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.cvent.com/c/abstracts/720de1d2-a388-4702-b019-50a3f1d64b92. A new account will need to be created this year to submit abstracts. Additional information is also available at http://www.asahp.org/call-for-abstracts.

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 is June 11, 2018.

OPIOID RESPONSES

A special issue of the ASAHP UPDATE was distributed on May 22 on the topic of opioids. Readers were invited to describe activities at their institutions to address this problem.

The College of Nursing and Health Professions at Arkansas State University hosted a three-hour session on February 23, 2018 entitled “Battling the Opioid Epidemic in Arkansas” that featured presentations by Kirk Lane, Arkansas Drug Director, and John Clay Kirtley, Executive Director of the Arkansas State Board of Pharmacy. Participants included students, faculty, and clinical instructors from all programs in the college.

“Confronting Opioid Dependence: An Interprofessional Strategy” is the University at Buffalo’s approach to interprofessional education that gives over 800 health sciences students in 10 different programs an opportunity to work on this problem.
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-d79969acdb54b6fa3cb31dc3f3f195e.aspx.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Encompass Health Corporation announced a call for grant applications for funding aimed at the investigation of the impact or effectiveness of therapy in the inpatient rehabilitation facility (IRF) post-acute care setting. Grant recipients do not have to be affiliated with HealthSouth nor does the research have to be conducted in a HealthSouth inpatient rehabilitation hospital. The deadline for submitting applications is June 30, 2017, at 5:00 PM, EST. Additional information and the application form can be obtained at https://investor.encompasshealth.com/press-releases/healthsouth-supports-therapy-research-through-grant-program/.

The NIH Directors New Innovator Award Program supports early stage investigators of exceptional creativity who propose highly innovative new research approaches with the potential to produce a major impact on broad, important problems in biomedical or behavioral research. Applications from individuals with diverse backgrounds and in any topic relevant to the broad mission of NIH are welcome. The deadline for submitting applications is September 10, 2018, by 5:00 PM local time of applicant organization. More information can be obtained at https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-RM-18-008.html.

The NIH Directors Transformative Research Award supports individual scientists or groups of scientists proposing groundbreaking, exceptionally innovative, original, and/or unconventional research with the potential to create new scientific paradigms, establish entirely new and improved clinical approaches, or develop transformative technologies. The deadline for submitting applications is September 21, 2018, by 5:00 PM local time of applicant organization. More information can be obtained at https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-RM-18-009.html.

WEBINARS ON DISABILITY

The U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights (OCR) is offering webinars to provide technical assistance to colleges, universities, and other educational entities in making their websites and online programs accessible to individuals with disabilities. Webinars on June 5 and 12 are aimed at information technology professionals. Institutions also are encouraged to invite their IT vendors to register. Additional information can be obtained at https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/us-department-education-launches-new-website-accessibility-technical-assistance-initiative.

JOURNAL OF ALLIED HEALTH

The Summer 2018 issue of the Association’s Journal of Allied Health is scheduled for distribution in June. Included among the 14 manuscripts are the following:

- Evidence-Based Practice in the Hospital Setting: Views of Interdisciplinary Therapy Practitioners
- An Interprofessional Education Initiative for Allied Health Students Preparing to Serve Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Preparing Future Healthcare Leaders through Graduate Education: Impact of Program Accreditation on Quality Improvement
- Effectiveness of Allied Health Clinical Supervision: A Cross-Sectional Survey of Supervisees

Although the Journal is fortunate to have the services of 240 reviewers, emphasis continues to be placed on obtaining new reviewers from ASAHP member institutions who possess a doctorate and have experience in conducting reviews. Since January 1 of this year, 57 manuscripts have been submitted.

Thus, newcomers always are a welcome addition. They especially can be used in the following areas: Interprofessional Education, Curriculum Design, Athletic Training, Dietetics/Nutrition, Dental Hygiene, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Respiratory Therapy, and Medical/ Clinical Laboratory Science. Please send responses to thomas@asahp.org.