ASAHP ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions will hold its 2018 Annual Conference on October 10-12 at the Vinoy Renaissance St. Petersburg in St. Petersburg, FL. The theme of this year’s conference is: “Allied Health Education on the Front Lines—Expanding Access to Better Health and Health Care.”

The content of the conference program is designed to address issues of interest to attendees. Approximately 100 concurrent session and poster session presentations will be offered on several key issues, such as social determinants of health/culture of health, and leadership. Along with those offerings, the program will feature plenary session addresses by:

Shafik Dharamsi, Peter De Wetter Distinguished Professor in Health Sciences and Dean, College of Health Sciences, The University of Texas at El Paso

Timothy M. Renick, Vice President for Enrollment Services and Student Success and Vice Provost, Georgia State University

Joseph Vibert, Executive Director, Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors

Richard E. Oliver, ASAHP Past President and Dean Emeritus, University of Missouri

Several opportunities exist for participation in the Conference 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-d79969acdbb5a6fa3cb31dc3f3f195e.aspx.

2018 ASAHP ELECTION

Institutional representatives were sent a link on July 16 to vote in the Association’s 2018 election. The link became live that day and will remain open through August 16.

J. WARREN PERRY AWARD

Once an article is submitted to the Journal of Allied Health and passes a quality control checkpoint, reviewers assigned to assess it begin by providing scores for nine different criteria. Five articles that appeared in either the Fall 2017, Winter 2017, Spring 2018, or Summer 2018 issues with the highest scores were ranked by four members of the Editorial Board who worked independently of one another.

Based on an average of their respective scores, the highest ranking was for an article entitled “Impact of Student Response Systems on Initial Learning and Retention of Course Content in Health Sciences Students” that appeared in the Fall 2017 issue. The authors, who are from the Occupational Therapy Department at Duquesne University, are:

Jeryl D. Benson
Kimberly A. Szucs
Elizabeth D. Deluliis
Ali Leri

They will be recognized during the Awards Dinner on October 10, 2018 at the ASAHP Annual Conference in St. Petersburg, FL. The late J. Warren Perry was a founding member of ASAHP, became the Association’s 2nd President, and was the founder of the Journal of Allied Health in 1972.

INTEROPERABILITY

While there are many positive benefits to interoperability, there also are significant technical and cultural barriers, plus cautions about information-sharing. A new resource from AcademyHealth addresses such barriers by reflecting the results of a systematic online search of freely available technical documents and toolkits that promote interoperability and provide guidance about how to share and integrate information from different sources. It also includes insights from interoperability experts from health, education, public health, and human services systems. The resource can be obtained at: http://www.academyhealth.org/sites/default/files/silo es_to_solutions_july2018_2.pdf.
TEACHING PROFESSIONALISM

Working in today’s complex health care environment exerts a complicated set of stressors on health care professionals. They want to place their patients’ needs first, but also must manage rapidly increasing demands on their time, energy, abilities, and mental health. Preparing students for these challenges requires this nation’s health professions schools and clinical learning environments to adopt a much more deliberate and integrated approach to teaching professionalism.

With support from the Josiah Macy, Jr. Foundation, 19 academic health centers established novel programs to teach professionalism at the undergraduate and graduate levels. A new report describes innovative approaches to doing so and what it will take to build professionalism programs at other institutions. The document discusses:

- The need to define professionalism and understand how best to teach it, including who should learn all components and who should learn certain components.
- How to scale and sustain efforts to teach professionalism.
- The need for faculty development around teaching professionalism and its components.


HOSPITAL COMPARISONS

Sepsis is the body’s response to an infection and it can be difficult to identify early. Initial treatment involving antibiotics and intravenous fluids is deceptively simple and widely accepted in health care. The big treatment challenge is time, because with every hour that passes during which the patient isn’t treated, the prognosis worsens significantly.

To help ensure timely, consistent, and high-quality care for sepsis patients, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) adopted in 2015 the Sepsis National Hospital Inpatient Quality Measure. For the first time, sepsis treatment statistics became available on July 25, 2018 for all U.S. hospitals. Comparisons can be made at https://www.medicare.gov/hospitalcompare/search.html.

DUELING HEA BILLS

Periodically, important pieces of legislation pop through a dense Capitol Hill cloud, enabling onlookers to have a quick view in clear light before these items retreat into a state of substantially reduced visibility. The week of July 22, 2018 marked the occasion for observers to learn about a proposal, the Aim Higher Act, by House Democrats to reauthorize the Higher Education Act (HEA). The bill follows on the heels of Republicans’ introduction of their version called the PROSPER Act (Promoting Real Opportunity, Success, and Prosperity through Education Reform) in December 2017.

Whereas the G.O.P focuses on deregulation, with such key provisions as eliminating the U.S. Education Department’s oversight and ability to create new regulations around gainful employment, Democrats are emphasizing such matters as relief to students struggling with rising costs and for those who borrow, making loans easier to repay, and cracking down on predatory for-profit institutions. Last reauthorized in 2008, given the amount of time available prior to the upcoming mid-term elections, it is doubtful that the HEA will be reauthorized in 2018.

EDUCATION RULEMAKING

On July 31, 2018, the Department of Education published a Federal Register notice announcing its intention to convene a negotiated rulemaking committee to revise regulations involving accreditation and the recognition of accrediting organizations. Along with developing proposed regulations on the core functions of accreditation, the committee also would develop proposed regulations on related facets that include: state authorization; the definition of “regular and substantive interaction” as used by distance education programs; the definition of “credit hour;” and requirements related to program length and entry-level requirements for occupational preparation.

Three public hearings also will be held for interested parties to comment on the Department’s suggested topics for the negotiated rulemaking or to suggest additional topics for consideration. The hearings will be held on September 6 (Washington, DC), September 11 (New Orleans) and September 13 (Sturtevant, WI.) Specific information on location, times, and how to register to present comments at the meeting is contained in the Federal Register notice.