BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Prior to tomorrow’s ASAHP Spring Meeting in Louisville, KY the Association’s Board of Directors is meeting in that city today. Their discussions will include the following topics:

- Reports from President Linda Petrosino and Treasurer Kevin Rudeen
- Interprofessional Education Collaborative (IPEC) update
- FY 2016-2017 Budget Proposal
- Strategic planning subcommittee updates
- Implications of healthcare management for allied health professionals
- Potential international opportunities

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

The Maximizing Access to Research Careers (MARC) Undergraduate Student Training in Academic Research (U-STAR) program is designed to provide structured training opportunities to prepare high-achieving, underrepresented students for doctoral programs in biomedical research fields. Programmatic activities should include authentic research experiences, academic enhancements, skills development, and mentoring.

Institutions eligible for MARC U-STAR grants are those with significant enrollments of honors students from groups underrepresented in the biomedical sciences. The long-term goal of the program is to enhance the pool of underrepresented students earning baccalaureate and Ph.D degrees in biomedical research fields and ultimately to contribute to the diversification of the nation’s scientific workforce.


2016 ASAHP ELECTION

Nominations are being accepted for the 2016 ASAHP Election. The following positions will be contested when the election opens on July 15:

- Treasurer (two-year term)
- Board of Directors (three-year term)
- Nominations & Elections Committee (two-year term)

Members are reminded that in order to have votes counted, dues payments must be up-to-date. The deadline for submitting nominations is March 31, 2016. They can be directed to any of the following individuals who serve on the Nominations & Elections Committee:

- Teri Stumbo, Chairperson (Des Moines University)
  Tel: 515-271-1724
  E-Mail: Teri.Stumbo@dmu.edu

- Andrew Butler (Georgia State University)
  Tel: 404-413-1415
  E-Mail: andrewbutler@gsu.edu

- Patricia Chute (New York Institute of Technology)
  Tel: 516-686-3939
  E-Mail: pchute@nyit.edu

- Mitchell Cordova (Florida Gulf Coast University)
  Tel: 239-590-7451
  E-Mail: mcordova@fgcu.edu

- Carolyn Giordano (Thomas Jefferson University)
  Tel: 215-503-8811
  E-Mail: Carolyn.giordano@jefferson.edu

- Craig Jackson (Loma Linda University)
  Tel: 909-558-4545
  E-Mail: crjackson@llu.edu

- Cesarina Thompson (American International College)
  Tel: 413-205-3056
  E-Mail: Cesarina.thompson@aic.edu
Semiotician Umberto Eco died last month and the world took little note of his passing. He achieved recognition over the decades from his perch at the University of Bologna for his contributions to the field of semiotics, a somewhat obscure branch of learning that has a focus on signs, codes, and meanings in language. If he was known at all, it was for at least two of his novels, The Name of the Rose and Foucault’s Pendulum.

He also produced a novel with the title The Mysterious Flame of Queen Loana, which takes readers a little closer to occurrences in the health domain. The story involves a bookseller who upon regaining consciousness after a stroke can remember nothing about his life.

Similarly, Theodore Geisel who attained fame based on The Cat in the Hat and other children`s books, also wrote You’re Only Old Once. A Book for Obsolete Children. It is a fictional account as described in the January 2015 issue of the Cambridge Quarterly of Healthcare Ethics of the indignities inflicted on an older patient seeking health care. The intent is to show, among other system defects, how health personnel fail to communicate their findings directly. Instead, they may employ silent grimaces.

Other non-linguistic factors play a role in determining the effectiveness of interactions between providers and patients. The latter can be influenced by the asymmetrical power relationship of knowledge and expertise conveyed by a caregiver wearing a white coat. Practitioners on an overt and even subconscious level may react negatively to patients whose bodies are adorned with piercings and tattoos.

Spoken language itself has an enormous impact on health care quality. Russian literary theorist Mikhail Bakhtin used the term heteroglossia to discuss the multi-voiced nature of language by indicating that in the everyday speech of individuals no less than half the words uttered will be someone else’s words transmitted with varying degrees of precision and partiality. Yet, do various words mean the same thing for different individuals?

Correct usage of health nomenclature poses major challenges. Both pathologic classification and clinical staging influence cancer treatment decisions while advances in genomic landscaping and single-cell analysis add to the complexity of making certain that health terminology continues to be updated as necessary on a regular basis.

Educating health professionals in and with communities negatively affected by the social determinants of health (SDH) can generate awareness among those professionals about the potential root causes of ill health, contributing to more effective strategies for improving health and health care for underserved individuals, communities, and populations. Within this context, an expert committee of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine developed a high level framework for educating health professionals to address the SDH.


EDUCATIONAL OUTCOME BLUEPRINT

Young men of color experience many obstacles to success in the United States. In particular, institutions throughout the educational pipeline struggle to enroll and graduate Black and Latino males at rates equal to their peers. A new brief from the American Council on Education’s Center for Policy Research and Strategy’s Viewpoints series aims to help educators and policymakers better understand the challenges these students face while providing them with tools to address those challenges.


PATIENTS’ PERSPECTIVES

The Patients’ Perspectives on Health Care survey series by National Public Radio, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health seeks to illuminate the self-reported experiences today of health care consumers across the country and in seven states: Florida, Kansas, New Jersey, Ohio, Oregon, Texas and Wisconsin. A report contains a summary of the survey’s state and national findings as they pertain to six main questions (e.g., How do adults in the U.S. rate the quality of their health care and perceive the cost of their health care?). The report can be accessed at http://www.rwjf.org/content/dam/farm/reports/survey_s_and_polls/2016/rwjf427031.