IHCA’s 65th Annual Convention & Expo—Early Bird Registration Ends Tomorrow!!

Last Chance to Register and Save with Early Bird Rates!!!

Tomorrow, August 21, 2015 is your LAST CHANCE to lock in the Early Bird Registration rates. **Please note:** Due to a systems upgrade we will be unable to offer online registration for convention this year. All registrations will have to be submitted using the form available in the Preliminary Program and sent to IHCA via mail or fax. In light of this inconvenience we will be offering the online rates for anyone who registers:

- **Early Bird:** $795 member/$1,245 non-member
- **Late:** $995 member/$1,445 non-member

If you have any questions regarding registration, please contact Kelli Showalter at kshowalter@ihca.com or 800-252-8988.

Booths are Going Fast!!!! Don’t Delay—Reserve Your Booth Today!

This show is an excellent opportunity to mingle with your peers, make contact with potential clients and touch base with current customers! Space is running out so get your booth today! Visit the Exhibitor Information page on www.ihca.com for information about the expo as well as a link to the Prospectus.

Contact Kelli Showalter (800-252-8988 or kshowalter@ihca.com) if you have questions or need assistance with your booth.

Session Monitors Needed!!

Speaker monitors are needed for sessions during convention. It’s a super easy gig—monitors are responsible for introducing speakers and scanning attendee badges at the end of each session. If you are interested in helping us out and monitoring a session or two (or more!) please contact Kelli Showalter (800-252-8988 or kshowalter@ihca.com).

The Changing Face... of the IHCA Convention & Expo!!!

We strive each year to make our annual convention and expo a wonderful event for everyone involved. This year we have a few changes in store for our attendees:

- **We’re going green! IHCA is going paperless at Convention!** Session handouts will NOT be printed this year. They will be made available online for all registrants prior to convention.
- **Once again, badge sheets will be mailed** to those facilities that register early this year. If you register for convention by next **Wednesday, August 26, 2015**, your registrant badge sheets will be sent to the facility to the attention of the individual listed as the facility contact on the registration form. **Please be sure that your**
attendees bring these badge sheets with them to convention!! They will need to show their badge sheet to get the rest of their convention materials when checking in!

Check out the Convention section on [www.ihca.com](http://www.ihca.com) for more information!!

**CDC Releases 2015 – 2016 Flu Shot Recommendations**

The CDC [recently released](http://www.ihca.com) their recommendations for the 2015 – 2016 flu season. Because influenza season usually peaks between December and February, it is recommended that seniors be vaccinated prior to December. Though it effectiveness can decline “significantly” in the months following administration of the vaccine, the CDC believes that it is important to avoid “difficulties in vaccinating a population within a more constrained time period,” which is why they suggest that adults over the age of 65 receive the vaccine sooner rather than later.

After last year, which saw particularly high rates of flu cases in nursing centers and other health care facilities, protecting seniors is an important issue. Late last month, leaders in the House Energy and Commerce Committee sent a letter to HHS Secretary Sylvia Burwell asking that the administration provide a plan on how to prepare for the upcoming flu season.

““The mismatched seasonal influenza vaccine and the high death rate among the elderly and other high-risk populations in the U.S. during the 2014-2015 influenza season highlight the need for an improved response,” stated the letter, “including making seasonal influenza vaccines more effective and promptly available.”

For more about the upcoming flu season, [click here](http://www.ihca.com).

**Aging Eyes? Injections Shown to Improve Vision in Adults with VMA**

Vision problems caused by/related to the aging eye can be serious and can lead to permanent vision loss if left untreated. As the eye ages, the thick clear gel that fills the center of the eye (the vitreous) can liquefy and separate from the retina. In some cases, according to a [recent article](http://www.ihca.com) from [Futurity.org](http://www.ihca.com), “parts of the vitreous remain attached to and may pull on the retina, causing vision distortion, vision loss, and even blindness.”

Vitreomacular adhesion (VMA) effects an estimated 1.5 percent of the population and patients at high risk for vision loss because of it are generally given a vitrectomy—surgical removal of the vitreous. According to researchers, an injectable drug has been developed that may improve the vision of people with these issues.

Two Phase 3 clinical trials, both randomized and masked, studied nearly 700 patients from across the U.S. and Europe who were suffering from VMA and chose treatment with ocriplasmin. Of these, 464 patients received the drug and 188 were given a placebo. Participants were given complete eye examinations at regular intervals before and after the injection (up to six months). Patients treated with the ocriplasmin injection showed greater improvements in vision-related activities/visual function than those who received the placebo. They were also less likely to have experienced worse vision after six months.

**New Algorithm More Accurately Identifies Patients At Risk for Sepsis**

A recent study found that a new complex algorithm predicted septic shock in 85 percent of cases—without increasing the false positive rate from current common screening methods. Additionally, this method was able to predict septic shock before any organ dysfunction occurred upwards of two-thirds of the time, which is a vast improvement over existing screening protocols.

According to Suchi Saria, assistant professor of computer science at Johns Hopkins University, time is precious for patients with sepsis and hours can mean the difference between life and death. “The critical advance our study makes is to detect these patients early enough that clinicians have time to intervene,” she stated.

Septic shock affects approximately one million Americans each year and kills around 200,000 of them. It is caused by a strong immune system reaction to infection, which causes inflammation throughout the body if untreated. This inflammation can cause any number of problems, including blood clots and leaking blood vessels and even organ failure.

For the study, researchers reviewed the electronic health records of more than 16,000 patients admitted to ICUs at Boston’s Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. They then created an algorithm that combines results on 27 variables
into a TREWScore—a Targeted Real-time Early Warning Score—which measures the risk of sepsis. This score can be programmed into hospital HER systems to alert doctors and nurses about patients at risk for septic shock.

For more information, click here to view the full article from Futurity.org.

2015 United States of Aging Survey - Many Older Adults Feel Prepared for Aging

The demographics of the United States are changing as 10,000 baby boomers turn 65 each day. This group has proven to have a unique perspective on aging and how local communities can play in helping them get the most out of their remaining years. This year, in its fourth year, the United States of Aging Survey consisted of 1,650 telephone interviews, including nationally representative samples of Americans 60 and older and professionals who work closely with them. These professionals—sometimes referred to as influencers in the survey—included staff from the Area Agencies on Aging, credit union managers, primary care physicians and pharmacists.

This year’s survey showed that a majority of both older adults (86 percent) and professionals (77 percent) feel seniors are prepared overall for the process of aging. Older adults, however, are far more confident: only 10 percent of professionals surveyed feel older Americans are “very prepared” to age, compared with 42 percent of seniors.

“Both older adults and the professionals who support them offered strong but conflicting opinions on the top challenges older Americans face as they age,” said Rhonda Randall, D.O., chief medical officer, UnitedHealthcare Retiree Solutions. “The findings remind us of how valuable these different perspectives are and the importance of addressing many concerns simultaneously to ensure we all fully support the rapidly growing senior population.”

For more on this survey, click here to read the HealthDay News article. Or, visit the United States of Aging Survey website.

New Research Shows MRI Scanner Steers Cancer-Killing Virus Inside the Body

Cell-based therapies—therapies which exploit modified human cells to treat diseases like cancer—have come a long way in recent years. A new study suggests that MRI scanners are the key to administering treatments directly to both primary and secondary tumors wherever they are located, which would generally be impossible to reach via injection.

“This not only increases the therapeutic efficacy but also decreases the risk of unwanted side effects,” explained study leader Munitta Muthana from the University of Sheffield’s oncology department. “The beauty of using the MRI scanner to administer the therapy is that you can also use it for its original purpose, providing a real-time image-guide to ensure the treatment has gone where it is needed.”

For further details on this new development, click here to read the full article.

August Observances

This Month is National Immunization Awareness Month: This month-long observance provides an opportunity to highlight the importance of immunizations and to shine a light on the need for improving national immunization coverage levels. While immunizations have significantly reduced the incidence of many serious infectious diseases, vaccination rates for some diseases are not meeting national public health goals. And, it is important to remember that immunizations aren’t just for children—they are needed throughout our lifetime. Click here for more information.

This Month is National Medic Alert Awareness Month: Medical IDs provide for a quick recognition of medical conditions, allergies, medications or treatment wishes in an emergency; this leads to faster and more effective medical treatment. Organized by the MedicAlert Foundation, a non-profit organization founded more than 60 years ago, this month-long observance is a great time to raise awareness about the life-saving benefits of these identification tags. Click here to find out more.
AHCA/NCAL Information

Time is Running Out to Register for the 66th Annual AHCA/NCAL Convention & Expo!

Are you ready to join your fellow owners, administrators, DONs, CEOs, COOs, executive staff and other professionals in long term and post-acute care this October? Only three weeks remain to register in advance for the AHCA/NCAL 66th Annual Convention & Expo, held October 4-7, in San Antonio, Texas. It’s a fantastic event filled with unique learning, networking and entertaining opportunities that you won’t find anywhere else.

Earn CEUs, choose from over 20 tracks of education sessions, get new ideas, and see what happens when all the best minds in the field come together for four jam-packed days.

Learn more and register now. Advance Registration ends September 9.

September 13-19, 2015 – National Assisted Living Week®

This year’s theme, suggested by NCAL members, is “Nourishing Life: Mind, Body, Spirit.” This theme celebrates the countless ways assisted living caregivers nurture the whole resident. Communities across the country work each and every day to ensure that the lives of their residents are fully nourished in each and every way. Conversely, residents nourish the lives of team members and volunteers by, with the support of loved ones, sharing their inspiring lives. For more information, click here.

IHCA PAC Information

IHCA PAC/The Center-PAC Golf Outing and 3rd Annual Holgeir Oksnevad 5k Run/Walk

The time has come! The annual PAC golf outing will be held at WeaverRidge Golf Club on Monday, September 14, with an 11:30 a.m. shotgun start. Lunch is available before the outing starts, and beverages, prizes and awards are also included. The golf outing is a great event to kick off convention experience -- it’s a day of fun, sun and drinks before three days of top notch speakers, educational sessions and unparalleled peer-to-peer networking opportunities at the 65th Annual IHCA Convention and Expo. Fill out the registration form and send to Ashley Snavely to reserve your foursome today!

The 3rd Annual Holgeir Oksnevad 5k Run/Walk has been moved to Tuesday, September 15 after education sessions. This year the race will take place on the beautiful Peoria Riverfront! That’s right, flat as a pancake. The price is $25 per participant and includes an Oksnevad t-shirt that will help you continue your 5k training far after convention. The design can be seen to the right! The shirt will be a Nike dry fit race shirt available in both men’s and women’s sizes. Women should size up from last year’s shirt race shirt and specify if you would like a men’s or women’s shirt. You must sign up before August 21 to guarantee a shirt so fill out the registration form NOW!!!!

IHCA Member Spotlight

Interested in Seeing Your Company or Facility Featured in Our IHCA Member Spotlight?

IHCA is proud of our diverse membership and all of your successes and accomplishments. Has your company recently celebrated a milestone? Accomplished a goal? Undergone a major change? Do you have positive stories or news to share? Would you just like to get your name out there among your fellow IHCA members?

If you would like to see your company or facility recognized in Members Only--Associate Members, Facilities, Corporations alike--contact acaldwell@ihca.com.

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