



NEWS RELEASE

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AMDA Poster Session Features Teen Researcher

Columbia, Md. – The Poster Session at Long Term Care Medicine – 2011, AMDA’s annual meeting in Tampa, Fla., held last month, featured a 15-year-old high school student presenting the results of a study he pursued as part of a school internship. William Kindschuh of New York, N.Y., received a special honorable mention for his poster, “Comparison of a Hospital-wide Antibigram to that of an Associated Long Term Care Facility.”

Mr. Kindschuh’s research career began with an optional science research class at Regis High School in Manhattan, where he is a sophomore. “I had to complete an independent research project as part of this class. I was interested in microbiology and had seen headlines about MRSA [methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*] and the problems antibiotic resistance has caused. I thought this would be an interesting topic,” he said. His father, an emergency department physician at the New York Hospital of Queens, suggested he consider an internship there to pursue his study. The result was a perfect match.

Carl Urban, PhD, in the infectious disease lab had wanted to pursue this topic, but lacked sufficient staff or time. Mr. Kindschuh started working with Dr. Urban and in three months they had a research project. Daniel Russo, MD, CMD, the medical director at Silvercrest Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation, the long term care facility affiliated with the hospital, suggested submitting the study as an AMDA poster.

Visitors to the poster session in Tampa had “tons of questions” for Mr. Kindschuh, many of them about his age. “Many people wanted to know how I got into this,” he said. However, he noted that he also received numerous technical questions.

Almost immediately, Mr. Kindschuh received validation from the medical community. “The day after I compiled my results, Dr. Urban got a call from an infectious diseases attending physician who had a patient from Silvercrest with pneumonia. He wanted to know from my data what he should do,” he said. At the same time, Dr. Russo instructed physicians at Silvercrest to limit their use of a particular antibiotic based partly on Mr. Kindschuh’s research. Mr. Kindschuh and his colleagues are submitting a paper on the study to *JAMDA*, AMDA’s journal.

Mr. Kindschuh, who says he can picture himself as a practitioner and researcher, admitted that he hadn’t really thought about geriatrics as a career before. “My knowledge of geriatrics was limited to my neighbors and my own grandparents.” However, he is no stranger to medicine – thanks to his physician father and his mother, who is a nurse. In addition to playing hockey and ping pong and training to become a lifeguard, he is planning more research – a project comparing the rates of MRSA colonization for hospital (physician) residents against those of students at his school. “I will

be a lot more hands-on than my last project; and collecting samples will be a real learning experience,” he said, adding, “There’s a potential for some astounding results.”

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AMDA – Dedicated to Long Term Care (formerly the American Medical Directors Association) is the national professional association of medical directors, attending physicians, and other professionals practicing long term care medicine committed to the continuous improvement of patient care. AMDA provides education, advocacy, information, and professional development enable its members to deliver quality long term care.