ASAHP WHITE PAPER

One of the Association’s five-year Strategic Plan Objectives involves Research, Discovery, and Innovation. Members of a subcommittee for implementing Priority No. 4—Publish research special issues/topics in the Journal of Allied Health—participated in a conference call on October 14.

They agreed to work together as a group to develop a White Paper that will propose recommendations and a framework for allowing faculty and chairpersons to determine scholarly goals, skills required, metrics for success, percent efforts (funded/unfunded), overall faculty mix, and team formation. An objective is to recommend a menu of options for leaders at both department and school levels to develop faculty interests in scholarship. The subcommittee will continue to meet to develop the White Paper’s content and agree on final recommendations.

The group also generated a preliminary list of future White Papers to pursue that can contribute to the theme of research, discovery, and innovation. Current possibilities are:

- User-centered design of research problems to solve and generate solutions that individuals really want to use.
- How to develop clinical innovation by partnering with engineering programs.
- Converting clinical and community-based experiences into scholarly productivity.

The following individuals participated in the conference call:

- David Brown (University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston), Lead Member
- Fevzi Akinci (Duquesne University)
- Doris Molina Henry (Winston-Salem State University)
- Susan Gordon-Hickey (University of South Alabama)
- Fang-Ling Lu (University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio)
- Thomas Elwood (Journal of Allied Health)

UPCOMING ASSOCIATION EVENTS

**October 22 1:30pm ET: 2020 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. Registration is available at [https://www.asahp.live/](https://www.asahp.live/).

The following member institutions are sponsors of this event:

- University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (Gold Sponsor)
- University of Kansas School of Health Professions (Gold Sponsor)
- University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Health Professions (Gold Sponsor)
- Rush University College of Health Sciences (Silver Sponsor)
- Salus University (Silver Sponsor)

**October 28 1:20pm ET: 2020 ASAHP Live Virtual Series - Interprofessional Education and Practice**

University of Cincinnati is a Partner

**November 11 1:20pm ET: 2020 ASAHP Live Virtual Series – Curriculum Innovations Related to COVID-19.**

**November 18 1:20pm ET: 2020 ASAHP Live Virtual Series – Models of Excellence for Enhancing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.**

**December 2 1:20pm ET: 2020 ASAHP Live Virtual Series – Curriculum Innovations Related to COVID-19.**

**December 16 1:20pm ET: 2020 ASAHP Live Virtual Series – Curriculum Innovations Related to COVID-19.**

Additional information can be obtained at [https://www.asahp.org/events](https://www.asahp.org/events).
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.

CHILDHOOD OBESITY

A report released this month by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation presents the latest childhood obesity rates and trends, expert insights, relevant research, and policy developments, including emergency relief efforts to support major federal nutrition programs. It highlights promising strategies for prioritizing children’s health and improving equity in response to the pandemic and throughout recovery. Some findings according to 2018-2019 data in youth ages 10-17 are:

Overall Trends: 1 in 7 youth — or 15.5% — had obesity last year, compared to 16.1% in 2016. Kentucky had the highest youth obesity rate, of nearly 24%, while Utah had the lowest, at 9.6%.

Racial Disparities: Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaska Native, Hispanic, and Black youth had significantly higher rates of obesity than white and Asian youth.

Economic Disparities: Around 1 in 5 youth in households making less than the federal poverty level had obesity, compared to fewer than 1 in 10 youth in households making 400% the federal poverty level.


STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH

According to the RAND Corporation, without proper support and resources for students with mental health needs, there is a range of potentially serious and lasting consequences, including more students dropping out of school, higher rates of substance, and lower lifetime earning potential. An analysis of using telehealth to address mental health needs can be obtained at https://www.rand.org/blog/2020/10/college-students-need-mental-health-support.html.

PODCAST ON COMMUNICATION

A podcast interview with a speech-language pathologist at the Rusk Rehabilitation Institute at NYU Langone Health in September 2020 focused on how the ability to communicate between patients and clinicians is at the heart of the health care enterprise. Along with descriptions of interactions with two patients, the following topics also were discussed:

(1) Augmentative and Alternative Communication;
(2) Education and training of other health professionals to enhance their communication skills when interacting with patients;
(3) Communication with patients under sedation;
(4) How COVID-19 has affected communication between patients and clinicians;
(5) Expression of concerns by patients;
(6) Potential research studies worth undertaking; and
(7) Adding new material in health professions education programs.

The podcast can be obtained at https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/rusk-insights-on-rehabilitation-medicine/id1003641461.

HIGHER ED LOGJAMS

According to the Hechinger Report, one of the biggest, costliest, and most time-consuming logjams in higher education is transferring academic credits. At a time when the pandemic is upending education and prompting a flurry of students to transfer from one institution to another, a story describes how some colleges are eliminating barriers to transferring credits that disproportionately have hurt Black and Latino students. Other examples of how institutions and individuals are adapting to the pandemic can be obtained at https://hechingerreport.org/strapped-for-students-colleges-finally-begin-to-clear-transfer-logjam/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+HechingerReport+%28HechingerReport%29.

POPULATION MENTAL HEALTH

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted or halted critical mental health services in 93% of countries worldwide while the demand for mental health is increasing, according to a new WHO survey. The study of 130 countries was conducted from June-August 2020 across WHO’s six regions. It evaluates how the provision of mental, neurological, and substance use services has changed due to COVID-19, types of services disrupted, and how countries are adapting to overcome these challenges. More information can be obtained at https://www.who.int/news/item/05-10-2020-covid-19-disrupting-mental-health-services-in-most-countries-who-survey.