

ASPE Town Hall Report

The June ASPE conference in Kansas City was a rewarding time to connect with many ASPE members in person; however, I realize that it probably feels like a distant memory at this point. Many members were not able to attend, which may leave some feeling “out of the loop.” Let us start with some conversations the membership had with the executive committee (EC) during a “Town Hall” meeting at the conference.

Essentially, this was an opportunity for members to submit questions to the board in an effort to create a space for transparent dialogue. Long time ASPE member and Past President, Mary Cantrell, was the discussion facilitator during one of our sit-down lunches. Below is a summary of the questions submitted and the essence of the verbal answers provided by the board.

1. Member Question:

Diversity – African-American representation in the association has not grown in a sustainable way since inception. Are there efforts at the board level to address inclusion? Is diversity a concern or priority?

EC Answer:

The BOD does not, embarrassingly, have an answer for this ongoing concern. Many SP programs struggle with recruiting and hiring a diverse pool of SPs, and the same problem clearly exists within our organization of educators. There have been workshops and panel discussions each year on this topic, so it’s on the minds of our membership. As for the BOD, diversity is absolutely a concern and priority for which we have no ready answer. This is not an excuse and we are grateful for this question, as hard as it is to know how to answer. This is the first year for a social justice SIG, organized by Lorena Dobbie from the University of Toronto, and we are eager to report on progress as it occurs.

2. Member Question:

What, if any, work is being done to reach out to Central & South American medical schools and SP programs? That geographical area seems to be under-represented at ASPE.

EC Answer:

ASPE is reaching a crossroads in growth as an organization. We currently have more requests to provide content, speakers and outreach than we have the ability to support. Reaching out to specific regions is not something we have the infrastructure to achieve on a consistent level at this point. Two initiatives are underway to meet this need. The modules project, announced at this meeting, is aimed at building a series of core presentations based on key topics for new and intermediate SP educators. We need people willing to do the work. If members have ideas and time to offer towards reaching our goals by joining a committee, we can design a member driven outreach expansion more quickly.

Association of Standardized Patient Educators

222 S. Westmonte Avenue, Suite 111 ■ Altamonte Springs, FL 32714
p: 407-774-7880 ■ f: 407-774-6440 ■ w: www.aspeducators.org

3. **Member Question:**

What would expansion of ASPE to anything outside medicine look like ideally? Beyond Healthcare SIG→? More Experiential →?

EC Answer:

This is an area of great interest as many SP programs are currently working outside of healthcare. Examples of this work can be found in the literature and includes work in chaplaincy programs, social work, education, police and emergency preparedness training, ethics communities, front line staff training and many others. We encourage searching the literature and getting involved in *ASPE's Beyond HealthCare Special Interest Group. (SIG)*

4. **Member Question:**

ASPE needs more administrative support! What are your plans for increasing support/staff while balancing the need to keep dues at an accessible level?

EC Answer:

We agree! The option of hiring more administrative staff is a discussion on the table for the fall. KWMG has been providing excellent service in conference planning, association management and administrative support, but we need even more support for our volunteer board in order to keep initiatives moving forward. Our finances are in a stable place and the discussion of additional staff support is on the priority list.

Update:

As of September 2018, KWMG has been asked to provide more executive level support to the ASPE EC and BOD. Kaylee Chester has been assisting with a variety of administrative tasks to assist the EC with management of ongoing projects, affiliation agreements and other crucial tasks. Thanks to Melanie Dixon of KWMG for acknowledging the needs and finding a new staff member that can help lift some weight from the shoulders of our BOD volunteers.

5. **Member Question:**

I'm in search of 1) successful examples of building a business case to add staff to an SP program at a public university 2) Best Practices to identify, address burnout in SP program staff, managers, and directors.

EC Answer:

This is a chronic problem for many programs in this association. Each year we have programming that presents ideas for managing workload and burnout. It is a very popular topic, so please consider presenting solutions from your own context at the next ASPE conference. The Grants and Research team is also working on a project to identify common shortfalls in SP Program staffing and salary support which will help with ROI. ASPE is working with an affiliate group called the Global Network for Simulation in Healthcare (GNSH) whose mission is to bring simulation health care and industry leaders to the table once a year to discuss how to best leverage the value of simulation as a problem-solving mechanism in hospital-based programs around the world. A ROI template and justifications tools are in process and housed in draft form on their website. <http://www.gnsh.org/>

Association of Standardized Patient Educators

222 S. Westmonte Avenue, Suite 111 ■ Altamonte Springs, FL 32714
p: 407-774-7880 ■ f: 407-774-6440 ■ w: www.aspeducators.org

Update:

A helpful summary of the work of GNSH can also be found in a recent conversation chain In **SSH's** conversation board, **Simulation Spotlight, Sept 26th** in which current GNSH president Michael Seropian outlines the scope of work progressing the organization.

6. **Member Question:**

Can ASPE work with Nursing (National Board of Nursing) to get approval for conference contact hours? (Instead of members getting individual approval at the state level)

EC Answer:

ASPE is planning to provide CME credit starting at the June 2019 Orlando conference. It was on the agenda for this past year, but we hit some barriers finalizing the details. Stay tuned as we iron out the details to make this happen for our members!

7. **Member Question:**

Can we have a professional certification specific to ASPE? CSPE (Certified Standardized Patient Educator)? I only attend ASPE, not SSiH. It would be nice to have a more specific certification test for our ASPE group. We can also get our CHSE, but a CSPE would be nice too!

EC Answer:

You are not the first person to ask this question! The board has decided that a needs analysis on this topic should begin. We are working first on the question, "Do ASPE members want/need this," and next on the process of how to assess this need. SSH's Director of Certification, Andrew Spain, has offered resources based on their experience, to help us explore this question.

Update:

As of September 2018, a working group has been established to explore this topic. The recent ASPE membership survey included a question about ASPE member interest. Three ASPE members have joined with SSH certification and accreditation committee members to establish need.

Sincerely,

Valerie L. Fulmer

President , Association of Standardized Patient Educators www.aspeducators.org

ASPE is the international organization of simulation educators dedicated to:

*Promoting best practices in the application of SP methodology for education, assessment and research

*Fostering the dissemination of research and scholarship in the field of SP methodology

*Advancing the professional knowledge and skills of its members

Transforming professional performance through the power of human interaction.



Association of Standardized Patient Educators

222 S. Westmonte Avenue, Suite 111 ■ Altamonte Springs, FL 32714

p: 407-774-7880 ■ f: 407-774-6440 ■ w: www.aspeducators.org