

**PREVENTIVE MEDICINE/PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE**  
MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2006 - Nassau Academy of Medicine

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

David Annunziato, MD, Chairman  
Thomas Caraccio, MD, LIRPDIC  
Robert D'Esposito, MD  
Laurie Huenteo - Leg. Diane Yatauro's office  
Irene Leff, NSH/LIJ Health Systems  
Sharon C.H. Mead, MD  
Margaret Sherman, RN, NCDOH

**STAFF**

Mark J. Cappola, Executive Director  
Christina Quinones, Executive Secretary

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** - Dr. Annunziato asked members for any additions or deletions to the minutes of the previous meeting of 7/18/06. There being none, the minutes of 7/18/06 were approved as circulated.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT** - Dr. Annunziato convened the meeting of the Preventive Medicine Committee at 12:15. Dr. Annunziato informed members that the Education Committee, Media Committee and the Preventive Medicine Committee have been charged with developing PSA's. A PSA on Menopause and Hormones was distributed. Members felt that the PSA is one-sided and only highlights the positives without listing any side effects. Members felt that PSA's should be created on: HPV Vaccine, Prostate Cancer, Breast Cancer and Medication Safety.

**TB UPDATE** - Ms. Sherman noted that the incidence of TB is down. A current investigation is underway on a high school student with TB. The Department of Health is identifying and testing contacts.

**WEST NILE VIRUS UPDATE** - Ms. Sherman informed members that as of 9/15/06 the NYS DOH reported 190 dead birds, 359 mosquito pools 16 human cases (1 death) and one horse are infected in New York State. In Nassau County there were 5 dead birds, 40 mosquito pools and 2 human cases of WNV reported. Ms. Sherman noted that a positive mosquito pool containing the La Cross Virus was found in Nassau County.

**IMMUNIZATION UPDATE** - Margaret Sherman, RN of the NCDOH attended in place of Dr. Abby Greenberg. Dr. Annunziato asked Margaret to provide the Committee with a report of Guillain-Barre Syndrome associated with Menactra Vaccine next month. Pertussis vaccine is now recommended for adolescents and adults as a one time only vaccine in combination form with tetanus and diphtheria vaccines (Tdap). The Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccine, Gardasil is recommended for all 11-12 year old females. The HPV vaccine costs \$375 for three doses and insurers will not reimburse for this vaccine. This vaccine will be included in the VFC program. Hepatitis A vaccine is now recommended for all children at age one year and a second dose 6-18 months later. A second dose of Varicella (Chickenpox) vaccine is now routinely recommended for children at 4-6 years of age. A new vaccine to prevent Herpes Zoster will be available and is recommended for individuals who have had chickenpox disease. Ms. Sherman informed members that an adequate supply of the

influenza vaccine is expected to be available this flu season. Recommendations of influenza immunization have been expanded for the 2006-2007 influenza season to include children from 24 to 59 months and household contacts and out-of-home caregivers for all children from birth-59 months of age. The Rabies Vaccine Program continues and to date twelve humans in Nassau County have been in contact with bait.

**TOXICOLOGY UPDATE** - The bait used in the Rabies Vaccine program looks like a square cube wrapped in fishmeal. The vaccine itself is manufactured with vaccinea and reactions have been reported. Dr. Caraccio noted that the LIRPDIC has received numerous calls concerning the spinach alert. Many questions such as is canned or frozen spinach safe? Yes - the alert is only on fresh spinach. There have been three cases of botulism on carrot juice. A mushroom poisoning alert that causes hallucinations, liver and renal failure and also death.

**BREAST CANCER UPDATE** - Dr. Mead reported that the American Cancer Society's Annual "Walk-A-Thon" set for October is looking for participants.

**SPEAKER'S BUREAU** - No report.

**SENIORS UPDATE** - Dr. Mead noted that the state's inspection of monitoring physician activities at nursing homes has increased. Elder abuse continues to be a problem.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT** - No report.

**NSH/LIJ UPDATE** - Ms. Leff provided members with several brochures of upcoming programs. September is Prostate Awareness Month.

There being no further business, Dr. Annunziato adjourned the members of the Preventive Medicine Committee at 1:30 and scheduled the Committee's next meeting for October 24.