**LOOKING BACK---2017**

Certain activities undertaken by the Association in 2017 helped to set the stage for related developments that are planned to occur in the coming year.

- ASAHP conducted the Annual Conference with the event last October setting a modern-day record for attendance. It opened with the showing of a video about major events that have occurred in the Association since its founding in 1967. A monograph covering ASAHP’s 50-year history was distributed and a companion piece appeared in the October issue of the newsletter TRENDS.

- Maintained a contractual relationship with CertifiedBackground.com, a company that offers criminal background check and immunization check services to ASAHP member institutions. The firm also funded scholarships for five students in 2017.

- The Association’s Journal of Allied Health added a new section devoted to manuscripts involving the topic of Interprofessional Education And Practice. A Task Force created by the Association had a manuscript entitled, “Employers’ Viewpoint on Clinical Education” appear in the Fall 2017 issue. During the period from October 2016 to October 2017, the Journal attracted a record number 139 new manuscripts from 11 different countries.

- Completed the sixth year of a partnership with the National Academy of Medicine in a Global Forum on Innovation in Health Professional Education.

- The Board of Directors allocated funds to advance Strategic Plan initiatives that entail interprofessional education; innovation and new services development; and alliances and partnerships.

- ASAHP expressed views to Congress on the Higher Education Act reauthorization and related matters.

- Produced 24 issues of the ASAHP UPDATE, 10 issues of the newsletter TRENDS, four issues of the Journal of Allied Health (JAH), an Annual Report, and several hundred items were placed in the Newswire section of the ASAHP website.

**LOOKING AHEAD---2018**

- Members of Association committees and task forces will continue to carry out Strategic Plan objectives.

- Now that student leaders in some member institutions have been identified and activities by these individuals were launched, such as creation of a newsletter, ASAHP will assist them in their efforts to form student chapters and develop pre-boarding and on-boarding training. A major aim is to focus on how students can leave academic programs and go directly to work without extensive orientation at the workplace.

- An ongoing endeavor is a proposed International Training Consortium that would create a partnership between ASAHP and industry leaders to help prepare allied health professionals for rehabilitation positions internationally. Actionable projects that have been identified are: a Rehab Corps with placements of students and faculty to meet local needs overseas; using distance learning to be developed by a consortium; and a global residency program with model curriculum and placements.

- The seventh iteration of a Leadership Development Program will occur in 2018. Part I will take place March 14-15 at the Charleston Marriott in South Carolina. Part II will occur at the Renaissance Vinoy Resort in St. Petersburg, Florida on October 8-9, immediately prior to the 2018 Annual Conference that is scheduled for October 10-12. Between the two sessions, participants will have an opportunity to work on both group and individual projects that they identify.

- ASAHP will continue efforts to ensure that the voice of allied health is heard on a wide range of government relations issues, such as:
  - State authorization regarding clinical education placements and online education programs
  - Higher Education Act reauthorization
  - Federal appropriations and student financial assistance programs

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NEWS FROM THE COLLEGES

Following a nearly 15-year career as dean of the Creighton University School of Pharmacy and Health Professions, with interim stints at the highest levels of University leadership, J. Chris Bradberry will retire this year. Under his leadership, the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions greatly expanded its reach with the nation’s first entry-level, distance-based doctor of occupational therapy pathway program. His final official day at Creighton will be April 30. He plans to retire to Frisco, Texas.

Under the direction of Dean Patricia Walker, Sacred Heart University has a new Center for Healthcare Education. Located in Bridgeport, CT, it 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. A great advantage of the new addition is the ability of faculty and students to offer multi-professional clinics that will expose students and patients alike to a collaborative, holistic approach to services for everyone from children to the elderly.

HEALTH AT A GLANCE

A new edition of Health at a Glance presents the most recent comparable data on the health status of populations and health system performance in the Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD) countries. Where possible, it also reports data for partner countries (Brazil, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, India, Indonesia, Lithuania, Russian Federation, and South Africa). Data presented are from official national statistics, unless otherwise stated.


ADULT LEARNER MINDSETS

Many academic institutions are targeting older students. Adult learners differ in many ways from recent high school graduates. The firm Eduventures has identified 10 distinct mindsets of adult learners seeking to increase their level of education, which can be obtained at https://encoura.org/no-square-pegs-round-holes-eduventures-adult-learner-mindsets/.

JOURNAL OF ALLIED HEALTH

As measured by the large number of manuscripts submitted to the Journal of Allied Health in 2017, it was a banner year. Yet, a bountiful harvest sometimes can prove to be a mixed blessing. If for example, 60% of submitted papers eventually are accepted for publication, the number proves to be disproportionately large for a print version of the Journal that usually consists of 64-pages each quarterly issue. Consequently, a hefty backlog has developed, resulting in a longer time from acceptance to appearance in print.

A remedy was applied in 2017 by determining if any authors would be willing to forgo having their papers in the Journal’s print version. Instead, these items could appear in the very next issue as an e-paper in the online-only edition. The Title of each manuscript would be in the Table of Contents, along with an Abstract in the print edition, but the full paper only would be accessible online. E-papers will be available through open access and be indexed in Medline/PubMed and other indexing services. Several authors consented to accepting this option.

A related challenge is that although having a panel of 244 reviewers would seem to suffice, it has become necessary to ask some authors to furnish the names of possible reviewers in their field. Emphasis continues to be placed on obtaining new reviewers from ASAHP member institutions who possess a doctorate and have experience in conducting reviews.

Newcomers are welcome, especially in these areas: Interprofessional Education, Curriculum Design, Athletic Training, Dental Hygiene, Dietetics/Nutrition, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Respiratory Therapy, and Clinical Laboratory Science. Please send responses to thomas@asahp.org.

IMPROVING HEALTH CARE

A new special issue in the peer-reviewed journal eGems highlights lessons learned from a provider learning network committed to improving health care value. As the healthcare system continues to shift the focus from quantity to quality of care, delivery systems are under pressure to provide better care with smarter spending that results in healthier individuals. Papers in this issue provide insights into real-world challenges to achieving these aims and how available data can generate needed evidence to overcome them. The issue can be obtained at https://egems.academyhealth.org/17/volume/5/issue/3.