



Transforming professional performance through the power of interaction

ASPE Goes to the Asia Pacific

By Karen Lewis, George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences

I'm excited to announce that in keeping with ASPE's mission to promote best practices in the application of SP methodology for education, assessment and research and to foster the dissemination of research and scholarship in the field of SP methodology, the ASPE Board of Directors approved a proposal to hold an ASPE Asia Pacific Conference November 18-20, 2016. The Conference will be a collaborative project with the National University of Singapore (NUS) to provide a 1-day preconference and 2-day meeting that reaches out to educators in the Asia Pacific region. Educators in this region of the world have expressed interest in learning more about SP methodology but have found it difficult to find funding for a trip to the United States to attend the ASPE Annual Conference. So, ASPE will bring a conference to them.

The conference will be held on the campus of the National University of Singapore, which is an ideal location for several reasons. First, it is centrally located and is easily accessible to a number of countries in the region. Second, NUS is an experienced host. It has been the site of several simulation conferences in the last four years, and it will be the host for the Asia Pacific Meeting on Simulation in Healthcare, sponsored by the Society for Simulation in Healthcare, November 15-17, 2016, immediately before the ASPE Asia Pacific Conference. ASPE will market the Conference to the Simulation in Healthcare attendees and vendors to stay and attend the ASPE meeting as well. Third, NUS has agreed to take on the majority of direct costs of holding the conference, so that ASPE will not be risking a large portion of the strategic planning money identified at the 2015 annual business meeting in Denver. Once all costs incurred by both groups have been paid, ASPE and NUS will split profits 50/50.

An Ad-Hoc Committee for the ASPE Asia Pacific Conference is being formed now. The Co-chairs are Nicola Ngiam and Carol Pfeiffer. Nicola is the Director of the SP Program at the Center for Healthcare Simulation at the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine in

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Singapore and has been an ASPE member since 2013. Carol is the Director of the Clinical Skills Assessment Program at the UConn Health Department of Medicine and is a founding ASPE member, serving as our first Vice President for Finance. Between the two of them, there is an amazing wealth of knowledge about SP methodology and conference planning. ASPE will be responsible for registration and abstract management / conference content, and NUS will be responsible for providing space and personnel to run the conference. Both organizations will be responsible for advertising.

Getting the word out is where ASPE members can have a tremendous impact on this meeting. Please start spreading the word now, and when conference announcements are ready, send them to everyone you know. Do you know of faculty members at your institution doing work in the Asia Pacific? Does your institution have an MOU with a country in the Asia Pacific? Please look for and take advantage of all of the connections you can find.

The Board of Directors and the ASPE Asia Pacific Conference Committee are committed to making the first major ASPE meeting outside of North America a success. It's an exciting time for ASPE and it's my hope that this meeting is only the first of many more ASPE conferences around the world established to "transform professional performance through the power of human interaction."

Karen Lewis, PhD
Immediate Past President, ASPE

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