

MRSA: Addressing the Crisis

LOS ANGELES, CA – June 12 (SEND2PRESS NEWSWIRE) – The International Society of Microbial Resistance (ISMR) is focusing attention on MRSA by convening healthcare professionals to discuss the most current information on the rising prevalence and consequences of a family of antibiotic-resistant bacteria known as methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA). The program in Los Angeles is the second in a series of two MRSA Educational Summits, the first being held in Houston, Texas on June 9th.



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MRSA can cause serious infections in otherwise healthy newborns, children, and adults. Outbreaks originally reported in high-risk patient populations are now being reported in healthy members of high school and professional sports teams, prisons, newborns, women after childbirth, and residents of long-term health care settings. Difficult to diagnose and treat, these infections pose a significant risk to patients and are increasingly associated with serious infections of the skin, lungs, and other organs. Recent data from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey estimate that at least 2.2 million people in the United States are colonized with these antibiotic-resistant bacteria, making public health initiatives to increase awareness and prevention a top priority.

Community and hospital-based health care providers are invited to a complimentary one-day CME Program focusing on various facets of the detection and management of serious MRSA infections on June 23, 2006, at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel in Los Angeles, CA, from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

A series of morning plenary presentations by internationally recognized faculty including Joseph John, MD, FACP, Dennis Stevens, PhD, MD, John McGowan, MD, Loren Miller, MD, Julio Ramirez, MD, and David Talan, MD, will help participants gain insight and perspective on the challenges of MRSA. Speakers will review the epidemiology of MRSA, update participants on diagnosis and clinical implications of MRSA, and review the appropriate use of interventions and antibiotic treatment options for MRSA infections seen in the community and in health care facilities.

The afternoon will consist of interactive workshops including a case review session, development of successful MRSA treatment pathways, and a review of select scientific posters from recent national meetings that draw attention to additional facets of MRSA infections. The Summit program will conclude with a workshop on resources and guidelines for MRSA management that will empower participants to become leaders in best practices for the management of MRSA infections in the institutions and communities they serve.

Registration is available on-site or online at the International Society of Microbial Resistance website, www.microresistance.org/cme.cfm, or call 1-800-586-5819.

There is no fee to attend this program. Registration includes a complimentary continental breakfast and buffet lunch as well as all program materials. A maximum of 6.5 CME contact hours will be awarded based on attendance and submission of all appropriate forms. This program is accredited for Physicians, Pharmacists, and Nurses.

This program is jointly sponsored by the University of Kentucky Colleges of Medicine, Pharmacy, and Nursing, and the International Society of Microbial Resistance. Supported by an unrestricted educational grant from Pfizer Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

For additional CME opportunities and other health-related educational materials and resources, visit ISMR online at <http://www.microresistance.org>.

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