

# ASAHP UPDATE

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## BOARD ACTIONS

The following actions were among those taken by the ASAHP Board of Directors during a meeting that was held on March 16 in New Orleans, LA:

- Approved the Minutes of a conference call on January 26.
- Approved motions to: accept the recommendations of the Finance Committee and the proposed budget for FY 2011-2012 and make changes in the investment portfolio that pertain to the Reserve Initiative Account and the proportions of investments in equities and fixed income financial vehicles. The budget includes a dues increase of two percent.
- Approved working with the firm Liaison International to develop centralized application services in three areas: respiratory care, imaging/radiologic technology, and clinical laboratory science.
- Approved developing procedures to conduct a faculty retention survey that will be conducted later in the year.
- Approved nominating **Shelley Conroy** (Dean, Armstrong Atlantic State University) and **Julie O'Sullivan Maillet** (Interim Dean, University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey) to serve as ASAHP's representatives on the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP). Also approved nominating **Hugh Bonner** (Director, State University of New York Upstate Medical University) for reappointment to be ASAHP's representative to the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS).
- Approved a motion to work with Certified Background.com as a preferred provider of services involving student criminal background and immunization checks.

## 2011 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 2011 ASAHP Annual Conference will be held on October 19-21 in Scottsdale, AZ. The *Call for Abstracts* is being issued this week for presentations in Concurrent Sessions and a Poster Session. Preference will be given to abstracts that address the following topics within the broad framework of either **Research, Education, or Practice**: workforce considerations, reform strategies and economic solutions, including alternative models of service delivery/care, alternative models of clinical education, and career ladder skill/competency building. In addition to research projects, descriptions of pilot endeavors also will be welcomed.

More information on the Program for the 2011 ASAHP Annual Conference will be made available on the Association's web site at [www.asahp.org](http://www.asahp.org). Please check often for updates.

## CENTRALIZED APPLICATION SERVICE

Now that an agreement has been reached to work with Liaison International to develop a Centralized Application Service (CAS) for respiratory care, imaging/radiologic technology, and clinical laboratory science, a plan on how to proceed and a timetable will be developed. The intention is to have a CAS for these professions become operational for the semester that begins in Fall 2012. Additional information will be provided as it becomes available.

## BACKGROUND CHECKS

The arrangement developed with the firm Certified Background.com does not mean that any ASAHP member institution is obligated to use its services, which include checks of both student immunization records and criminal background. It is not necessary to purchase both the immunization checker and the criminal checker since they can be bought separately. Each member can obtain the services of whatever company it considers most appropriate. As a result of the partnership, any ASAHP member institution will qualify for a 15% discount on services purchased. As the process unfolds, the ASAHP UPDATE will be used to provide additional information.

## INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE WORKSHOP

The March 1 and 14 issues of the ASAHP UPDATE contained a description of a *Workshop on Allied Health* that is being developed by the Institute of Medicine. It will be held on May 9-10 in Washington, DC. ASAHP Past-President **David Gale** (Dean, Eastern Kentucky University), **Richard Oliver** (Dean, University of Missouri), and **Harold Jones** (Dean, University of Alabama at Birmingham) were listed as presenters. In addition, **Kevin Lyons** (Director of Institutional Research at Thomas Jefferson University) will make a presentation.

### SPRING MEETING SLIDES

Power point slides used by speakers who made presentations at the Association's 2011 Spring Meeting can be accessed from the homepage at: [http://www.asahp.org/spring\\_meeting.htm](http://www.asahp.org/spring_meeting.htm).

### CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS

ASAHP will not be granting any CE credits for attending Association meetings. Instead, a certificate can be provided that attendees could use in their quest to obtain credits from their respective professional associations. The certificate will designate specific activities (e.g., concurrent sessions) and the number of hours involved for sessions that might be eligible.

### TASK FORCE CREATION

Instead of using the Association's committee structure, certain situations result in the creation of task forces. As a result of a discussion during the ASAHP Spring Meeting, it was decided that one should be formed to deal with challenges involved in placing students in clinical sites for training purposes. The following members have agreed to begin an examination of key issues surrounding this topic:

**Patricia Chute** (Dean, New York Institute of Technology)

**Julie O'Sullivan Maillet** (Interim Dean, University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey)

**Yasmen Simonian** (Dean, Weber State University)

**Patricia Walker** (Dean, Sacred Heart University)

A suggestion also was made to create a task force on interprofessional education to focus on accreditation and faculty resistance barriers that make it difficult to offer this kind of teaching. Any member with an interest in becoming a member of the taskforce should send a message to [thomas@asahp.org](mailto:thomas@asahp.org).

## HEALTH LITERACY

Low health literacy in older Americans is linked to poorer health status and a higher risk of death, according to a new evidence report by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). More than 75 million English-speaking adults in the United States have limited health literacy, making it difficult for them to understand and use basic health information.

The 941-page report that was released earlier this week is an update of a 2004 literature review featuring findings from more than 100 new studies. It found an association between low health literacy in all adults, regardless of age, and more frequent use of hospital emergency rooms and inpatient care, compared with other adults. The report can be accessed on the Web at <http://www.ahrq.gov/downloads/pub/evidence/pdf/literacy/literacyup.pdf>.

### MEANINGFUL USE

In January 2011, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services issued the draft set of criteria for Stage 2 (it begins in October 2012), which sets higher standards for communicating health information to patients. The hope is that it will enable providers to exchange information, better coordinate care, improve treatment outcomes, and move into emerging delivery models like the patient-centered medical home, health information exchanges (HIEs), and accountable care organizations (ACOs). A report, "Putting Patients Into Meaningful Use," from PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP shares key findings, addresses how health systems can develop more inclusive care-teams to realize greater ROI from personal health records (PHRs), and includes case studies. The report is on the Web at <http://pwchealth.com/cgi-local/hregister.cgi?link=reg/putting-patients-into-meaningful-use.pdf>.

### COMPARING ONLINE PROGRAMS

A quality scorecard was developed that is intended to serve as a standardized measure for comparing any type of fully online college program, regardless of discipline. The scorecard has 70 metrics. It builds on the Institute for Higher Education's "Benchmarks for Success in Internet-Based Distance Education," which was published in 2000 and outlines 24 metrics. The scorecard can be accessed on the Web at [http://sloanconsortium.org/quality\\_scoreboard\\_online\\_program](http://sloanconsortium.org/quality_scoreboard_online_program).