ASAHP ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Association’s 2019 Annual Conference will be on October 16-18 in Charleston, SC. The theme is “Keeping Ahead of the Curve-Allied Health Education in the Evolving World of Health Care Delivery.” Earlier, attendees were invited to contribute to the program by submitting abstracts to be presented in one of two formats: (1) Paper Presentation during a 20-minute Concurrent Session, or (2) Poster Presentation during a two-hour Poster Session. An invitation earlier this year generated 125 abstracts.

A Plenary Session Address on the morning of Day 2 of the conference is known as the Deans’ Emerita Lecture. It will be delivered by Patricia Walker, who retired earlier this year as Dean of the College of Health Professions at Sacred Heart University. Her leadership at this institution was instrumental in the development of new academic programs, such as the Master of Public Health, Master of Science in Athletic Training, and an undergraduate major in Communication Disorders.

Another recent significant accomplishment was the creation of the Center for Healthcare Education. This entity provides the College’s programs with opportunities to fulfill a vision for a highly interactive and closer relationship between academics and surrounding communities.

Apart from an opportunity to expand one’s knowledge by attending plenary sessions, along with concurrent sessions, and a poster session, a major highlight of the annual conference every year is the opportunity to spend leisure time with one’s colleagues. That prospect especially is enhanced this year. The evening of the first day includes a three-hour cruise of the beautiful Charleston Harbor.

Attendees are reminded to take advantage of discounted registration fees by September 13, 2019. Hotel bookings at the Charleston Marriott at the room block special rate run through September 23 or until the group block is sold-out. More information about the conference is available at www.asahp.org. The site also includes a list of names of individuals who already have registered to attend this year’s meeting.

2019 ASAHP ELECTION

ASAHP’s annual election is underway and voting will remain open through Monday--August 19, 2019. The following slots are in contention: Two positions are open for the Board of Directors, one position for Secretary on the Board of Directors, and three positions for the Nominations & Elections Committee. Information about the candidates can be obtained at https://asahp.squarespace.com/config/. Election guidelines and an electronic link for voting purposes can be obtained at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VRGDZHP.

JOURNAL OF ALLIED HEALTH

An Ad Hoc Committee on the consisting of ASAHP Treasurer Gregory Frazer (University of South Alabama), Bonnie Van Lunen (Old Dominion University), and Jon Williamson (University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center), along with Journal editor Thomas Elwood had a conference call on July 31, 2019 to discuss various matters pertaining to this publication. A recommendation was made to develop and send a survey to ASAHP members to assess the value of the Journal to the membership. A meeting of the Editorial Board during the upcoming Annual Conference will enable a discussion on related matters, such as whether special issues on particular topics should be developed.

The Fall 2019 edition is being prepared. It will contain production data on the most recent four quarterly issues in 2018 and 2019. A pair of articles will feature: (1) Interprofessional Healthcare Students’ Perceptions of a Simulation-Based Learning Experience, and (2) Impact of a One-time Interprofessional Education Event for Rehabilitation after Stroke for Students in the Health Professions. Other manuscripts will address various topics, including:

- Pain in military veteran students
- Enrichment program on student writing skills
- Impact of a leadership development program
- Self-assessment and critical thinking skills
- Therapeutic reasoning in cancer rehabilitation
- Development of expert allied health professionals

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**CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES**

The early 1990s are characterized by a proliferation of clinical guidelines aimed at improving quality and controlling health care costs. Three decades later uncertainty continues to exist regarding how reliably to produce high-quality guidelines. Two principal issues are considered to be the essence of the problem. First, there is a lack of centralized authority to coordinate, vet, approve, and catalog guidelines. Second, there is an absence of a universal methodology to create guidelines because every professional organization that promulgates them generally decides freely which, if any, framework will be used to construct guidelines.

A thoughtful discussion of this matter was published on August 5, 2019 by the policy journal *Health Affairs*. It can be obtained at https://www.healthaffairs.org/do/10.1377/hblog20190730.874541/full/.

**EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE**

Readers with an interest in evidence-based practice (EBP) may want to examine the results of a study published in the August 2019 issue of the *Journal of Evaluation in Clinical Practice*. The purpose was to explore whether there is a relationship between allied health professionals’ confidence to perform a range of EBP activities and the time since they graduated from their entry-level degree and the presence of postgraduate qualifications. Based on survey research conducted in Australia, the study may be useful in stimulating a discussion regarding whether the findings serve as an indication of practitioner competency in the U.S.

Information on how to obtain access to this article can be obtained at https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.1111/jep.13001.

**CLINICIAN WELL-BEING**

The National Academy of Medicine’s *Action Collaborative on Clinician Well-Being and Resilience* released case studies on initiatives that reduce clinician burnout and support clinician well-being. An aim is to have the studies serve as an idea-generating resource for leaders to take action to improve the well-being of clinicians, trainees, and students. Studies are from both the Virginia Mason Kirkland Medical Center Outpatient Clinic in Kirkland, WA and The Ohio State University.

The case studies can be obtained at https://nam.edu/clinicianwellbeing/case-studies/.

**HEALTH INFORMATION NETWORKS**

Health information generated by health care encounters, research enterprises, and public health is increasingly interoperable and shareable across uses and users. A paper from AcademyHealth examines the U.S. public’s willingness to be a part of multi-user health information networks and identifies factors associated with that willingness.

The study involved univariable and multivariable relationships between willingness to participate in health information networks and demographic factors, trust, altruism, beliefs about the public’s ethical obligation to participate in research, privacy, medical deception, and policy and governance using linear regression modeling. The results suggest willingness to be a part of multi-user data networks is low, but that attention to governance may increase willingness. Building trust to enable acceptance of multi-use data networks will require a commitment to aligning data access practices with the expectations of the individuals whose data is being used.

The paper can be obtained at https://egems.academyhealth.org/articles/10.5334/egems.288/.

**MENTAL HEALTH ON CAMPUS**

Concurrent with a host of other complex and urgent issues facing higher education institutions in 2019, institutional leadership on student mental health and well-being continues to be of great concern. As a means of better understanding how college and university presidents are navigating this challenge, the American Council on Education (ACE) conducted its third *Pulse Point* survey. More than 400 presidents responded. The results can be obtained at https://www.higheredtoday.org/2019/08/12/college-student-mental-health-well-survey-college-presidents/.

**PATIENT ENGAGEMENT**

A scan of a wide range of health periodicals reveals that the topic of patient engagement is becoming more prominent. A recent example is an article in the publication *Public Library of Science (PLoS)* that became available on August 1, 2019. Findings from a systematic review of randomized controlled trials evaluating self-management support (SMS) interventions provide primary care professionals with evidence-based strategies and structure to deliver SMS in practice. It can be obtained at https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article/file?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0220116&type=printable.