

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. Eighty-seven abstracts were submitted in response to the invitation.

The Opening Plenary Session Address will be delivered by **General George W. Casey, Jr. (Ret.)**, 36th Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army and Distinguished Visiting Lecturer of Leadership at the S.C. Johnson College of Business, Cornell University.

Other plenary session presentations will be made by:

Randall Lambrecht, President, Aurora Research Institute, System Vice President, Advocate Aurora Health

Jody Feder, Esq., Director of Accountability and Regulatory Affairs, National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU)

Ray Sierpina, Senior Vice President of Public Policy and Government Affairs, Kindred Healthcare, LLC

Patricia Walker, Deans Emerita Lecturer, Dean, College of Health Professions, Sacred Heart University

Susan Cashin, Clinical Professor, Director of the Office of Performance Analytics, University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee

Mitchell M. Scheiman, Mary E. Switzer Lecturer, Dean of Research, Salus University

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.

JOURNAL OF ALLIED HEALTH

Once an article is submitted to the *Journal of Allied Health* and passes a quality control checkpoint, reviewers assigned to assess it begin by providing scores for nine different criteria (e.g., importance, appropriate design, valid conclusions). Five articles that appeared in either the Fall 2018, Winter 2018, Spring 2019, or Summer 2019 issues with the highest scores were ranked by four members of the Editorial Board who worked independently of one another.

Based on an average of their respective scores, the highest ranking for the **J. Warren Perry Award** was for an article entitled "Research Engagement and Activity in an Allied Health Workforce: Insights into Departmental and Organisational Strategies" that appeared in the Winter 2018 issue. The authors, who are from the Metro South Hospital and Health Service in Brisbane, Australia, are as follows:

Elizabeth C. Ward
Rachel A. Elphinston
Laurelie R. Wall
Maria Schwarz
Gail E. Gordon

They will be recognized during the 2019 ASAHP Annual Conference in Charleston, SC. The late **J. Warren Perry** was a founding member of ASAHP, became the Association's 2nd President, and was the founder of the *Journal of Allied Health* in 1972.

A midyear snapshot of the Journal for the six-month period ending June 30, 2019 reveals that:

- ❖ The total number of submitted manuscripts was 49, of which 36 were *Original Research Articles*, and it took an average of six weeks from time of receipt to time of first decision and nine-and-one-half weeks from time of receipt to a final decision for that group of papers.
- ❖ Eighty-five reviewers took part in assessing manuscripts, with five of them doing so for three articles each. From the time a paper was received, it took an average of 12 days to secure the first reviewer.

CGFNS-ASAHP PARTNERSHIP

As the number of individuals living with a disability continues to rise, health workers increasingly are performing much-needed rehabilitation work without proof of the required education or training. To this end, CGFNS International, Inc. (CGFNS) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions (ASAHP) in April 2019 to set the standards for global certification for these health workers and to upgrade education and training programs to support safe and effective rehabilitation care around the world.

“With its university-members and employers focused on providing education for health professionals, ASAHP is uniquely qualified to lend its strengths in developing competency standards in rehabilitation care in the global context,” stated **Susan Hanrahan**, President of ASAHP. “ASAHP is honored to join CGFNS as a strategic partner to develop education programs and to provide subject matter expertise and academic leadership through this worldwide certification program.”

In prioritizing disability as a universal health and human rights issue, the World Health Organization (WHO) estimated that one billion individuals globally are currently living with a disability. That number is projected to increase due to an aging population, environmental conditions, and other factors. Evidence also suggests that disability disproportionately affects women, the aged, and individuals living in poverty.

WHO Rehabilitation 2030 continued to identify avenues to alleviate this growing health concern, following a comparable trajectory first established in *WHO Global Disability Action Plan 2014-2021*. The initial goals of improving access to rehabilitation health programs, strengthening assistance and support services, and improving international disability research and data collection all require a health workforce trained to provide for rehabilitation care in different practice-settings across the globe.

NEWS FROM THE COLLEGES

Former ASAHP Board Member **Patricia W. Walker** stepped down as dean of the College of Health Professions at Sacred Heart University effective June 30, 2019 after 22 years of service. She established a scholarship fund for students from underrepresented groups who are from Connecticut and are pursuing programs in the health professions, nursing, and social work. A link to the giving site can be obtained at <https://weareshu.sacredheart.edu/project/15519>.

AHRQ NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

Nominations are being accepted for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality’s (AHRQ) National Advisory Council, a 21-member volunteer panel that meets three times a year to advise the agency’s director and the HHS secretary on matters related to the agency’s mission. Nominees may include experts in healthcare quality and improvement; clinical practice; health insurance; healthcare administration; economics; informatics; healthcare law; public policy, or the private sector. The nomination deadline is **August 11, 2019**. More information can be obtained at <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2019-06-12/pdf/2019-12323.pdf>.

OECD HEALTH STATISTICS

The online database *OECD Health Statistics 2019* was released on July 2, 2019. This resource offers the most comprehensive source of comparable statistics on health and health systems across OECD countries, of which the United States is one of 36 members. It is an essential tool to carry out comparative analyses and draw lessons from international comparisons of diverse health systems. Topics covered include: health expenditure and financing; health status (e.g., morbidity, mortality, and life expectancy); non-medical determinants of health; and health care resources.

The database can be obtained at https://stats.oecd.org/index.aspx?DataSetCode=HEALTH_STAT.

QUALITY ASSURANCE BRIEF

A new brief from the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) addresses the role of quality assurance in an era of digital communications, new media and instruction platforms, and interoperable data systems. In this new normal, it is essential to consider how learning, delivered through multiple platforms and modes, can be credible, authentic, and transferable. The brief can be obtained at https://www.chea.org/sites/default/files/pdf/Policy_Brief_7.1.2019.pdf.

STUDENT FINANCIAL RISKS

A report from the Manhattan Institute discusses initiatives that postsecondary education institutions are undertaking to lower student financial risks. For example, by offering on-time graduation guarantees or, failing that, no-cost continuing enrollment. The report can be obtained at <https://media4.manhattan-institute.org/sites/default/files/R-0719-BA.pdf>.