MRSA Takes Center Stage

More Americans die annually from invasive methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) infections than from HIV/AIDS, H1N1 influenza and Parkinson's disease, yet some feel the U.S. and other countries are not doing enough to combat it. “Everyone knows someone who has been affected by MRSA,” states MRSA Survivors Network founder Jeanine Thomas, a survivor of MRSA, sepsis and C. difficile, and who became critically ill after surgery – nearly dieing.

MRSA Survivors Network, a Chicago-based nonprofit and official organization for World MRSA Day, is working to build momentum for their annual World MRSA Day kickoff event, October 1st at Loyola University Chicago. The 2010 theme is: The MRSA Epidemic - A Call to Action.

Other fellow MRSA activists are planning events across the United States and in Europe on October 2nd, raising awareness around the globe and also during the month of October, marking World MRSA Awareness Month.

2010 sponsors who have lent their support to date are: StaphAseptic (Tec Labs), 3M and Loyola University Chicago. Dr. William Jarvis, of Jason & Jarvis Associates, LLC will be the recipient of the Barry M. Farr Lifetime Achievement Award for his dedication and international work in raising awareness, educating Ministries of Health and infection preventionists worldwide on MRSA prevention.

Dr. Farr, professor emeritus at UVA was a pioneer in ADI – active detection and contact isolation, starting in the early 1980s at his university hospital and was the first to control MRSA infections in the United States.

MRSA Activists are calling for action by the World Health Organization (WHO), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), U.S. Surgeon General, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and Ministers of Health to declare MRSA an ongoing epidemic and pandemic and to take immediate action to obtain needed funds to raise awareness, initiate educational campaigns and to provide funding for healthcare facilities to launch ADI programs.

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