

1111 Park Avenue
Suite 13-C
New York, NY 10128-1234
www.hospitalinfection.org

Committee Members

Betsy McCaughey, PhD
Founder & Chairman
Kenneth S. Abramowitz
Rodrigo Bianchi
Tina Brown
Charles Brunie
Henry Buhl
John Catsimatidis
Ilene Corina
Morton N. Dean
Sir Harold Evans
Robert Hormats
Erica Jong
Herbert London, MD
Consuelo Mack
Richard Meier
Rodney Nichols
Sherwin Nuland, MD
Lawrence Phillips
Laurel Pickering
Richard Ravitch
Jeremy Schaap
Lynn & Sy Syms
Donald & Barbara Tober

Hospital Infection Crisis Takes Center Stage at Gathering of State Legislators as McCaughey Delivers Keynote; RID Founder to Present Evidence That Infection Control is Key to Lowering State Medicaid Costs.

New York, NY—March 1—Committee to Reduce Infection Deaths (RID) Founder and Chairman Betsy McCaughey, Ph.D. will deliver the keynote address at the 2005 National Conference of Insurance Legislators' (NCOIL) Spring Meeting this week in Hilton Head, South Carolina.

The fourth largest killer of Americans, hospital acquired infections kill an estimated 103,000 Americans each year – more than AIDS, breast cancer and traffic accidents *combined* – and injure up to 2 million more. In addition to the human toll, hospital infections add billions to overall healthcare costs.

The NCOIL Spring Meeting runs March 3 – 6, 2005 at the Hilton Oceanfront Resort in Hilton Head, SC. Dr. McCaughey's keynote address will take place Friday, March 4, from 12:15 – 1:30 pm.

HOSPITAL INFECTIONS AT A GLANCE

THE COST – UNACCEPTABLE

- Fourth largest killer of Americans - an estimated 103,000 each year.
- More than AIDS, car accidents and breast cancer combined.
- Hospital acquired infections cost society billions of dollars each year.
- A serious bloodstream infection can add an estimated \$57,000 to a patient's bill.
- Taking steps to reduce infections saves hospitals money.

THE CAUSE – POOR HYGIENE

- Failure by doctors and hospital staff to follow basic hygienic procedures such as washing hands between patient visits and proper cleaning and use of equipment.
- Hospitals in Pittsburgh and other cities have dramatically reduced the number of infections by enforcing strict hygienic standards...and saved money in the process.

THE SOLUTION – PUBLIC PRESSURE ON HOSPITALS TO CLEAN UP AND COME CLEAN

- Clean up by having all hospital employees follow basic hygienic procedures such as washing hands between patient visits.
- Come clean by publicly disclosing infection rates.
- Patients can also take simple steps to reduce their risk of hospital infections. Information available at www.hospitalinfection.org.

About The National Conference of Insurance Legislators (www.ncoil.org)

The National Conference of Insurance Legislators (NCOIL) is an organization of state legislators whose main area of public policy concern is insurance legislation and regulation. Many legislators active in NCOIL either chair or are members of the committees responsible for insurance legislation in their respective state houses across the country.

CONTACT: For more information on RID, please contact Adam Dubitsky at 202-965-4223 or visit www.hospitalinfection.org. Information on NCOIL is available at www.ncoil.org.