

2016 ASAHP SPRING MEETING
The ASAHP 2016 Spring Meeting will be held on March 17-18 at the Seelbach Hilton in Louisville, Kentucky. The theme for this event is “A View from the Corner Office: the Future for Allied Health Education, Practice, and Diversity.” Information about the registration process and descriptions of plenary session speakers will be sent by email to the membership in coming days.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
The following have been selected to participate in the 2016 ASAHP Leadership Development Program that is scheduled to be conducted immediately prior to the Spring Meeting on March 15-16:

Mark Blegen (St. Catherine University)
Stephen Burrows (Sacred Heart University)
Marc Campolo (University of the Sciences)
Amy Darragh (The Ohio State University)
Gianluca De Leo (Augusta University)
James David Taylor (University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences)
Carolyn Giordano (Thomas Jefferson University)
David Henzi (University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio)
David Hudson (Western Carolina University)
Bonnie Van Lunen (Old Dominion University)

ASAHP NEWSLETTER TRENDS
The Association’s newsletter is distributed in the form of a combined issue for July-August every year. Another joint issue for the months of December-January will be available at the end of this month.

CLINICAL RESEARCH TRANSPARENCY
Reporting biases in the published literature--whereby the results of research are inconsistently or selectively reported--has been a source of concern in the health care field since at least the 1980s. Despite several efforts over the ensuing decades to address this issue, it is estimated that the results of up to half of all clinical trials conducted and completed have never been published.

This lack of transparency in clinical research has serious implications. Although previous efforts have failed to address the problem fully, recent policy initiatives in both the United States and abroad offer new opportunities to address outstanding issues. Information about these initiatives can be found in a new Health Policy Brief from the journal Health Affairs, which can be accessed at http://www.healthaffairs.org/healthpolicybriefs/brief.php?brief_id=150.

KISSING RCTs GOODBYE
When a baby or a toddler sustains an injury, it is a common practice among caring adults to apply a comforting kiss to the so-called boo-boo. According to the results of a randomized control trial (RCT) published on December 29, 2015 online in the Journal of Evaluation in Clinical Practice, children in a kissing group of mother-toddler pairs actually were “significantly more distressed” than those in the non-kissing group. The authors concluded that a moratorium on boo-boo kissing is recommended. The article is a product of a collaboration called The Study of Maternal and Child Kissing (SMACK) Working Group.

Prior to implementing the proposed withholding of an osculatory remedy, thereby allowing tiny sufferers to continue howling loudly, it is worth noting that the article is as much of a deliberate spoof as the supposed collaboration. The purpose of this satire was to indicate that RCTs have some drawbacks according to practitioners who believe that such studies run the risk of sideling anecdotal evidence and professional experience, which may not always be inferior to evidence obtained from clinical trials.
**OBESITY SOLUTIONS**

The incidence and prevalence of obesity in the United States continues to be a major concern. On October 6, 2015, the Roundtable on Obesity Solutions of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine held a workshop entitled “Obesity in the Early Childhood Years: State of the Science and Implementation of Promising Solutions.” The workshop examined what is currently known about the prevalence of obesity in young children, its trends over time, and its persistence into later childhood, adolescence, and adulthood; epigenetic factors related to risk of early childhood obesity; and the development of taste and flavor preferences in the first few years of life.

The workshop explored recent developments in the science of modifiable protective and risk factors associated with obesity through age five, including a mother’s pre-pregnancy weight and weight gain during pregnancy; smoking during pregnancy; breastfeeding; complementary feeding, responsive parenting; and sleep, activity, and sedentary behavior in young children. A brief summary of the workshop was released in January 2016 that highlights the observations made at the workshop by the speakers and during the discussion sessions.

The report can be accessed at [http://www.nap.edu/read/21890/chapter/1#5](http://www.nap.edu/read/21890/chapter/1#5)

**SCOPE OF PRACTICE**

Scope of practice regulations in states across the U.S. determine which kinds of professionals can provide health care to patients. According to the Pew Charitable Trusts, in August 2015, the Commission on Dental Accreditation—the accrediting body for academic dental programs—voted to implement educational standards for dental therapy training. Dental therapists are midlevel providers similar to physician assistants. They can help dentists build their practices and expand access to oral health care by providing preventive and routine restorative care, such as filling cavities.

As of last month, at least 10 states have considered legislation that would allow dentists to hire midlevel providers. Legislation is pending in Massachusetts and the Oregon Health Authority is considering a pilot program that would improve access to care for tribal communities. Dentists have worked successfully for years with midlevel providers in Alaska and Minnesota to expand access to care. Maine is the latest state to allow dentists to hire these providers, authorizing the practice in 2014.

**WOMEN IN HIGHER EDUCATION**

A new Infobrief by the American Council on Education’s (ACE) Center for Policy Research and Strategy updates key statistics about women in higher education, examining issues like tenure, compensation, and representation in high-ranking leadership positions, such as the presidency and membership on governing boards. The purpose of the Infobrief is to promote a dialogue on how to increase the number of women leaders and it also dismantles the “pipeline myth”—the idea that there are too few women qualified for leadership positions. The data indicate women are being prepared for leadership positions at a greater rate than men, with female students having earned half or more of all baccalaureate degrees for the past three decades and half of all doctoral degrees for almost a decade.


**JOURNAL OF ALLIED HEALTH**

Next month, some faculty members at an ASAHP member institution will participate in a webinar about the Association’s Journal of Allied Health. Two questions that they would like to have answered are: (1) what kinds of research topics are underdeveloped in allied health research, and (2) what types of manuscript submissions would be of particular interest to Journal readers?

Any readers of this issue of the ASAHP UPDATE who would like to comment on these matters are invited to do so. Please send responses to thomas@asahp.org. Gratitude is expressed in advance for sharing your views.

Meanwhile, although the Journal has a large panel of reviewers, two areas stand out as being in particular need of adding new ones to the ranks. They are: respiratory therapy and speech-language pathology. Some manuscripts upon being submitted become part of a lengthy backlog as a result of an inability to have them assigned for a review. Faculty with expertise in these professions who: have a doctorate, have had articles published in their field, and who even have performed reviews for other publications would be welcome additions. Interested parties should respond to thomas@asahp.org.

A great many articles that appear in the Journal are the products of survey research. Although ASAHP’s periodical does not have a specific minimum response rate, a rate in the low single digits raises serious doubts about the degree to which the findings are considered representative and unbiased. In such cases, an article cannot be accepted in the Original Research category. Some information about this matter can be accessed at [http://www.statisticsviews.com/details/feature/8739491/Taking-an-Interest-What-Makes-Someone-Respond-to-a-Survey.html?platform=hootsuite](http://www.statisticsviews.com/details/feature/8739491/Taking-an-Interest-What-Makes-Someone-Respond-to-a-Survey.html?platform=hootsuite)

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**Journal of Allied Health: Scope of Practice**

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