



Transforming professional performance through the power of human interaction

An Overview of the ASPE 2015 Conference in Denver

By Cathy Smith, Conference Chair

The Conference Committee has been planning the 2015 conference in Denver for several months and as Conference Chair, I am delighted to share some of the highlights with you. This conference promises to be filled with informative cutting edge sessions for all levels of learners in diverse formats that include workshops, presentations, discussions, training techniques, posters, oral research reports and snapshot sessions. There will be invaluable opportunities to interact with vendors and network with new and old colleagues. The book store is also returning this year with all the latest books pertinent to SP methodology. For the first time, we will have an interactive on-line schedule and a conference app that will help you to effortlessly negotiate through the meeting. We will still have a paper schedule as well.

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

The conference officially starts on Sunday, June 14th at 3:00 pm. Before that, on Saturday, June 13th, we have a full day of immersion workshops that cover topics including the basics of scholarships, physical exam skills for SP educators and foundations of SP methodology. On Sunday, June 14th, we have 8 preconference workshops in the morning, exploring topics such as hybrid simulation, standardization of SP performance, standard setting, mindfulness, improvisation, GTA/MUTA practice, CHSE exam preparation and SP program administration.

For those of you who are returning from last year, we listened to your feedback. Food and posters are in separate areas and there will be lots of tables for eating. Rather than scheduling poster presentations at the end of the day, we have scheduled a “poster crawl” on Monday from 1-2 pm. Posters will be presented in small, themed groups, led by facilitators who will guide you through short oral presentations by the authors, followed by questions. We have included more snapshot sessions this year as well. Prior to the conference start on Sunday, there will be a new members meeting at 1:00 pm and then at 2:00 pm a round robin information session introducing ASPE’s four Special Interest Groups (SIGs) – Hybrid Simulation, Non-Medical/Expanded Uses of SPs, GTA/MUTA and Interprofessional Education. Find out how you can get more involved in ASPE by joining one of these groups.

The conference kicks off with a key note by Pamela Andreatta, "*The Essential Role of Simulated (Standardized) Patients in Simulation-Based Clinical Education*". Over the next two-and-a-half days of jam packed concurrent sessions, further highlights include Monday morning's plenary, "*Re-Imagining Leadership as Everybody's Business*", delivered by Anne Marie Madziak, Tuesday morning's plenary on *SPs and Virtual Simulation* by Antoine Tesniere and Wednesday morning's *Everything ASPE*, with reports by our members-at-large and ASPE grant research presentations. Finally at lunch on Wednesday, we will have a reflective debrief of the conference and a look forward to the next year, featuring ASPE leaders.

We look forward to seeing you in Denver and learning from the vast pool of expertise that is gathered. We are confident that the scope and understanding of your practice will be expanded and enhanced. This is your conference and we greatly value your feedback as it helps us to improve each year. Electronic surveys will be sent out at the end of each day for your feedback.

You can register, book a hotel room and look at our online schedule, including session abstracts, on our website: <http://www.aspeducators.org/>. Remember, the deadline for early bird conference registration is May 5th.

Over the next few weeks, look for more feature articles about the Conference. I look forward to meeting you in Denver!