



ASAHP UPDATE

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2016 ASAHP ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Association's 2016 Annual Conference will be held at the Royal Sonesta Hotel in New Orleans, LA on October 19-21. The theme for this event is *Looking Out On The Horizon: Emerging Issues In Allied Health Education And Practice.*

Abstracts are being solicited in two formats:

1. **Paper Presentation** during a 40-minute Concurrent Session, or
2. **Poster Presentation** during a two-hour Poster Session (*ASAHP reserves the right to make a final decision regarding whether a presentation will be made in the form of a paper or poster.*)

The following topics are being featured this year:

- New advancements in health professions education, research, and practice
- Application of simulation and technology in health professions education - emerging practice and issues
- Clinical education - challenges, opportunities, and best practices
- Models of excellence and creative approaches for enhancing IPE/IPP
- Federal policy mandates and their impact on allied health education and practice

The deadline for submitting Abstracts is **June 6, 2016**. Abstract Forms and information about the submission process can be accessed at

<http://www.asahp.org/asahp-in-action/upcoming-national-conferences/2016-annual-conference/>.

INSTITUTIONAL PROFILE SURVEY

The data collection period for the 2016 iteration of ASAHP's annual *Institutional Profile Survey* will open on **September 12** and close on **November 30**. Now is a good time to determine who will be assigned responsibility for collecting data. A *User's Guide* is online at www.asahp.org in the section of the homepage labeled "Members." It has proven to be immensely popular for newcomers to the study. Last year, 85 schools furnished data for the IPS study.

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Each year, the Association sponsors the *Scholarship of Excellence Program* for allied health students enrolled in its member institutions. The purpose is to recognize outstanding individuals who excel in their academic programs and have significant potential to assume future leadership roles in the allied health professions. Each student chosen for an award will receive a \$1,000 scholarship.

In 2015, ASAHP gave scholarships to 12 students. Five of these awards were provided by the firm of CertifiedBackground.com, a company that offers criminal background check and immunization status check services to member institutions.

The year 2013 marked the inauguration of the *Elwood Scholar Award*. Created by the Board of Directors and named for ASAHP's former Executive Director **Thomas W. Elwood** who retired from that position in 2012, at the conclusion of the selection of the Scholarship of Excellence Award recipients, an additional review process will commence to identify the most outstanding applicant.

That individual will receive an additional \$1,000 scholarship and a complimentary registration to the 2016 ASAHP Annual Conference in New Orleans, LA where he or she will be recognized formally as the award recipient. All travel and rooming costs will be paid by ASAHP.

Several conditions must be met to apply. Only one candidate from each member institution can be nominated. All degree levels are eligible. Information about application procedures is on the Web at www.asahp.org in the *Members Section*.

A key point to observe is that each application must include a letter endorsed by the dean or director who serves as the official ASAHP Institutional Representative that supports the nomination and describes qualities of the candidate. A letter from a chairperson or faculty member also may be included. The deadline for submitting the necessary information is **June 6, 2016**.

AHRQ FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

The primary purpose of the *Mentored Research Scientist Research Career Development Awards (K01) Program* of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) is to prepare qualified individuals for careers that have a significant impact on the quality, safety, efficiency, equity, and effectiveness of health care for all Americans. This program is designed to provide support and protected time to individuals with a research doctoral degree for an intensive, supervised research career development experience in health services research. The K01 award can be used both by individuals who propose to embark on health services research training and those who had a hiatus in their research careers because of illness or family circumstances. The K01 award also is available to promote research workforce diversity by providing enhanced research career development opportunities.

The objective is to provide salary and research support for a sustained period of “protected time” (3-5 years) for intensive research career development under the guidance of an experienced mentor in the field of health services research leading to research independence. The expectation is that, through this sustained period of research career development and training, awardees will launch independent research careers and become competitive for new research project grant (e.g., R01) funding. The deadline for submitting applications is **September 12, 2016**. Additional information can be accessed at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-16-223.html>.

PLAY EVERYWHERE CHALLENGE

Science and common sense are in agreement that children need to play in order to grow up healthy, resilient, and ready for life. Unfortunately, in many parts of the United States, especially in cities, too many children lack opportunities to play because of where they live, where they come from, or level of family income. A *Play Everywhere Challenge* offered by Kaboom is aimed at helping cities to create spaces and opportunities for children to play as they grow. The endeavor involves a \$1 million national competition for innovative ideas.

Creative solutions are being solicited to make play a way of life in everyday and unexpected places, such as sidewalks, vacant lots, bus stops, open streets, and beyond. The application period is open until **May 31, 2016**. Additional information can be accessed at <https://playeverywhere.kaboom.org/how-it-works>.

LONG-TAIL PROBLEM IN HEALTH CARE

A report from Milliman discusses the long-tail problem, the idea that markets experience poor supply-to-demand matching because of distribution inefficiencies, especially for nonstandard or niche products and services. In healthcare, the long-tail problem is often referred to as access barriers. A potential solution to barriers of this nature can be telemedicine.

Residents of metropolitan areas have access to a wide array of health care services, which often is not the case for individuals who live in rural areas or who lack the ability to travel to obtain needed care. Telemedicine is a tool for making diagnostic and treatment services more readily available. The report can be accessed at http://www.milliman.com/uploadedFiles/insight/2016/2160HDP_20160506.pdf.

HOSPITAL SAFETY

Leo Tolstoy began his novel *Anna Karenina* with the quote that “All happy families are alike; each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way.” The same might be claimed of hospitals in the United States from the perspective of safety. Each facility is safe or unsafe in its own way.

The Leapfrog Group in conjunction with the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine announced the *Spring 2016 Hospital Safety Score Update*, assigning letter grades to more than 2,500 hospitals in the United States, assessing medical errors, accidents, injuries and infections. The analysis finds that despite considerable improvement in the safety of hospital care since the Score’s launch in 2012, avoidable deaths remain high.

Findings point to a 9% higher risk of avoidable death in B hospitals, 35% higher in C hospitals, and 50% higher in D and F hospitals, than in A hospitals. It is believed that more than 33,000 lives could be saved if all hospitals performed at the level of hospitals that achieved a grade of A.

Information about the Safety Score Update can be accessed at <http://www.hospitalsafetyscore.org/media/file/LivesLostLivesSavedWhitePaper.pdf>.

It also is possible to obtain scores on hospitals located in cities and states around the nation. That kind of information can be accessed at <http://www.hospitalsafetyscore.org/>.