ASAHP BOARD ACTIONS

The Association’s Board of Directors had a conference call on September 17, 2020 and the following actions were among those taken:

- The Minutes of a Board conference call on July 16, 2020 were reviewed and approved as presented.
- President Phyllis King reported that each recipient of awards from the Association’s Scholarship of Excellence Program was sent a check for $1,000.
- Treasurer Gregory Frazer reported on: the status of investment holdings, the amount of money in a bank lockbox, and the number of member institutions that have paid dues for 2020-2021.
- Led by ASAHP Past President Richard Oliver and Julia To Dutka (Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools), the Global Worker Initiative endeavor has engaged more than 15 countries. A plan is to conduct development tests with 12 of them. Item writers are sought for an activity that will require four hours per month with 20-25 items per writer, with the project beginning in November 2020.
- Executive Director John Colbert reported turnout for the last six webinars has been overwhelmingly positive and that attendees have indicated a high satisfaction rate. Also, a virtual live series has been established, with biweekly abstract presentations beginning on September 30, 2020 through March 24, 2021. Three abstracts will be presented at each of the twelve sessions.
- ASAHP Director of Public Affairs Kristen Truong discussed features of the Institutional Profile Survey regarding how a regional data report can be generated and how the new survey allows filters by report group and regional accreditation body.

NEW ASAHP BOOK

The Association is announcing the availability of a new book entitled, From Fish To Philosopher: Allied Health Editorials 2008-2020 in both print, E-book, and podcast versions based on a select group of 40 editorials published in the Journal of Allied Health during those years. A common time-honored practice in composing editorials for health journals is for an editor to comment on the essential contents of any issue by providing readers with concise summaries and keen insights regarding the potential implications for education and clinical practice of one or more articles.

Instead of adhering to that highly valuable practice, when the current editor assumed responsibility for this periodical in 2008, an aim was to produce a different kind of series of editorials to apprise readers of ongoing themes that shed light on inner workings of the Journal of Allied Health. A portion of the intended audience is prospective authors who might benefit by learning about the peer review process, reasons why manuscripts are rejected for publication, and improving manuscript quality.

“From Fish To Philosopher” is the title of a book from the 1950s that relates the story of vertebrate kidney evolution viewed through the function of that organ at different phylogenetic levels. That title was borrowed and used as a heading for a Journal editorial in the Spring 2012 issue and also serves as the name of the present editorial collection of episodes.

A similar embryological approach could be employed usefully as a conceptual framework to reveal how the Journal continues to evolve by discussing, in addition to the Journal’s inner workings, other topics pertaining to academic publishing and the tangled web of key relationships between college/university libraries and publishing firms. From an evolutionary standpoint, Episode 5—Time and the River—provides a thorough historical account of how the Journal has been transformed over the seasons of its existence.

The E-book version can be obtained at no charge at https://www.asahp.org/asahpbooks using the Discount Code JAH2020. All proceeds sales will benefit the ASAHP Scholarship of Excellence Fund.
ASAHP AWARDS

The 2020 ASAHP Annual Conference was conducted as a Connect And Engage Virtual Meeting on October 22. Part of it included the presentation of annual awards. The recipients were as follows:

Cultural Pluralism Award
Cynthia Hughes Harris (Florida A&M University)

Distinguished Service and Achievement Award
Julie O’ Sullivan Maillet (Rutgers University)

Outstanding Member Award
Celia R. Hooper (University of North Carolina Greensboro)

Darrell C. Mase Presidential Citation
Thomas W. Elwood (ASAHP)

ASAHP Fellows Awards
Abiodun Akinwuntan (University of Kansas Medical Center)

Peter C. Hu (University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center)

Tina F. Whalen (University of Cincinnati)

Award for Institutional Excellence and Innovation in Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Health Care
Brian B. Shulman, Vasiliki (Betty) Kapralos, and Genevieve Zipp (Seton Hall University)

TELEBEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Use of telehealth, including telephone and video services for behavioral health, has skyrocketed since the pandemic began. As policymakers and payers consider making COVID-19 telebehavioral health benefits permanent, an examination of the evidence and existing programs can offer lessons. An issue brief by the Milbank Memorial Fund provides summary findings from a 2019 review of studies of telebehavioral health’s effectiveness on key clinical outcomes.

The authors found that telehealth is just as effective as in-person care for certain behavioral health conditions, and the cost can be lower than in-person visits, provided that patients have devices they can use. The programmatic structure and health policies of three relevant telebehavioral health policies programs are described. The issue brief can be obtained at https://www.milbank.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/TeleBH_B_6.pdf.

UPCOMING ASSOCIATION EVENTS

November 11, 2020 at 1:00-2:00 PM ET ASAHP Live Virtual Series – Curriculum Innovations Related to COVID-19.

November 18, 2020 at 1:00-2:00 PM ET ASAHP Live Virtual Series – Models of Excellence for Enhancing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

December 2, 1:00-2:00 PM ET ASAHP Live Virtual Series – Curriculum Innovations Related to COVID-19.

December 16, 1:00-2:00 PM ET ASAHP Live Virtual Series – Curriculum Innovations Related to COVID-19.

Additional information can be obtained at https://www.asahp.org/events.

INSTITUTIONAL PROFILE SURVEY

The Institutional Profile Survey is open for data to be submitted in 2020. The closing date is January 31, 2020. Please direct questions to kristen@asahp.org.

ACCREDITATION OVERVIEW

A new report from the Congressional Research Service provides an overview of accreditation of postsecondary education in the United States, including its role in the Higher Education Act Title IV program integrity triad. The report can be obtained at https://fas.org/sgp/crs/mir/1943e3.pdf.

HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS DROP

Inpatient hospital admission volume from the beginning of 2018 through August 8, 2020 in the U.S. dropped as low as 69% of predicted levels during the second week of April as stay-at-home orders required elective surgeries to be canceled. The number of admissions has rebounded since the appearance of COVID-19, but not made up for an overall loss in business affecting both patients and health personnel. The report can be obtained at https://www.kff.org/health-costs/issue-brief/trends-in-overall-and-non-covid-19-hospital-admissions/.

COVID-19 AND HEALTH PERSONNEL

A CDC analysis of COVID-19 hospitalization data from 13 states reveals that 6% of adults hospitalized with the disease between March 1 and May 31 were health care personnel. Among those health care personnel, 36% were in nursing-related occupations, 73% had obesity as an underlying condition, and 28% were admitted to an intensive care unit. The report can be obtained at https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/pdfs/mm6943e3-H.pdf.