ASAHP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board met in Washington, DC on March 29, 2017. The following actions were among those taken:

- Minutes of a conference call on February 16, 2017 were approved as presented.
- President Linda Petrosino briefed the Board on a breakfast meeting on March 29 with Rep. Virginia Foxx, Chairwoman of the U.S. House Education and the Workforce Committee.
- Treasurer Gregory Frazer reported that ASAHP’s financial state remains positive, with investment accounts having a value of $1,285,498.
- A proposed budget developed by the Finance Committee of $947,919 for the fiscal year that begins on July 1, 2017 was approved. It includes $26,000 for initiatives to implement major Goals in the Association’s Strategic Plan.
- A motion was approved to nominate Treasurer Gregory Frazer as a Board Member on the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs and Board Member Barry Eckert as a commissioner.
- Reports were presented of activities and progress being made by four of the five Strategic Plan Subcommittees.
- A motion was approved to extend the deadline to April 15, 2017 for receiving information from nominees for the upcoming ASAHP election.
- Membership recruitment strategies were discussed.
- A discussion also occurred about developing a video in conjunction with commemorating ASAHP’s 50th anniversary this year.

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 2016, 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 2017 ASAHP Annual Conference in San Antonio, TX 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 Action 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 9, 2017.
NEWS FROM THE COLLEGES

Sacred Heart’s University’s new Center for Healthcare Education is designed to offer students with aspirations in any health-care profession the best possible learning environment to ensure that they are prepared to succeed in the booming health-care industry. The Center will encompass 117,000 square feet of exceptional learning facilities in a three-story building. College Choice, a leading authority in college and university rankings and resources, has ranked SHU’s online master’s degree program in healthcare informatics among the top 30 of its kind.

The Virginia Commonwealth University School of Allied Health Professions will break ground for a new building on April 28, 2016. The project is planned to be completed in the fall of 2019.

LEGISLATIVE PROCESSES

Health care to a considerable extent depends on legislation formulated in Congress and on the regulatory steps created by administration agencies to implement the intent of laws. As the Affordable Care Act and subsequent attempts to repeal and replace it have demonstrated, however, the process by which a bill can become law is rarely predictable and can vary significantly from one bill to the next.

Instead, for many legislative proposals, the process will not follow the sequence of congressional stages that often are understood to make up the legislative process. A new report from the Congressional Research Service explains the common stages through which a bill may move, recognizing that complications and variations abound in practice. The report can be obtained at https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R42843.pdf.

HEALTH WORKFORCE

An adequate, well-trained, and diverse health care workforce is essential for providing access to quality health care services, but efforts to scale up the supply of health workers are falling short. A workshop hosted by the Global Forum on Innovation in Health Professional Education sought to explore resources for financing health professional education in high-, middle-, and low-income countries, and to examine innovative methods for financially supporting investments in health professional education within and across professions. The workshop report can be obtained at http://nationalacademies.org/hmd/reports/2017/future-financial-economics-of-health-professional-education-proceedings.aspx.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) invites grant applications for funding to conduct exploratory and developmental research grants (R21) for projects in the early and conceptual stages of development that will contribute to the evidence base of how health information technology (IT) improves health care quality and outcomes. The overarching objective is to advance the use of health IT to manage population health and deliver patient-centered care. This funding opportunity aims to support exploratory and developmental health IT projects that seek to apply data and evidence in innovative ways to facilitate population health management and patient-centered care delivery and coordination.

Two research areas of interest are Bringing Research Evidence to Clinical Practice and Using Clinical Data to Improve Care Delivery and Support Shared Decision Making. Higher education institutions are among the entities that are eligible to apply. The earliest submission date is April 17, 2017. Additional information can be obtained at https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-17-246.html.

HEALTH LITERACY RESOURCES

AHRQ recently published a new listing of its health literacy resources that can help health care systems learn how to make health information easier to understand and improve patient education, engagement, and experiences. These items include tools and training for health systems and professionals, as well as research tools and articles, podcasts and videos, and links to other health literacy resources in the Department of Health and Human Services. They can be obtained at https://www.ahrq.gov/professionals/clinicians-providers/resources/health-literacy.html.

COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY

Rising concerns over college prices and student debt suggest that college is unaffordable for many students. A more meaningful question is whether particular college options are worth it for individual students. A brief from the Urban Institute, along with a new website, outlines the many factors that shed light on the issue of college affordability, including prices of different college paths and resources that can be drawn on to cover expenses. The brief can be obtained at http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/89481/paying_for_college_finalized.pdf and the website is at http://collegeaffordability.urban.org/.