

USPHS Scientific & Training Symposium Continuing Education Policy Statement

The planning committees for the USPHS Scientific and Training Symposiums are committed to providing the highest quality scientific program for the continued professional development of attendees. In addition, this conference is committed to providing as much (in both amount and type) continuing education credit as possible each year, within the limits of available resources (both staff time and financial).

Dentists/Nurses/Pharmacists/Physicians

The Indian Health Service is again expected to be a sponsor for the USPHS Scientific & Training Symposium and is an accredited provider for professional continuing education. At the present time the COF/COA CE Committee plans to apply for the following types of credits through the Indian Health Service Clinical Support Center (CSC):

The CSC is accredited as a sponsor of continuing education (CE) by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) for physicians and others, the American Nurses Credentialing Center Commission on Accreditation (ANCC), and the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE). The CSC also collaborates with the IHS Division of Oral Health (DOH) who sponsors continuing dental educations for dentists, hygienists, and dental assistants. The DOH grants continuing education credits through the American Dental Association Continuing Education Recognition Program (ADA CERP) for dentists.

In addition we plan to apply for the following CEs for other professions.

DIETITIANS:

The Indian Health Service (IHS) Nutrition and Dietetics Training Program (NDTP) is accredited by the Commission on Dietetic Registration to sponsor continuing professional education for Registered Dietitians.



ENGINEERS/ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICERS:

The Indian Health Service Environmental Health Support Center is an authorized **Continuing Education Unit (CEU)** provider member of the *International Association for Continuing Education and Training*

HEALTH SERVICES OFFICERS:

For social workers see separate entry. Others may apply for general credit (see below).

PSYCHOLOGISTS:

COF plans to apply for credits from the American Psychological Association.

SCIENTISTS:

For social workers see separate entry. Others may apply for general credit (see below).

SOCIAL WORKERS:

COF will apply for contract hours through the National Association of Social Workers.

THERAPISTS:

Therapists may apply for general credits (see below).

VETERINARIANS:

TBD

GENERAL CEs:

In addition to the above-listed continuing education credits, which will be issued by the specified organizations, any Symposium attendee can apply for general education credits for sessions and hours attended, which can be submitted to the appropriate body (e.g. licensing or certification agency) for a discipline not covered by the above-listed organizations. This general education certificate will be issued by the ***Commissioned Officers Foundation***.

To assist us in maximizing the CE credit that can be earned by participants, we ask that all Categories (particularly those which include a number of different professional groups) develop current information on the types and sources of continuing education credits their members require to meet licensure and/or certification/recertification requirements. That information should be provided to COF, which will work with category representatives to identify the best ways to help meet those needs. Information can be emailed to our conference staff at info@phscofevents.org and they will make sure it is forwarded to the CE Committee.

The Committee has also developed the attached “CE Tips for USPHS Symposium Planners”. We recognize that many disciplines’ CE accrediting bodies have different policies for approving credit, so those tips are rather generic. It is especially important for all program planners to keep in mind the unique rules for CE credit applicable to their primary audiences.

Your assistance and support are requested as we finalize the continuing education credit application process for the USPHS Scientific & Training Symposium.

CE Committee of COA/COF