

# Morbidity and Mortality Committee

October 11, 2003

2:30 - 4:00

Salon 10

Scottsdale, AZ

## *Agenda*

Minutes of 2003 meeting

MMLC update

ISCS Build study update .....Dr. Titcomb

ISCS Diabetes study update .....Dr. Milano

Mortality Studies Working Group update .....Dr. Ashley

Annual meeting program ..... all

2003 content, ideas for 2004

Committee role as guide to program presenters .....Dr. Titcomb

JIM index .....Dr. Ashley

Mortality Methodology Course

Basic ..... Dr. Ivanovic

Advanced .....Dr. Wesley

Request from JIM editor to develop mortality article guidelines ..... Dr. Krause

## Minutes

Present: Titcomb, Profumo, Krause, Winsemius, Wesley, Ashley

Dr. Titcomb described the MMLC Build study underway. The main preliminary result is a U-shaped mortality curve, high at BMI <18.5 and >35 with a flat relationship in between.

Dr. Milano was unable to attend the meeting. Dr. Winsemius presented preliminary results of the Diabetes study. Excess mortality appears lower than in prior industry reports.

MMLC studies are handicapped by low participation rate. At the Committee meeting, and at the Executive Council meeting, Dr. Titcomb and Dr. Ashley urged medical directors to advocate in their companies for this project that will improve mortality assessment.

The MSWG has met by conference call several times to develop a strategy for future SOA intercompany studies. The goal so far is to continue the annual ordinary study and to add data collection fields that will permit analysis of preferred mortality. The method favored is to collect lab and paramed information in electronic form, on an individual basis, that supports multivariate analysis. The MSWG will issue a formal report later in 2003.

Dr. Titcomb proposed a new role for Committee members in the scientific program. If clinical speakers would identify studies with potentially useful mortality information, the Committee could support mortality analysis that the speaker could incorporate in the presentation and discuss. There was a consensus to pursue the idea further.

JIM index needs action as JIM publication has resumed. The index lists mortality analysis articles published in JIM, by topic. Dr. Krause does not want the editorial staff to take on the duties of an index, so it would not be feasible to include the index identifier in the published article. Given that CMAS will not publish further hardcover installments of the index, and that JIM articles appear in NLM/Pubmed, the Committee agreed that there is little further purpose in a separate index. Dr. Ashley and Dr. Krause will decide on suitable MESH terms that single out this group of articles. By inclusion of the appropriate MESH keywords, NLM/Pubmed will effectively substitute for the freestanding index.

Dr. Krause proposed that the Committee develop guidelines for the style and content of mortality abstract articles. JIM editors, reviewers and contributors would use the guidelines to make a more consistent style for JIM articles.

### **Mortality Methodology Courses**

Brian Ivanovic once again directed the Basic Mortality Methodology Course in 2003. It attracted 18 students, and all succeeded. David Wesley directed the Advanced Course, offered again after a hiatus of three years. Six students enrolled. More detailed reports from the Course directors are attached. The chair thanks both Course Directors, on behalf of the Committee and AAIM.

David Wesley has stepped down as Advanced Course director, after many excellent programs. Fortunately, he has agreed to continue his participation in the Committee.

The chair especially calls attention to the service of Brian Ivanovic in this most fundamental of the Committee's activities. Brian has taught the Basic Course for many years and has written a first-rate syllabus. He generously transferred the copyright on his work to AAIM. This year, Brian co-presented the Advanced Course with David Wesley, and recruited Ken Krause and Marianne Cumming as co-presenters of the Basic Course. Brian volunteered all of this effort despite having to return to Ft. Wayne and not being able to attend the Scientific Program this year. All of AAIM owes Brian a debt of gratitude for what he has done, and continues to do.