

Morbidity and Mortality Committee Report Spring 2003

BASIC MORTALITY COURSE

Brian Ivanovic taught the basic course in Orlando prior to the 2002 AAIM meeting and provided a detailed report to the CME committee that covered performance on specific topics. Brian found no evidence that calls for a change in the course content.

Twelve students registered. Ten completed the homework assignment and took the final exam. Additionally, two students who had taken the course previously audited the session. Prior sessions have averaged 15-18 students.

All 10 candidates performed successfully on pre-course homework. Five tested out of the didactic sessions, though 2 of them attended anyway.

Brian has accepted Bob Frank's invitation to teach the course again at our Phoenix meeting.

Discussion item: leadership of AHOU requests that this course be offered in conjunction with the annual AHOU meeting. This year, the meeting is located in San Francisco and precedes our meeting by 1 week.

Issues

- AAIM holds copyright on the course material that Brian wrote, and controls use of the material.
- Timing and location, and resource strain, preclude Brian's service as teacher in 2003, and probably in most future years.
- Participation in the 2002 course dropped. Are there enough candidates to support another session?
- Does the course foster our goal of attracting underwriters to the AAIM meeting? Would delivery at AHOU compromise the goal?

ADVANCED MORTALITY COURSE

The last session of the advanced course followed the Indianapolis AAIM meeting in 2000. Richard Braun and Dave Wesley agreed to offer the course in conjunction with the Phoenix meeting this year. Richard withdrew in anticipation of a potential conflict with the arrival of a new child. Brian Ivanovic will take his place, in addition to his work on the Basic course.

David and Brian will supplement the classic work on a published clinical study with new material that analyzes raw survival data.

MORBIDITY MORTALITY LIAISON COMMITTEE

The MMLC has published the elevated blood pressure study on the SOA website, www.soa.org. It is in press for publication in OTR and JIM as well.

This year the committee has 2 more studies in progress, on diabetes and build. Tony Milano (chair) and David Winsemius are the AAIM member participants of the diabetes group. Cliff Titcomb (chair) and Tom Ashley are on the build subcommittee.

Tom Ashley joined the Mortality Studies Working Group Task Force. Their mission is to review recent and planned intercompany studies generated by the SOA, and formulate a strategy for future study topics and execution.

Sales pitch: intercompany studies are floundering for lack of participation. Alcohol and Liver Enzyme, Elevated Blood Pressure, Diabetes, and Build all flow from the Impairment Study Capture System. Please urge your company to contribute data. Contact me for more information.

SEER

At the October M&M Committee and the April MMLC meetings, Tony Milano presented progress reports on his collaboration with Richard Singer to derive mortality abstracts from SEER data. The authors expect to publish a monograph, on an as yet undetermined schedule.

MORTALITY ABSTRACT INDEX

Richard Singer completed *A Descriptive Index of Mortality Studies from Selected Sources 1951-1995*, available in book form from CMAS at MIB. From Dick's records, Tom Ashley extended the index through 2000 in the form of an insert that ships with the book. He will continue the index for articles published in JIM that contain mortality analysis.

AAIM PROGRAM

The Committee plans to organize and promote mortality analysis content at every annual meeting. This year, we have recruited John Iacovino to discuss practical and streamlined approximations for mortality assessment, and David Winsemius to address the selection of appropriate benchmark mortality for derivation of MR in clinical data.

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas Ashley MD