



event rates for women than for men among those with an ABI less than 0.90.

The authors also recommend that researchers consider trials to help determine how sex may affect the rate of development of PAD, the response to

medications, or the potential benefits of revascularization. They also recommend that all heart health promotion campaigns provide specific education regarding PAD risk, screening, and treatment for women. □

## Collaborative Effort Seeks to Curb Hospital Infections

Bridget M. Kuehn

**H**OSPITAL-ACQUIRED INFECTIONS remain a persistent problem, affecting about 1 in 20 patients each year, according to estimates from the US Department of Health and Human Services. But efforts to curb such infections have had mixed results. To achieve better results, 2 groups critical to the management of hospital-acquired infections—infection control professionals, or infection preventionists (IPs), and laboratory professionals—are working together on a project to promote better collaboration between their respective professions.

To improve communication between these 2 specialties, the IP Col-laboration Project (<http://labproject.site.apic.org/>) is using online resources, such as webinars and tools that outline best practices in such areas as sample collection and processing. The Association for Professionals in Infection Control (APIC) and the American Society for Microbiology (ASM) are working together on the effort, which is being funded by an unrestricted grant from Roche.

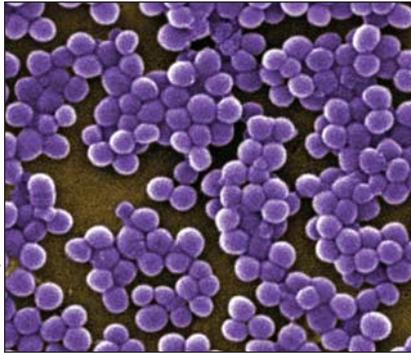
Initially, an e-mail survey of members of both organizations assessed how interprofessional interactions could be improved. About 1800 individuals responded (just 8.9% of the sample), most of whom work in hospitals. Further-

more, a disproportionate number of APIC members were represented among the respondents (78%). Some members of each organization may have opted not to participate because they may not work in a relevant specialty.

About half of the IPs surveyed said they need to evaluate results of tests for methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) within 12 hours to enable timely initiation of precautions to prevent the spread

of such infections. However, it takes 24 to 48 hours for results from MRSA cultures, a common screening method used to detect these microbes, to be finalized. Although the low response rate for the study may limit the generalizability of the results because the responses may have been skewed toward those with greater or lesser concerns, the findings suggested that greater communication between IPs and laboratory professionals may help address this issue.

“These survey results indicate that there are areas for improvement in the relationship between IPs and lab professionals to ensure the best patient outcomes,” said Lance Peterson, MD, an advisor to ASM and director of microbiology and infectious diseases research at NorthShore University HealthSystem in Evanston, Ill, in a statement. □



Janice Harvey Carr/CDC

### news@JAMA

From JAMA's Daily News Site

#### Statin Risks Spark Debate

Updated warnings about the adverse effects of cholesterol-lowering statins renewed criticism that the drugs are being overused.

After warning of increased risks of developing diabetes, liver injury, cognitive problems, and muscle injury, the US Food and Drug Administration said statins' cardiovascular benefits still outweigh the risks. But prominent cardiologist Eric J. Topol, MD, of the Scripps Research Institute, questioned the value of statins for most users, who take them to prevent heart attacks and strokes. Only about 2 per 100 such individuals will benefit from taking the drugs.

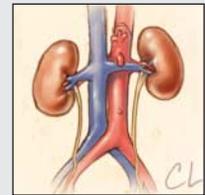
<http://tinyurl.com/75k2syj>

#### Kidney Failure Not Inevitable

Researchers bucked conventional wisdom by showing that not all patients with chronic kidney disease will develop kidney failure.

Their study also suggested that kidney function can improve in some patients with chronic kidney disease, those who are successfully treated for hypertension. Kidney function test results for 949 black patients with chronic kidney disease showed that 10% did not go on to develop kidney failure and 3% had clearly improved kidney function.

<http://tinyurl.com/7q8tdkb>



#### Health Costs Stress Families

Many US families are financially stressed because of high health care costs, according to a report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The agency estimated that about 1 in 3 individuals lives in a family with financial burdens due to health care, about 1 in 5 individuals is in a family having problems paying medical bills, and some 10% have families unable to pay any of their medical bills.

<http://tinyurl.com/7c6doso>

#### Young Adults Get Insured

A popular provision of the Affordable Care Act appears to be having its intended effect.

An analysis from the US Department of Health and Human Services estimated that 2.5 million people aged 19 to 25 years obtained health insurance as a result of the provision, which allowed coverage by a parent's policy until age 26 years. The provision went into effect in September 2010.

<http://tinyurl.com/7xv973p>

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