2016 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Association’s 2016 Annual Conference will be held at the Royal Sonesta Hotel in New Orleans, LA on October 19-21. Readers of the ASAHP UPDATE are requested to mark their calendars and plan on attending this important event. Apart from an Awards Dinner, opportunities to engage in networking, and a Town Meeting to discuss key issues, the event will feature a series of presentations both in concurrent sessions and at a poster session. Plenary session addresses will be made by:

Cheryl Dowd
Director, WCET/State Authorization Network (SAN)

Charlie Mahtesian
Senior Politics Editor, Politico

Freeman A. Hrabowski, III, President, University of Maryland, Baltimore County

Christine M. MacDonell, Managing Director, Medical Rehabilitation and International Aging Services/Medical Rehabilitation, CARF International

Patricia A. Cuff, Director, Global Forum on Innovation in Health Professional Education, Health and Medicine Division, National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine

Rooming rates for this year’s 2016 Annual Conference will start at $209 per night. Attendees may book within the room block through Monday, September 26, 2016. The special room rate will be available until the group block is sold-out. Online reservations can be made at https://gc.synxis.com/rez.aspx?Chain=5157&template=FLEXNDP&shell=FLEX&arrive=10/16/2016&depart=10/22/2016&adult=1&child=0&group=1016ASAHPC&hotel=12667 or by telephone at 855-463-3092.

Please indicate that you are with the Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions to identify yourself as part of the room block. You can do so by using Group Code: 1016ASAHPC.

ASAHP AWARD NOMINATIONS

Nominations are sought for awards that will be made in the following categories at the Awards Dinner on October 19 during the Annual Conference. With the exception of the Fellows Program Award, only one recipient is chosen.

Distinguished Service and Achievement Award
Its purpose is to recognize a former or inactive member of the Association who has achieved professional success beyond the scope of allied health.

Outstanding Member Award
Its purpose is to recognize a member who has contributed significantly to ASAHP during the previous year. Nominees must have held continuous membership in ASAHP for five years.

Cultural Pluralism Award
Its purpose is to recognize either an individual member or a department at a member institution involved in furthering the principle of cultural pluralism in the academic setting by demonstrating leadership in promoting it.

Fellows Program Award
Nominees must be members of ASAHP for five years and be actively involved in allied health. They will be selected by a committee of current Fellows.

Members who wish to nominate their colleagues for any of these awards are requested to do so by September 15, 2016. A statement justifying why anybody should receive an award must accompany each nomination. Please send this information by e-mail to Jacoby Lawrence at jacey@asahp.org.

Names of nominees will be forwarded to members of the ASAHP Board of Directors who will be involved in the selection process. The names of students who will receive scholarships from the Scholarship of Excellence Fund will be included on the program at the Awards Dinner. Each recipient will receive both a certificate and a check for $1,000. Students who were not selected will receive a certificate.
J. Warren Perry Award

The winners of the Journal of Allied Health’s 2016 J. Warren Perry Award are:

Tracy J. Farnsworth
Teri Peterson
Karen Neill
Mark Neill
John A. (Tony) Seikel
Jonathan Lawson

Their manuscript is entitled, “Understanding the Structural, Human Resource, Political, and Symbolic Dimensions of Implementing and Sustaining Interprofessional Education.” It appeared in the Fall 2015 issue.

The late J. Warren Perry was a founding member of ASAHP, became the Association’s 2nd President, and was the founder of the Journal of Allied Health. The selection of this year’s winning manuscript resulted from rankings developed by members of the Journal’s Editorial Board, who did not know who else was involved in producing scores. They each reviewed the top five articles that emerged, based on scores by reviewers on nine different criteria that are used during the pre-publication assessment process.

Institutional Profile Survey

Data collection for the 2016 study opens on September 12. Now is a good time to determine who will be assigned responsibility for collecting data. A User’s Guide is online at www.asahp.org in the section of the homepage labeled “Members.” It has proved to be immensely valuable for newcomers to the study.

Health Literacy Report

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine conducted a public workshop on the integration of health literacy, cultural competency, and language access services. Participants discussed skills and competencies needed for effective health communication; interventions and strategies for integration; and differing perspectives such as providers and systems, patients and families, communities, and payers. A report summarizes the presentations and discussions from the workshop. The report can be accessed at https://www.nap.edu/login.php?record_id=23498&page=pdf&cmtpage=http://3A%2F%2Fwww.nap.edu%2Fdownload%2F23498.

Hospital Quality Ratings

As the largest payer of the nation’s health bills, Medicare released its first overall quality rating of 3,617 hospitals to enable consumers to have a simple way to gauge quality objectively. A new Overall Hospital Quality Star Rating methodology uses 64 existing quality measures already reported on the Hospital Compare website and summarizes them into a unified rating of one to five stars.

Hospital industry officials and some members of Congress attempted to block the release, complaining that the ratings are overly simplistic. Many facilities across the U.S. with highly regarded national and international reputations did not receive high ratings. Locally, of the three academic health science center hospitals in the nation’s capital, each was rated at the low end of the scale. The list can be accessed at https://www.medicare.gov/hospitalcompare/search.html.

Scope of Practice

Scope of practice disputes in different states around the nation have a long history, but occasionally change occurs. Vermont became the latest state to recognize dental therapists, who are licensed dental hygienists that have completed a dental therapy graduate program. It joins Maine and Minnesota in allowing dental therapists to practice under the supervision of a dentist.

These three states empower dental therapists to perform some tasks that previously were done only by dentists. Members of the latter profession assert that the shift could weaken the quality of patient care because therapists are not sufficiently trained, a claim disputed by therapists. The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium also recognizes dental therapists to help on tribal land, but state lawmakers have not formally passed legislation that would allow them to practice statewide.

Fifth-Generation Technology

According to a report from the Brookings Institution, by the end of the decade, the fifth-generation (5G) network is expected to support 50 billion connected devices with speeds of more than 100 megabits per second. Connected medicine has the potential to transform health care through imaging, diagnostics, and treatment improvements. The report can be accessed at http://www.brookings.edu/-/media/research/files/papers/2016/07/14-health-iot/5g-health-internet-of-things_west.pdf.