CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

On October 10-12, the Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions will hold its 2018 Annual Conference at the Vinoy Renaissance in St. Petersburg, FL. This year's conference theme is “Allied Health Education on the Front Lines -- Expanding Access to Better Health and Health Care.” Interested parties are invited to contribute to the program by submitting abstracts to be presented in one of two formats:

-Paper presentation: a 35-minute Concurrent Session, or
-Poster presentation: during the conference-wide Poster Session

All abstract submissions are due no later than June 15, 2018 via the Abstract Submission Website at https://www.event.com/c/abstracts/720de1d2-a388-4702-b019-50a3f1d64b92. A new account will need to be created this year to submit abstracts. Additional information also is available at http://www.asahp.org/call-for-abstracts.

IRB APPROVAL

A common practice for articles submitted to the Association’s Journal of Allied Health is for their authors to specify institutional review board approval from their respective colleges and universities. A departure from this practice involves some manuscripts scheduled for publication in the upcoming Summer 2018 issue of the Journal.

Typically, any research conducted in an academic institution that involves humans (or animals) makes it necessary either to obtain IRB approval or a waiver indicating that the work is exempt. Other journals require such approval for every paper that is submitted to them.

Deans and department chairpersons at ASAHP member schools are requested to provide information regarding whether their institution has procedures that differ from the usual practice of requiring IRB approval. If so, please send comments to thomas@asahp.org – thank you.

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 2017, 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 2018 ASAHP Annual Conference in St. Petersburg, FL where he or she will be recognized formally as the award recipient. All travel and rooming costs will be paid by ASAHP.

Only one candidate from each member institution can be nominated. All degree levels are eligible. An application form and additional information about criteria can be obtained at https://asahp.squarespace.com/scholarship/.

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. Each cycle, some applications fail to include this important item. A letter from a chairperson or faculty member also may be included. The deadline for submitting application and necessary information is June 11, 2018.
CALL FOR PAPERS

Preventing Chronic Disease, a publication of the CDC, is inviting papers for a collection that highlights how geographic information systems (GIS) and spatial analyses are being applied to enhance chronic disease research and public health practice. The deadline for manuscripts is August 31, 2018. Additional information is available at https://www.cdc.gov/pcd/announcements.htm#call.

A second call for papers is for manuscripts on research, evaluation, and other work describing innovative and effective work to link health care and community health in ways that improve population health. The deadline for manuscripts is November 16, 2018. Additional information is available at https://www.cdc.gov/pcd/announcements.htm.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) is funding large research demonstration and implementation projects that pertain to ambulatory care settings and long-term care facilities with a focus on implementing evidence-based processes to improve patient safety, especially those involving transitions in care. Studies in these two settings that develop, utilize, and evaluate strategies to implement existing measures, metrics, tools or practices that already have been validated and have been shown to be efficacious in improving patient safety sites are of interest.

Projects may involve implementation pilots held at a single site, several local sites simultaneously, or be large and wide in scale. Eligible organizations include both public and private institutions of higher education.


ASAHP ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Several opportunities exist for participation in the 2018 ASAHP Annual Conference in St. Petersburg, Florida on October 10-12 as a Sponsor, Exhibitor, or Advertiser. A description of the different types and fees for each of these activities can be obtained at: http://www.event.com/events/2018-asahp-annual-conference-support/custom-17-d79969acdfb54b6fa3cb31dc3f3f195e.aspx.

LATINOS AND HIGHER ED

Using in-depth interviews with Latino college graduates from six U.S. cities, UnidosUS collaborated with the Center for Community Capital at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to present a report examining issues of access, affordability, and long-term success. According to the report, “It Made the Sacrifices Worth It: The Latino Experience in Higher Education,” the rate of enrollment in higher education for Latinos ages 18 to 24 has increased by 15 percentage points from 24 percent to 39 percent over the past decade.

Debt from student loans can be high, which makes Latino students less likely than White students to complete their postsecondary programs. Many students also juggle multiple obligations, including school, work, and family. Also, Latino students who obtain a bachelor’s degree tend to earn less than White counterparts once they go to work.

The report can be obtained at http://publications.unidosus.org/bitstream/handle/123456789/1850/studentdebt.pdf?sequence=7&isAllowed=y.

HEALTH REFORM

Although efforts by Congressional Republicans to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act failed in 2017, health reform initiatives that address cost, quality, and the provision of adequate coverage for the uninsured continue to represent prominent health policy objectives. Encouraged by the current federal administration, much of the impetus for advancing such health policy has fallen on the shoulders of state leaders, creating new openings and new pressures.

The Milbank Memorial Fund sponsored a fact-finding initiative aimed at determining what state leaders, both Democrats and Republicans, were most concerned about regarding health reform. Views gathered from the nation’s heartland through this endeavor should prove to be instructive regardless of place of residence in the U.S.

It is of special interest to learn if these leaders are able to navigate the new health reform landscape without falling into old partisan traps. Are there new opportunities for cooperation across an ideological divide that impedes meaningful compromise? A report on such matters can be obtained at https://www.milbank.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/ViewsfromtheHeartlandFINAL.pdf.