OUTCOMES RESEARCH

Over a period of many years, ASAHP has conducted stand-alone meetings and special sessions at the Association’s annual conferences to enable participants at these events to become more proficient in effectiveness and outcomes research. ASAHP Past President Judith Barr of Northeastern University played a major role in planning and implementing these offerings. Along with the Affordable Care Act and related initiatives, even greater emphasis currently is being placed on research that will increase the amount of evidence-based care.

A new opportunity to learn more about how to navigate this realm in ways that can be beneficial to allied health exists. Registration is open for the 2015 Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Research Conference, “Producing Evidence and Engaging Partners to Improve Health Care,” that is scheduled for October 4-6, 2015 at the Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel and Convention Center in Crystal City, Virginia.

The conference, which is being co-hosted by the organization AcademyHealth, will bring together individuals in health care research and policy to participate in sessions focused on addressing today’s challenges in improving quality, safety, access, and value in health care. Also, AHRQ and AcademyHealth will form a team with the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) to hold sessions on October 6, also at the Crystal Gateway Marriott. Those sessions will address key issues in dissemination and implementation of patient-centered outcomes research.

Information about registration can be accessed at http://ahrqresearchconf.academyhealth.org/home.

2015 ASAHP ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Readers of the ASAHP UPDATE are requested to mark their calendars and plan on attending the Association’s 2015 Annual Conference that is scheduled to be held on October 28-30 at the Scottsdale Plaza Resort in Scottsdale, AZ. Along with a series of presentations in concurrent sessions and at a poster session, the program will feature plenary session addresses by:

Jeffrey Selingo, Author of College (Un)Bound and MOOC U

Sarah Thomas, Director of Global Innovation, Genesis. Innovation Fellow, Aging 2.0

Ted Epperly, President and CEO, Family Medicine Residency of Idaho

Robin Jones, Principal Investigator and Project Director, Great Lakes ADA Center

Lodging rates will start at $175 per night. A block of rooms is reserved for October 25-31, 2015. A special rate will be available until the group block is sold-out. Reservations can be made online at https://book.b4checkin.com/scottsdale/rlp1/NegotiatedRates.asp?TID=ASANLI015&CompanyName=ASAHP%20%20Annual%20Meeting%202015&Category=Group or by telephone at 1-800-832-2025.

Please indicate that you are with the Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions to identify yourself as part of the room block.

INSTITUTIONAL PROFILE SURVEY

The data collection period for ASAHP’s next iteration of the survey will open in early September and close by the end of November. 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. Last year 89 schools participated.

HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

The number of individuals without health insurance has declined by 15.8 million since the Affordable Care Act took effect, according to a new report from the CDC that can be accessed at http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nhis/earlyrelease/insur201508.pdf.
ASAHP STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

In 2015, ASAHP will award scholarships to 12 students. Five of these awards are provided by the firm of CertifiedBackground.com, a company that offers criminal background check and immunization status check services to member institutions. Two years ago marked the inauguration of the Elwood Scholar Award. It was created by the Board of Directors and named for ASAHP’s former Executive Director Thomas W. Elwood who retired from that position in 2012.

The recipient of this award is Schayla Hopkins – Winston-Salem State University (Exercise Physiology). Along with the scholarship, she will receive a complimentary registration to the 2015 ASAHP Annual Conference in Scottsdale, where she will be recognized formally as the award recipient. All travel and rooming costs will be paid by ASAHP.

Among the students who applied, the following were awarded scholarships:

Lee Atkins – Texas Tech University (Rehabilitation Sciences)

Ashley Bohlen – Governors State University (Occupational Therapy)

Sabino Curcio – Long Island University—Post Campus (Clinical Laboratory Sciences)

Jessica Estanislau – New York Institute of Technology (Physician Assistant)

Erin Gallagher – Stockton University (Communication Disorders)

Dalton Newell – University of South Alabama (Physical Therapy)

Danielle Perry – University of Utah (Nutrition and Dietetics)

Brandy Rademacher – Wayne State University (Pathologist’s Assistant)

Maggie Schad – University of Cincinnati (Audiology)

Courtney Studwell - University of Connecticut (Diagnostic Genetic Sciences)

Katharine Wilchek – University of the Sciences (Physical Therapy)

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS

A publication of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention called Preventing Chronic Disease (PCD) includes regular Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Snapshots. These map and text articles feature GIS used to display national, state, or county data for important health topics related to chronic disease. A recent addition is “The Most Distinctive Causes of Death by State, 2001-2010,” which covers 23 different kinds of health problems.

PCD publishes the Snapshots on a regular basis, so the site should be checked out frequently for new articles. It can be accessed at http://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/gis_toc.htm.

Furthermore, any ASAHP UPDATE reader who is interested in submitting a map and research for consideration as a GIS Snapshot should access http://www.cdc.gov/pcd/for_authors/types_of_articles.htm for additional information.

BLACK MALES IN HEALTH PROFESSIONS

While many initiatives and programs supported by foundations, medical schools, and government have contributed to increasing diversity in the physician pipeline, there is one major demographic group that has reversed its progress in applying to medical school: black males. Despite an overall increase in the number of black male college graduates, over the past three decades, the number of black male applicants to medical school has declined. A matter worth pondering is whether reasons for this decline are peculiar to medicine or whether they also have a similar impact on other professions such as allied health.


HEALTH LITERACY

During the past decade, understanding has evolved to the point that health literacy involves not only individual skills and abilities. It also includes the demands and complexities of the systems with which individuals interact. A new report from the National Academy of Medicine entitled Health Literacy: Past, Present, and Future commemorates a 2004 report and features: progress made since then, current state of the field, and possible directions for future health literacy efforts. The report can be accessed at http://books.nap.edu/openbook.php?record_id=21714.