

# TRENDS

Association of  
Schools of  
Allied Health  
Professions

## HIGHLIGHTS

OCTOBER 2003

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## MIDWEST DEANS GROUP ENDORSES LEGISLATION

A representative of the Midwest Deans Group announced during the Town Meeting at the ASAHP Annual Conference in Toronto, Canada that the group would endorse the *Allied Health Reinvestment Act*. The Association, in conjunction with several national organizations that have agreed to support it, developed this legislation.

As of the end of October, a draft version of the bill had emerged from the Legislative Counsel's Office bearing the name of Representative Ted Strickland (D-OH). The Congressman is a member of the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health.

The draft prepared by ASAHP was forwarded to that office where it underwent modification to conform to required legalese and existing statutes. Coalition partners and ASAHP members who serve on the Association's committee that deals with government relations were sent copies. The Town Meeting on October 25 offered another venue for wider distribution.

Once a bill emerges from the House with an H.R. number, an effort will be made to add the names of co-sponsors from both parties. It is expected that Rep. Strickland and a key Republican on the House Energy and Commerce Committee will introduce the legislation by mid-November. One key to success will be the ability to create a national awareness of the extent of allied health workforce problems as a means attracting Congressional attention.

Articles to that effect already have appeared in various publications such as the Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, and the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. Efforts will continue to be made to have stories appear in other major newspapers across the United States.

Additional plans call for having a news conference at the National Press Club in Washington, DC following introduction of the bill. Meanwhile, parallel activity is underway to develop a companion bill for introduction in the Senate. In order to reach the stage where legislation is sent to the President to be signed into law, it will be necessary for both chambers to agree on its contents.

ASAHP's Spring Meeting will be held in Washington on March 18-20, 2004. That occasion will provide an opportunity for Association members to visit Capitol Hill and influence developments in both the House and the Senate. A chief aim is to have legislation reach the President's desk by the end of 2004.



VANGUARD OF  
ALLIED HEALTH EDUCATION

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# PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

*By David D. Gale, ASAHP President*



The 2003 ASAHP Annual Conference was held in Toronto, Canada on October 22-25 and what an outstanding event it was. Among the most notable features were presentations by **Andrew Sorensen**, President of the University of South Carolina, and Professor **Gordon Guyatt** of McMaster University. Many attendees went out of their way to tell me that these two individuals were the best speakers that we have had in many years. So, it's kudos to the conference planning committee headed by **Edward "Ted" Kelley** (University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey) for their fine efforts in developing the program.

Another delight was the high quality of the posters during the Poster Session and Reception. Each year, the visual appearance of these items becomes more pleasing as well as being highly informative. Adding to their quality are the presenters who have an opportunity to explain in great detail the results of their work in the areas of research, education, or practice.

These same three general topics served as a basis for presentations made during 10 different concurrent sessions. The range of material covered furnished fine examples of the dynamism that characterizes allied health. The only problem for attendees was which session to attend. They all were uniformly excellent.

Praise also is due the several members who agreed to be judges at the poster session or to serve as moderators at the concurrent sessions. A total of 19 individuals were needed to perform duties at these functions and they did so with alacrity.

A highlight of the conference was an Oxford-style debate on the topic of accreditation. Both three-member teams who argued the issue went to great lengths, complete with costumes, to add some lighter moments to the presentations that were made. The audience joined in as well and all who came away from the session can look back upon it as an event that was quite educational as well as splendidly entertaining.

Serious work also was undertaken at the meetings of the various committees and task forces. When the chairpersons gathered at the beginning of the conference to report what had transpired during the past year, my impression based on what I heard was that the previous 12 months had been most productive. Not content to rest on their laurels, they then proceeded to up the ante by proclaiming a new set of objectives for the next 12-month period. On tap in coming days are some exciting developments that will involve research, accreditation, and education initiatives.

Last, but not least, were the workshops on research and leadership that were offered. Both events had a full complement of participants in attendance. Members of the Associate/Assistant Deans Group and the Research Committee respectively are to be complimented for the time and effort that went into preparing and conducting these sessions. Next year, it's on to Tampa for the 2004 annual conference. The bar has been set rather high as a result of the recent conference, but I'm confident that the planning team is eager to meet the challenge.



## TOWN MEETING

Ordinarily, whenever a Town Meeting is held during an ASAHP event, an opportunity is provided for an exchange of ideas and views between members and the Board of Directors. Because of the heavy emphasis being placed this year on the goal of having an *Allied Health Reinvestment Act* become law, the Board requested Executive Director **Thomas Elwood** to make a presentation on what has transpired thus far. The purpose was to bring all those attending the session up-to-date on developments.

The following key elements were addressed:

- A chronology of events from August 2001 to October 2003 was presented.
- The process of selecting members of a coalition to assist in moving this legislation forward was described
- The names of organizations supporting the legislation were cited.
- The rationale for calling the bill the *Allied Health Reinvestment Act*, including how the term allied health is used by federal agencies and is cited in existing statutes, was explained
- A history of funding that resulted from 1967-1979 following enactment of the Allied Health Professions Personnel Training Act of 1966 was shown.
- A listing of articles about the proposed legislation appearing in the Association's newsletter TRENDS and in the bi-weekly ASAHP UPDATE that is sent to deans and directors at member institutions was indicated.
- The track record of the 107<sup>th</sup> and 108<sup>th</sup> Congresses in moving bills into laws was illustrated.
- Factors that stand in the way of rapid passage of legislation were described, and
- Ways in which the Allied Health Reinvestment Act represents an innovative approach to remedying allied health workforce problems were delineated.

The rest of the Town Meeting was devoted to informing members about the 2004 Annual Conference, the effort to augment the *Institutional Profile Survey* with benchmarking data, and the formation of the Deans' Council.

An explanation by ASAHP President **David Gale** was provided to the group that gathered in Toronto regarding the didactic nature of this particular Town Meeting. The point was stressed, however, that one reason for creating a Deans' Council was to allow deans and directors to have a much greater opportunity in the near future to express their views on matters of importance to them.

A three-hour session for such purposes will be made available during the Association's Spring Meeting in Washington, DC on **March 18-20, 2004**. Deans and directors in attendance will be able to discuss how they wish to structure the Council and select the topics that will be considered. Once they begin to formulate ideas for the good of the Association, they can make recommendations for consideration by the Board.

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## SCHOLARSHIP OF EXCELLENCE WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Recipients of the Association's *2003 Scholarship of Excellence Awards* were announced during the Annual Conference in Toronto. They are:

**Heidi A. Ambrose** (College of Health Sciences, Old Dominion University)

**Kevin D. Dunne** (College of Health Sciences, Rush University Medical Center)

**Kimberly A. Fisher** (College of Allied Health, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center)

**Sara M. King** (College of Allied Health Sciences, University of Cincinnati)

**Michelle Landrum** (School of Allied Health Sciences, University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio)

**Leanna C. Olivar** (College of Health Professions, Northern Arizona University)

**Rebecca L. Rogers** (College of Allied Health Sciences, University of Tennessee Health Science Center)

A check in each person's name in the amount of \$1,000 will be sent to the dean at each school who then will forward it to the student in that institution.

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## ANDREW SORENSEN ADDRESSES CRITICAL ISSUES FACING ALLIED HEALTH

2003 Annual Conference Keynote Speaker **Andrew Sorensen**, President of the University of South Carolina, focused on critical issues facing allied health when he made his presentation on October 22 in Toronto. He indicated that the following are of great concern: severe workforce shortages, enrollment that is limited by proper faculty-student ratios, a shortage of faculty that can compete successfully for funding from the National Institutes of Health, and the emphasis placed by various federal agencies in the Department of Health and Human Services on the importance of interdisciplinary research.

He pointed out that full professors at the University of South Carolina teach engineering courses in high school in that state as a means of attracting students to major in that field when they enroll in college. He described several innovative ways that new faculty could be hired as a means of guaranteeing the likelihood that they will become productive researchers. An example would be to reduce their teaching load. Allowing students to add their names to research publications also represents a good way of generating their interest in pursuing future academic careers.

Throughout his academic service as an administrator at several institutions, he has encouraged faculty to reach out to other colleagues on campus. The key is to show that by participating in a specific proposal, all partners to the endeavor have something to contribute and stand to benefit from the proposed collaboration. He advised that allied health professionals should reject the silo mentality that prevails in the health sciences and be willing to include other entities in different parts of the campus. He also touched upon difficulties deriving from the fact that most university presidents have little experience in the health sciences. Consequently, they tend to shy away from the complexities inherent in this component of the institution.

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING IN TORONTO

The ASAHP Board of Directors met in Toronto on October 20-21. The following actions were taken:

- Approved the Minutes of the Board Meeting on July 28-30.
- Approved allocating the excess revenues over expenditures from Fiscal Year 2003 into the *Scholarship of Excellence Fund* and the *Board Fund*,
- Agreed that only Deans and Directors will be eligible to attend meetings of the newly formed Deans' Council and that the group should have its first meeting during the Association's Spring Meeting on March 18-20, 2004 in Washington, DC.
- Approved the formation of a Task Force under the director of Dean **Ronald Winters** (University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences) to work on the addition of benchmarking items on finance and scholarship as an optional component in the 2004 Institutional Profile Survey.
- Agreed that the Fellows Group should develop criteria for selection of future Fellows and be given responsibility for making recommendations to the Board regarding whom those individuals should be.
- Appointed Past Presidents **Stephen L. Wilson** (The Ohio State University), **John E. Trufant** (Rush University Medical Center), and **Thomas C. Robinson** (University of Kentucky) to the Awards Committee with the charge that they recommend the names of future Association award recipients to the Board.
- Appointed members to the 2004 Annual Conference Planning Committee and designated two of its members to serve as liaison to the planning committee of the National Network of Health Career Programs in Two-Year Colleges (NN2).
- Agreed to limit eligibility for the *ASAHP Outstanding Allied Health Educator Award* to faculty and not include staff.

### 2004 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 18 - 20, 2004 - **Winter Meeting** - Washington, D.C.

March 2004 - **Secretary's Award** entries submitted to Deans'/Directors' Offices

April 1, 2004 - Deadline for **Outstanding Research Award** applications.

April 2004 - **Secretary's Award** entries submitted to ASAHP.

April 15, 2004 - Deadline for **New Investigators Award** applications.

May 15, 2004 - Deadline for **Scholarship of Excellence** applications.

June 2004 - **Secretary's Award** winners announced

June 1, 2004 - Deadline for **Outstanding Health Educators Award** applications.

September - November 2004 - **Institutional Profile Survey** - <http://asahp.uams.edu>

October 20-23, 2004 - **Annual Conference** - Tampa, FL

## GORDON GUYATT COMPARES HEALTH DELIVERY SYSTEMS

The 2004 *Mary E. Switzer Lecture* was presented in Toronto during the Annual Conference by Professor **Gordon Guyatt** of the School of Medicine at McMaster University who compared investor owned private for-profit health care delivery with not-for profit health care delivery. His presentation was based on a systematic review and meta-analysis of the relative impact of these two delivery systems of hospital care on patient mortality. A related question, addressed in the same research manner, was the impact of these two delivery systems regarding the impact of hemodialysis care on patient death rates.

The conclusions reached from these investigations are as follows:

- The review demonstrated higher death rates among in-patients receiving care in investor owned private for-profit hospitals.
- The review also demonstrated higher death rates in outpatients receiving hemodialysis care in investor owned private for-profit hospitals.
- Among the explanatory variables was the fact that investor owned private for-profit hospitals employed fewer and less highly skilled staff.

Guyatt concluded by recommending that the debate about health care policy move away from ideology and into the evidence based era.



Switzer Lecturer Gordon Guyatt of McMaster University (left) shown with ASAHP President David Gale in Toronto.



University of South Carolina President Andrew Sorensen, Keynote Speaker at the 2003 ASAHP Annual Conference, shown at the podium.

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## AVAILABLE RESOURCES

### **Informing The Future: Critical Issues In Health**

*Informing the Future: Critical Issues in Health. Second Edition* is an update to the 2000 report, *Informing the Future*. It is representative of current or recent areas in which the Institute of Medicine (IOM) has worked. It is designed to introduce the Institute to those who may not be familiar with it or who are unfamiliar with the breadth of IOM work and should be valuable to anyone working in the health area. In addition, it contains contact information for IOM staff and a bibliography by topic area of all recent IOM work. For a complimentary copy of this report or to request a copy of the upcoming volume, please send an e-mail to the IOM's Office of Reports and Communication at [ORAC@nas.edu](mailto:ORAC@nas.edu) or call Tel: 202-334-2352.

### **Racial And Ethnic Disparities In Health Care**

Many studies have found that blacks, Hispanics, Native Americans, and Asians receive less adequate and less intensive health care than whites and many find such disparities persist even after adjusting for health insurance status, age, sex, income, and education. To make this body of evidence widely available, Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) has created an annotated bibliography of key articles in the peer-reviewed literature on racial and ethnic disparities in health care. Users can search by 17 disease or clinical categories and by clinical trials, research methods, and other parameters.

The bibliography may be accessed on the World Wide Web at [http://www.phrusa.org/research/domestic/race/race\\_report/bibliography.html](http://www.phrusa.org/research/domestic/race/race_report/bibliography.html).

### **Scholarships Available For Radiation Therapy Students**

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that the nation will need 7,000 more radiation therapists by 2010 than it had in 2000. Thanks to Varian Medical Systems Inc. and the American Society of Radiologic Technologists Education and Research Foundation, 83 of them will be able to attend school with the help of a \$5,000 scholarship. Varian will fund 83 scholarships for students entering educational programs in radiation therapy and provide additional monetary support to the Foundation over the next five years, for a total contribution of \$440,000. Varian will fund 11 scholarships of \$5,000 each in the 2004-2005 academic year, 15 scholarships of \$5,000 each in the 2005-2006 academic year, and 19 scholarships of \$5,000 each in the 2006-2007 through 2008-2009 academic years. Applications for the Varian Radiation Therapy Student Scholarship are available on the Foundation section of the ASRT Web site at <http://www.asrt.org>.

### **RWJF Launches New Research Center**

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) has launched a new research center. The center offers a gateway to information about Foundation-funded research and includes links to important resources. For additional information, go to <http://www.rwjf.org/research/research.jsp> on the Web.

### **How States Can Use Health Workforce Policies To Increase Access And Improve Quality Of Care**

A co-publication of the Milbank Memorial Fund and the Reforming States Group is entitled, 'Making Sense of the System: How States Can Use Health Workforce Policies to Increase Access and Improve Quality of Care.' This report describes a wide range of options that states can consider in responding to health worker shortages. These options include increasing the supply through education and training, increasing retention, moderating demand, and improving productivity. The report also recommends expanded data collection and analysis to provide states with a better understanding of their current health workforce and their future health workforce needs. The document may be accessed by on the Web at <http://www.milbank.org/reports/2003salsberg/2003salsberg.html>.

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James Blagg, Jr. (right) was presented with the Cultural Diversity Award from ASAHP President David Gale.



J. Warren Perry, ASAHP's 2nd President, was the recipient of the Association's Legacy of Excellence Award.



John Snyder of The Ohio State University at Lima (center) was the recipient of the Distinguished Service and Achievement Award. He is flanked by ASAHP President David Gale on the left and Immediate Past President Stephen Wilson on the right.



An Oxford-style debate on Accreditation featured from left to right: Olive Kimball (NAACLS), Nasrah Shah (Kuwait University), Jerome Sullivan (University of Toledo), Edward "Ted" Kelley (UMDNJ, Moderator), David Gibson (UMDNJ), Stephen Wilson (The Ohio State University), and Janet Pisaneschi (Western Michigan University).