance and stewardship scientific research in SHEA's premiere, peer-reviewed scientific journal, *Infection Control and Healthcare Epidemiology (ICHE)*.
- Working with international stakeholder organizations to develop stewardship educational materials and providing SHEA support of international meetings addressing this topic.

5.6 Supporting countries to develop and implement national plans to combat antibiotic resistance and strategies to enhance antimicrobial stewardship.

**SHEA commits to:**

- Offering international travel grants through the SHEA Education and Research Foundation for practitioners specializing in infection prevention and control, healthcare associated infections, and antimicrobial stewardship to premiere scientific meetings such as IDWeek and the SHEA Annual Spring Meeting where the latest antibiotic resistance data is presented.
- Offering SHEA programming for international practitioners in all healthcare settings (acute care hospitals, long-term care facilities, etc.) to educate them about the importance of antimicrobial stewardship and the infrastructure and core competencies of an effective antibiotic stewardship program.
- Providing educational resources on basic infection prevention practices tailored to an international audience and promoting their critical role in preventing antibiotic resistance.

- Offering translations of educational materials and resources for international audiences where feasible.

**Anthony D. Harris, MD, MPH, FSHEA, FIDSA**

Anthony D. Harris, MD, MPH, FSHEA, FIDSA is the 2015 President for the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA). Dr. Harris is an infectious disease physician, hospital epidemiologist, and tenured professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. Dr. Harris was the founder of the SHEA Research Network and served as its director from 2009 to 2013. He has served on SHEA's Board of Trustees since 2010, first as a Councilor and now as President. Dr. Harris has 142 publications in peer-reviewed journals—114 of which have been published in the last 10 years. He also serves on the Editorial Board of *Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology*.

Publishing in the major journals in his field, Dr. Harris has improved the science of infection prevention by advancing research methodology (e.g., case control study design, quasi-experimental study approaches) and by performing well-designed intervention studies addressing key unresolved issues in infection prevention. His most important contributions have been to our understanding of the epidemiology of multidrug-resistant healthcare pathogens. Recent examples include the Benefits of Universal Glove and Gown (BUGG) study published last year in *The Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)* and a highlighted abstract during IDWeek 2013, which also utilized the SHEA Research Network. Dr. Harris's recent and current funding from the National Institutes of Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, including a K24 award, recognize his success as a mentor to the next generation of healthcare epidemiology researchers. Dr. Harris's research interests include emerging pathogens, antimicrobial-resistant bacteria, hospital epidemiology and infection control, epidemiologic methods in infectious diseases, and medical informatics. Dr. Harris was honored with the SHEA Investigator Award at IDWeek 2014.