

“Coming Clean”

The recent Op Ed commentary by Betsy McCaughey appropriately calls attention to the challenges facing the health care community with regard to hospital-acquired infections, but oversimplifies the appropriate and effective response to this problem. Furthermore, in citing out of context a 2003 position paper from The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA), detailing potential approaches for the control of transmission of multi-drug resistant organisms, Ms. McCaughey suggested that SHEA “chastised the CDC.” In fact, SHEA has actively collaborated with CDC and its Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC) in continually evaluating these approaches and making recommendations to improve the safety of health care in our nation’s health care facilities. SHEA commends CDC for its continuing leadership in the control of healthcare-associated infections and will continue to support the CDC in its efforts to combat antimicrobial resistance and healthcare-associated infections.