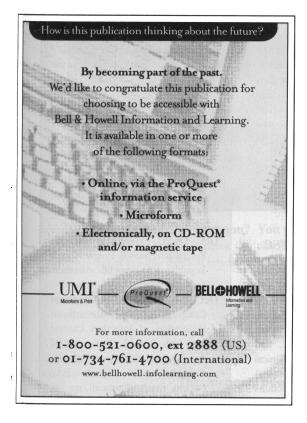
MRSA Contamination of Computer Terminals

Devine and colleagues from the District General Hospital, Eastbourne, East Sussex, United Kingdom, conducted a survey of two acute district general hospitals (A and B) to investigate the extent of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) contamination of wardbased computer terminals. Of 25 terminals examined, MRSA was identified in 6 (24%). Environmental contamination was of a low level. Five of the MRSA-positive terminals were from hospital A, which had a significantly higher rate of MRSA transmission compared to hospital B (1.02 vs 0.49 new inpatient MRSA cases per 100 hospital admissions for

1999). MRSA containment and handwashing policies were similar at both hospitals, but only hospital B actively audited handwashing compliance. It had a 44% higher rate of paper towel use per hospital bed.

Ward-based computer terminals pose a low risk of MRSA cross-infection. The authors believe that this risk can be further reduced if all staff wash their hands before and after patient contact

FROM: Devine J, Cooke RP, Wright EP. Is methicillinresistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) contamination of ward-based computer terminals a surrogate marker for nosocomial MRSA transmission and handwashing compliance? *J Hosp Infect* 2001;48:72-75.



INFECTIOUS DISEASES INFECTION CONTROL



INDIANA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Indiana University Department of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases is recruiting for an Assistant/ Associate Professor. This position will focus on building an Infection

Control program in conjunction with the local VA and county hospitals, which are located on our campus. Successful candidates should be BC in internal medicine and BC/BE in infectious diseases and should demonstrate prior experience or training in hospital epidemiology. At least 75% of the applicant's time will be spent in Infection Control.

For consideration, send a CV, letter of interest, statement of research interest, and three letters of reference to: Dr. Stanley M. Spinola, Director, Division of Infectious Diseases, Department of Medicine, 545 Barnhill Drive, EH 435, Indianapolis, IN 46202-5124. Indiana University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer M/F/D.