2020 ASAHP ELECTION RESULTS

Treasurer (Two-Year Term):
**Brian Shulman** (Seton Hall University)

Board of Directors (Three-Year Term):
**Craig Jackson** (Loma Linda University)
**Jon Williamson** (University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center)

Nominations and Election Committee (Two-Year Term):
**Abiodun Akinwuntan** (University of Kansas Medical Center)
**Lisa Dutton** (St. Catherine University)
(University of South Alabama)
**David Henzi** (University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio)

These positions become effective upon conclusion of the virtual 2020 Annual Conference on October 22.

**ASAHP EVENTS**

**September 30 1-2pm EDT:** **2020 ASAHP Live Virtual Series - Curriculum Innovations Related to COVID-19.**
This initial session with ASAHP’s Clinical Education Task Force will address its COVID-19 webinar series, along with a presentation on the implementation of a virtual interprofessional objective structured clinical encounter, and a presentation on classroom connectivity in a COVID climate.

**October 14 1-2pm EDT:** **2020 ASAHP Live Virtual Series - Models of Excellence for Enhancing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**

**October 22 1-3:30pm ET:** **ASAHP Connect & Engage Virtual Meeting** will feature a discussion on the latest happenings at ASAHP, a preview of the upcoming November elections, committee meetings, and exclusive networking sessions with Association colleagues. The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio is a Gold Sponsor.

**October 28 1-2:20pm ET:** **2020 ASAHP Live Virtual Series - Interprofessional Education and Practice.**
More information is at [https://www.asahp.org/events](https://www.asahp.org/events).

**JOURNAL OF ALLIED HEALTH**

The number of new manuscripts submitted to the Journal in the one-year period September 1, 2019 to August 31, 2020 was 125. Since then, another 14 articles have been submitted this September (the equivalent of 168 on an annualized basis).

Depending on the kind of paper, an effort is made to assign 2-3 reviewers with backgrounds similar to authors who submit articles. Even with an overall roster of more than 300 reviewers, that step often proves challenging. For example, there are plenty of physical therapists, but at any given time, they: either are too busy to accept an invitation, already have answered the call more than once recently, currently are reviewing another paper, or fail to respond.

Individuals who would like to become reviewers are encouraged to send contact information to [thomas@asahp.org](mailto:thomas@asahp.org). Newcomers with a doctorate especially are welcome for these areas: physical therapy, occupational therapy, respiratory therapy, athletic training, and interprofessional education.

**POPULATION INDICATORS**

The health status of individuals and the overall population can be affected both directly and indirectly by changing demographic factors. The U.S. Census Bureau reveals the following estimates based on responses collected September 2-14, 2020:

- **25.2%** of American adults expect someone in their household to experience a loss in employment income in the next four weeks
- **10.5%** of American adults lived in households where there was either sometimes or often not enough to eat in the previous seven days
- **32.7%** of adults live in households where it has been somewhat or very difficult to pay usual household expenses during the coronavirus pandemic
- **80.9%** of adults in households with post-secondary educational plans had those plans cancelled or changed significantly this fall.
PRACTITIONERS AS EDUCATORS

Readers of the September 2020 issue of the ASAHP newsletter TRENDS were informed about developments that should be of great concern. According to the Commonwealth Fund, U.S. residents are living shorter lives than they did in 2014, and Black Americans are nearly twice as likely as whites to die from treatable conditions. A report from the Trust for America's Health (TFAH) indicates that the U.S. adult obesity rate stands at 42.4%, the first time the national rate has passed the 40% mark, while the national adult obesity rate has increased by 26% since 2008.

The current COVID-19 pandemic has led to the imposition of restrictions involving social distancing and warnings to avoid activities, such as outdoor physical exercise, participation in services in houses of worship, and attendance at weddings and funerals. Policies of this nature are associated with increases in anxiety and depression among members of the populace, while suicide continues to be among the top 10 causes that result in taking the short road home.

The role of individual health professionals in today’s provision of health care services is more critical than ever as chronic diseases like diabetes, hypertension, osteoarthritis, and cardiovascular ailments become more prevalent and factors involving lack of physical exercise, substance abuse, and obesity are heavily implicated in the onset of these conditions. Health practitioners can have a huge positive impact by addressing such matters individually with patients whenever the opportunity presents itself.

One example is when patients are undergoing diagnostic procedures. Such occasions are ripe for initiating discussions on various health promotion and disease prevention topics, such as diet, exercise, and symptom recognition. Yet, educational and prevention-oriented interactions will not occur unless health providers see them as integral to professional role identity and a necessary part of job responsibilities.

A makeshift translation of the Latin term *Alicui tamen faciendum est* is, “Anyway, someone has to do it.” As a means of maximizing opportunities to engage with patients optimally, practitioners must possess both the knowledge and comfort level necessary to work with patients in this manner.

That level of skill attainment can be realized through educational and clinical training programs offered in health professions schools, such as those institutions belonging to the Association of Schools Advancing Health Professions. Well-rounded clinicians have great potential to expand their role as health educators.

INSTITUTIONAL PROFILE SURVEY

The third iteration of the revised Association’s Institutional Profile Survey (IPS) is being prepared for launching in Fall 2020. Deans and directors are encouraged to identify personnel on their respective campuses to collect the necessary data for the study in 2020. The first time doing so is the most labor intensive. The workload is substantially diminished in subsequent years when the main task is to update existing information. An aim is to have all member institutions participate in this important undertaking.

PODCAST ON HEALTH RESEARCH

An essential component of major health institutions is the research enterprise. The arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic has had a major impact on that sphere of activity. A pair of podcast recordings based on an interview with a researcher at the Rusk Rehabilitation Institute in NYU Langone Health sheds light on the kinds of decisions made that affect the ability to conduct investigations.

A high influx of coronavirus patients in many hospitals that necessitated the provision of intensive care services reduced their ability to furnish care for other kinds of patients and make diagnostic services available. COVID-19 patients who were treated and discharged became candidates for return visits to test for the presence of antibodies and convalescent plasma. Some individuals encountered barriers in doing so, which can have a negative impact on investigations.

Parts 1 and 2 discuss the following kinds of issues:

- How the research trajectory shifted from intervention trials to longer-standing quality of life rehabilitation problems
- Prioritization of topics to study
- Timeframes involving when studies will be completed.


FREE COLLEGE

A promise that free college will lead to an increase in the number of students from lower-income families who will graduate is untested. A team of research economists released a study that offers early evidence on this issue. It can be obtained at http://seii.mit.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/SEII-Discussion-Paper-2020.06-Angrist-Autor-Pallais.pdf.