ASAHP BOARD ACTIONS

The Association’s Board of Directors had a conference call on April 21. The following actions were among those taken:

- The Minutes of the Board meeting on March 16 in Louisville were approved as presented.

- Updates on implementation of the ASAHP Strategic Plan were provided by the: Interprofessional Committee, Advocacy Committee, Alliance & Partnerships Committee, Research Committee, and the Marketing Committee.

- Based on an evaluation of the 2016 Spring Meeting, 97% of respondents were satisfied or highly satisfied with the meeting overall.

- In a recent survey of ASAHP members regarding the future of holding a Spring Meeting, two-thirds of respondents indicated that they would prefer to eliminate the Spring Meeting and support expanding the Annual Conference if the Spring Meeting is eliminated. A motion made to eliminate the Spring Meeting and move to an expanded fall Annual Conference effective as soon as feasible was passed.

- ASAHP does not have a specific sexual harassment policy in the Policies and Procedures Manual. President Linda Petrosino requested two Board members to lead a task force to draft specific language for inclusion in the Manual and in the electronic Annual Conference registration page moving forward. A draft will be prepared for the next Board meeting in June.

- A brief update was provided on the composition of the planning committee and areas of focus for the upcoming Annual Conference. Another update described progress being made on the student organization initiative.

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Each year, the Association sponsors the Scholarship of Excellence Program for allied health students enrolled in its member institutions. The purpose is to recognize outstanding individuals who excel in their academic programs and have significant potential to assume future leadership roles in the allied health professions. Each student chosen for an award will receive a $1,000 scholarship.

In 2015, ASAHP gave scholarships to 12 students. Five of these awards were provided by the firm of CertifiedBackground.com, a company that offers criminal background check and immunization status check services to member institutions.

The year 2013 marked the inauguration of the Elwood Scholar Award. Created by the Board of Directors and named for ASAHP’s former Executive Director Thomas W. Elwood who retired from that position in 2012, at the conclusion of the selection of the Scholarship of Excellence Award recipients, an additional review process will commence to identify the most outstanding applicant.

That individual will receive an additional $1,000 scholarship and a complimentary registration to the 2016 ASAHP Annual Conference in New Orleans, LA where he or she will be recognized formally as the award recipient. All travel and rooming costs will be paid by ASAHP.

Several conditions must be met to apply. Only one candidate from each member institution can be nominated. All degree levels are eligible. Information about application procedures is on the Web at www.asahp.org in the Members Section.

A key point to observe is that each application must include a letter endorsed by the dean or director who serves as the official ASAHP Institutional Representative that supports the nomination and describes qualities of the candidate. A letter from a chairperson or faculty member also may be included. The deadline for submitting the necessary information is June 6, 2016.
FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

-- The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) issued a Call for Proposals for ResearchKit studies that will further an understanding of mood and how it relates to our daily lives, health, and well-being. The Challenge, a New Venture Fund program, will award $500,000 and provide finalists with expert mentorship and piloting opportunities. The submission deadline is May 22, 2016. More information can be accessed at http://www.moodchallenge.com/

-- The objective of the NIH Mentored Research Scientist Development Award (K01) is to provide salary and research support for a sustained period of “protected time” (3-5 years) for intensive research career development under the guidance of an experienced mentor or sponsor in the biomedical, behavioral, or clinical sciences leading to research independence. The expectation is that through this sustained period of research career development and training, awardees will launch independent research careers and become competitive for new research project grant funding (e.g., R01).

Since not all NIH Institutes and Centers participate in this announcement, applicants should note carefully which ones do so. The first application due date is June 12, 2016 by 5:00 PM local time of the applicant organization. Additional information can be accessed at http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-16-190.html.

-- The National Center for Interprofessional Practice and Education, in collaboration with the Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation and three other foundations, is soliciting proposals designed to accelerate the development of creative, robust, and sustainable interprofessional initiatives in which graduate nursing and one or more other professions actively learn and work together with individuals and their families in community-based clinical settings.

Up to 20 graduate nursing programs that collaborate with one or more professional schools and a community clinical setting will receive up to $50,000 for a two-year initiative. The recipient is required to provide a 1:1 match. Matching funds can be provided by the applicant school, professional school partners, university and/or clinical community partners, or others committed to the success of the initiative. Proposals are due on July 15, 2016. More information can be accessed at https://nexusipe.org/accelerating.

CANCER MOONSHOT SUBMISSIONS

A Cancer Moonshot Blue Ribbon Panel held its first meeting on April 11 and one of the first actions it took was to discuss the establishment of several proposed working groups to focus on specific topics. Ideas may be submitted in several different areas (e.g., cancer clinical trials). The panel will report its findings later this summer. Ideas for advancing progress against cancer may be submitted at CancerResearchIdeas.cancer.gov.

GRADUATE EDUCATION DATA

Fact sheets with state-specific data can be accessed and used to talk with policymakers and constituents about the scope and impact of graduate education in each state. Data are from the Council of Graduate Schools annual Graduate Enrollment and Degrees Survey, the federal IPEDS database, and the National Science Foundation’s Science and Engineering Indicators State Data Tool, which can be accessed at http://cgsnet.org/state-snapshots-select-data-graduate-education.

ACCREDITATION INTERVIEW SERIES


MEDICARE/MEDICAID INSIGHTS

A new resource from the National Academy of Social Insurance (NASI) provides a series of 23 individual interviews with former administrators and acting administrators of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and its predecessor, the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA). The interviews can be accessed at https://www.nasi.org/sites/default/files/research/Insights_from_the_Top.pdf.

CHRONIC DISEASE IMPACT

According to a National Fact Sheet, the number of patients with three or more chronic diseases is expected to increase to 83 million by 2030 at a cost exceeding $42 trillion. It can be accessed at http://www.fightchronicdisease.org/sites/default/files/pced_blocks/PFCD_US.FactSheet_FINAL1%20%282%29.pdf.