



Transforming professional performance through the power of interaction

Navigating Through Your Career – An Overview of the ASPE 2016 Annual International Conference in Tampa, Florida, June 25-29, 2016

By Cathy Smith, Conference Chair

As the Conference Chair of the ASPE 2016 International Annual Conference in Tampa, June 25th -29th, 2016, I'm excited to share with you some Conference highlights. We've selected the conference theme - *Navigating through your Career* - to reflect the growth and maturity of both our organization and SP educator practice. This conference promises to be filled with informative cutting edge sessions in diverse formats that include workshops, presentation/ discussions, training techniques, a poster crawl, oral research reports and short oral "snapshot" sessions featuring the latest innovations.

The all-day immersion workshops on Saturday, June 25th, include topics related to the basics of scholarship, foundations of SP methodology and managing a simulation center that includes SPs. On the morning of Sunday, June 26th, we have eight preconference workshops that include hybrid simulation, writing cases and developing quality assurance strategies, understanding validity in SP-based assessment, GTA/MUTA practice, CHSE exam preparation, SP program administration and the latest techniques in moulage.

We had another record number of submissions, reflecting the richness of SP practice around the world. Sessions are arranged in diverse themes, including: Administration; Advancing Your SPs; Curriculum/Case Development; GTA/MUTA; Interprofessional Education; Hybrid; SP Educator Development; SP Methodology: Applications Beyond Medicine; and Technology.

We are also excited by our three plenary speakers, all leaders in simulation. **Dr. Karen Szauter**, this year's Howard Barrows Invited Speaker Award presenter, opens the conference on Sunday afternoon with her keynote, "*Navigating the Sea of Simulated*

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Patient Research". Over the next two and a half days of concurrent sessions, further highlights include Monday morning's plenary "*On Being Present, Not Perfect: Insights and Implications for Simulation Educators*" by **Dr. Elaine Meyer**, Tuesday's plenary on "*The Science of Simulation Based Training: Seven Observations*" by **Eduardo Salas**, and Wednesday morning's ASPE research and member-at-large presentations.

Thank you for your feedback from last year. Wi-Fi will be available in all of our meeting space as well as being included in your conference hotel room. Our venue is much larger this year and there will be lots of room for the vendors to spread out so you can easily visit them. Once again, we have scheduled a "poster crawl" on Tuesday from 1-2 pm. Posters are in small themed groups, led by facilitators who will guide you through a short oral presentation by each author, followed by a question and answer period. One of the keynotes will be a bit later in the morning for those of you who are not so keen on early morning starts. We have scheduled a few panel discussions to allow people to network and talk about various aspects of SP practice. We will have early morning walks as well as an organized dine-around for those who may be travelling on their own and who would like to network after the conference in a more social setting. Electronic surveys will be sent out at the end of each day for your feedback about this conference as well.

Tampa is also an incredibly beautiful city with lots of fun things to do for you and your family. We've provided a link on our website to help you get started.

I also want to acknowledge the contribution of the dedicated group of volunteers on this committee and our expert meeting planner **Heather Frietsch**, who work together to ensure the quality of this conference.

Please join us to interact with vendors, and to be inspired and challenged by networking with colleagues, new and old. Get the full conference schedule on the ASPE website – www.aspeducators.org - where you can also register for the conference and secure your hotel room. Remember that the deadline for the best early bird rate is May 5th!

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