2016 ASAHP ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Association’s 2016 Annual Conference will be held at the Royal Sonesta Hotel in New Orleans, LA on October 19-21. The theme for this event is Looking Out On The Horizon: Emerging Issues In Allied Health Education And Practice.

Readers of the ASAHP UPDATE are requested to mark their calendars and plan on attending this important event. The program will feature plenary session addresses by prominent speakers, along with presentations in both a series of concurrent sessions and a poster session. As in the past, ASAHP members will have an opportunity to sponsor various sessions. More information can be accessed at http://www.asahp.org/asahp-in-action/upcoming-national-conferences/2016-annual-conference/.

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/sez.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 make sure to indicate that you are attending in conjunction with the Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions in order to identify yourself as part of the room block. You can do so by using Group Code: 1016ASAHPC.

ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS WEEK

Allied Health Professions Week in 2016 will be celebrated on November 6-12 to honor the many excellent contributions made by educators and practitioners to improve individual and population health status. Many activities may be undertaken involving students, faculty, and staff that week on campuses at ASAHP member institutions to highlight the allied health professions and achievements undertaken at each school. Examples of activities will appear in a future ASAHP UPDATE issue.

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. The survey is managed by staff at Creighton University.

CANCER MOONSHOT INITIATIVES

A Cancer Moonshot Summit that was held in Washington, DC on June 29, 2016 served as a stimulus for the generation of a wide variety of initiatives to accelerate efforts to combat this disease. An example is the formation of new alliances.

In that vein, the Patient Centers Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI), a product of the Affordable Care Act, will employ its PCORnet infrastructure to develop a series of specific commitments to harness data from more than 110 million patients to speed cancer research and other large-scale studies of high-burden conditions. Through its partner networks, PCORnet already has made substantial progress in supporting high-quality, patient-centered cancer research. As part of the Moonshot commitment, PCORnet is creating a Cancer Collaborative Research Group that will identify and prioritize key research questions in this field. This group also will help to develop approaches for using real-world electronic data effectively to address unmet research needs in cancer prevention, diagnosis, and treatment.

Along with PCORnet, PCORI has awarded more than $157 million to fund patient-centered comparative clinical effectiveness studies related to cancer, including five large pragmatic clinical studies and a large number of projects focusing on cancer survivors’ information and care needs. Studies have focused on prevention, screening, detection, and treatment as well as care coordination and shared decision-making. The ASAHP UPDATE will continue to apprise readers of PCORI funding opportunities. Outcomes research is an area that stands to benefit enormously by the involvement of allied health-centered investigations.
During the one-year period July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016, the Association’s quarterly periodical attracted 101 manuscripts. From the standpoint of individual professions, the greatest number was on the topic of physical therapy. Although 43 individuals with a background in this profession are on the panel of reviewers, there never seems to be enough of them.

Once an article is submitted, an effort is made to assign it to three reviewers. This step can be difficult to implement because it is common for prospective reviewers to refuse an invitation to assess the merits of a manuscript. A typical reason is that they have more pressing duties to fulfill closer to home. Sometimes, it may take as many seven different requests before just one responds positively.

Thus, newcomers to the ranks of reviewers always are welcome, especially in physical therapy. Additional emphasis also is being placed on attracting more reviewers from occupational therapy and dietetics/nutrition, along with individuals who have experience in interprofessional education and practice. Possession of a doctorate degree and research experience are preferred qualifications. Expressions of interest should be sent to thomas@asahp.org.

**GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS**

*Preventing Chronic Disease (PCD)*, a publication of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), features regular Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Snapshots. These maps and text articles are used to display national, state, or county data for important health topics related to chronic disease. *PCD* publishes these Snapshots on a regular basis.

A recent addition on July 7, 2016 is “New Summary Measures of Population Health and Well-Being for Implementation by Health Plans and Accountable Care Organizations.” Although these entities measure many indicators of patient health with standard metrics that track factors, such as patient experience and cost, they lack the important summary measure of the third leg of the Triple Aim—population health. More information can be accessed at https://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/gis_toc.htm.

Also, anyone with an interest in submitting a map and research for consideration as a GIS Snapshot can find out how to do so at https://www.cdc.gov/pcd/for_authors/index.htm.

**FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

The *NIH Research Education Program (R25)* is aimed at producing a workforce to meet the nation’s biomedical, behavioral and clinical research needs; enhance the diversity of that workforce; recruit individuals with specific backgrounds; and foster a better understanding of this kind of research. *Courses for Skills Development* awards will provide opportunities to support implementation of courses designed to develop knowledge and skills for postdoctoral participants in clinical research.

These awards also will provide research experiences for post-doctorates, clinical and research fellows, and early stage investigators to develop a diverse cadre of clinical and translational investigators with a focus on diseases that disproportionately have an impact on health disparity populations. The deadline for applications is September 1, 2016. More information can be accessed at http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-16-350.html.

The *NHLBI Research Career Development Programs in T4 Implementation Research (K12)* aim to support experiences for scholars prepared to address the complex process of bridging research and practice in a variety of real-world settings with a focus on heart, lung, blood, and sleep (HLBS) diseases and conditions. The opportunity should lead to research independence in the area of late stage translation (T4) research. Scholars are expected to be supported, depending on needs, for up to three years on consecutive 12-month appointments.

Candidates selected for support as scholars must hold a research or health-professional doctoral degree and commit a minimum of nine person-months (equivalent to 75% of full-time professional effort) to conducting dissemination and implementation research focused on HLBS disorders and career development activities associated with the proposed program. The deadline for applications is October 13, 2016. More information can be accessed at http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-HL-17-016.html.

**INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION**

A new review published May 5, 2016 online sought to synthesize the evolving nature of IPE evidence and offer a series of key implications for IPE development. It can be accessed at file:///C:/Users/Tom/Documents/ASAHP%20UPDA TE/IPE%20BEME%20Guide.pdf.