

# Department of Health Policy

## STUDENT NEWSLETTER

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

**Upcoming DHP Events** 2

**Health Policy in the News** 3

**Spotlight on DHP Research** 3

**Spotlight on DHP Faculty & Staff** 3

**Applause for Our Students!** 4

**Meet Our Geiger Gibson Distinguished Visitors** 4

**Alumni News** 4

**Answer Central** 5

To submit items of interest or questions for "Answer Central," e-mail Rick Mauery at [rmauery@gwu.edu](mailto:rmauery@gwu.edu) before the end of the month.

Thank you to MPH student Andrea Maresca, DHP Professors Sara Wilensky and Rick Mauery, DHP Public Affairs Liaison Lee Repasch, and DHP researcher Jennifer Bretsch for their assistance in producing this newsletter.

## WELCOME TO THE INAUGURAL DHP STUDENT NEWSLETTER!

The Department of Health Policy has created this new monthly newsletter as a way to keep in touch with all students studying health policy in the Department.

The DHP is home to MPH, Certificate, MS, and DrPH health policy students in the School of Public Health and Health Services, as well as Master's and Doctoral students majoring in health policy in the School of Public Policy and Public Administration.

The Department also has several joint degrees such as JD/MPH and MD/MPH. We also participate in the undergraduate public health program, and conduct an annual Health Policy residency rotation for GW medical students.

Each month's newsletter will contain information about **upcoming DHP events**, information about **DHP research and faculty & staff members**, and **congratulations for student awards and achievements, and alumni news**. Each month also highlights a **news item** of interest to the national health policy community.

Finally, we feature "Answer Central," a place where you can submit questions about health policy issues or the DHP.

### Name the Newsletter!

The name of the newsletter right now is not particularly notable. We invite students to submit suggestions for a better name. The winner will be featured in "Applause for Our Students."



So put your thinking caps on, be creative, and **e-mail your suggestions to Rick Mauery at**

[rmauery@gwu.edu](mailto:rmauery@gwu.edu)

The DHP is particularly proud of the high caliber and energy of its students. We hope you find this newsletter useful during your academic career with us.

Your suggestions for improvements are most welcome. Please send an e-mail to [rmauery@gwu.edu](mailto:rmauery@gwu.edu) with your ideas.

## A MESSAGE FROM DHP CHAIR, SARA ROSENBAUM, JD



**Enjoy our first newsletter!**

It is a real pleasure and honor to be able to serve as

Chair of this Department,

and I know that I speak for all of us when I say how much it means to us to play a role in producing the next generation of policy leaders.

This newsletter will profile our programs, faculty and staff, and students, keep

you up to date about important projects and career opportunities, and generally serve as a "portal" into all of our wonderful activities.

Please don't hesitate to send along questions and comments!

**Dept. of Health Policy  
Professional Mentoring  
Program**

All current SPHHS Health Policy Students and SPPPA students with a concentration in Health Policy are invited to join our Professional Mentoring Program. This program is intended to match health policy students with professionals in the field to provide career advice, networking opportunities, research ideas, and more.

**Program Goals**

- To provide an opportunity for students to learn from "professional advisors" who are currently working in the health policy field;
- To create a relationship with a mentor who can assist you in making choices about research projects, pro bono opportunities, career paths, future schooling, etc. during and after your time at GW;
- To establish a network of mentors who may be available for formal roles as special projects preceptors and thesis or dissertation advisors;
- To strengthen the ties between students, mentors, and the Health Policy program.

If you are interested in learning more about the program, please review the Mentor and Student guidelines available at:

[http://www.gwumc.edu/sphhs/healthpolicy/mentors\\_guide.html](http://www.gwumc.edu/sphhs/healthpolicy/mentors_guide.html)

Also, please e-mail Professor Sara Wilensky if you are interested in more information about the DHP Mentoring Program: [wilensky@gwu.edu](mailto:wilensky@gwu.edu).

## UPCOMING DHP EVENTS

### March 22nd

#### **HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF HEALTH CARE:**

**Tell the President and the Congress what you want to see changed in the U.S. health care system.**

#### **"What is your Health Worth?" A National Conversation on Health Care**

**6:30pm-9:30pm**

**Live Webcast from 7-9 PM  
Ross Hall 201**

"Town hall meeting" presented live via satellite from the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library on the University of Michigan campus. Simultaneous live audiences will participate at 22 colleges and universities across the country.

#### **GW Moderators from the DHP:**

Professor Taylor Burke, JD, LLM

Professor Sara Wilensky, JD, MPP

#### **For more information, visit**

<http://www.citizenshealthcare.gov/>

### March 27th

#### **2nd Annual Geiger Gibson Symposium**

**5:30 pm—7:30 pm**

**Washington Hilton, International Ballroom Center.**

**1919 Connecticut Avenue, NW**

**Keynote Speaker: Dr. Reed Tuckson**

Free admission. The theme of the Symposium this year is leadership, with a focus on young leaders in community health. All are invited. Light refreshments will be served.

### March 30th

#### **Life in Health Policy with Dr. Bruce C. Vladek**

**6:15 pm**

**Lincoln Room, GW Hospital Basement**

The **Life in Health Policy** series is designed to bring to campus notable persons in the health policy community to discuss with students their personal and professional experiences.

Dr. Bruce Vladek was the Director of the DHHS Health Care Financing Administration (now the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) during the Clinton Administration. He has had a distinguished career in health policy. He played a central role in the formulation and enactment of the Medicare, Medicaid, and Child Health provisions of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997. He is presently Professor of Health Policy and Geriatrics, Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York City.

### April 11th

#### **Brown Bag Lunch**

**12pm - 1pm**

**DHP Large Conference Room**

**2021 K St. NW, Suite 800**

The Department of Health Policy will host **Dan Hawkins**, Vice President of Federal, State and Public Affairs at the National Association of Community Health Centers, and **David Reynolds**, Geiger Gibson distinguished visitor and founding executive director of Northern Counties Health Care, Inc.

They will be speaking about issues facing community health centers in the near future, including the reauthorization of the CHC statute. Please bring your lunch and enjoy hearing from these two distinguished community health experts!

### April 27th

#### **Meet Your Mentor!**

**Ross Hall, 2nd Floor Lounge**

**5:00-7:30 pm**

Here's your opportunity to learn about the DHP's Professional Mentoring Program and sign up to participate. All students and faculty members are invited to attend.

*More information to come!*

# HEALTH POLICY IN THE NEWS

## More Employers Requiring Higher Health Plan Premium Contributions From Workers Who Use Tobacco Products

The AP/Houston Chronicle examined how some employers have begun to require employees who smoke to pay more for health insurance. According to the AP/Chronicle, the employers hope that the practice will prompt more employees to "stop smoking and lower health care costs for the companies and their workers." Several companies, such as PepsiCo, Northwest

Airlines and Gannett, and some public employers, such as the states of Alabama and Georgia, require employees who smoke to pay \$20 to \$50 monthly in addition to standard health insurance premiums. Some companies waive the additional payments for employees who participate in smoking cessation programs or make other efforts to quit. Linda Cushman, senior health care strategist at Hewitt Associates, said that "it just makes good business sense" to require employees who smoke to

pay more for health insurance because employers spend about 25% more for health care for such individuals compared with other employees. *Source: Kaiser Daily Health Policy Report, 2/17/06.*



**Tell us what you think! E-mail your opinions on this topic to Rick Mauery at [rmauery@gwu.edu](mailto:rmauery@gwu.edu)**

*Gary Matthew, Deputy Administrator of the Alabama State Employees' Insurance Board, said, "We know smokers cost more as far as health care goes. We are putting the burden on them to take responsibility for their own health."*

*Lewis Maltby, President of the National Workrights Institute, said that the practice "could be the first step down a very dangerous road." He added, "Do we really want to live in a world where employers penalize us for everything in our private lives that isn't healthy?"*

## SPOTLIGHT ON DHP RESEARCH

**Expecting Success: Excellence in Cardiac Care** is a 4-1/2 year national initiative to reduce ethnic and racial disparities in cardiac care. Directed by **Bruce Siegel, MD, MPH**, research professor, the program is leading 10 selected hospitals through a collaborative effort to systematically measure and enhance the quality of cardiac care provided to their patients. The program focuses on im-

proving cardiovascular care for African American and Hispanic patients in both inpatient and outpatient settings. The 10 hospitals selected to participate in the *Expecting Success* program all have large minority patient populations, represent a mix of urban and rural facilities, as well as community and teaching institutions. Together, the facilities are participating in a learning network to

test new ideas, quantify results and share lessons learned. Program successes will be shared nationwide and potentially adopted at hospitals and medical centers across the country. For more information, see [www.expectingsuccess.org](http://www.expectingsuccess.org).

Support for the program is provided by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

## SPOTLIGHT ON DHP FACULTY AND STAFF

### JEANNE LAMBREW, PHD, MS



Professor Lambrew brings an insider's knowledge of health policy to the

classroom, drawn from her years of experience at the White House. In the late 1990s, as program associate director for

health at the OMB and as senior health analyst at the National Economic Council, she helped to coordinate federal policy development, evaluate legislative proposals and manage cost estimates with multiple agencies. The Children's Health Insurance Program, the Medicare reform plan developed under Presi-

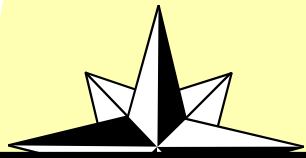
dent Clinton, and the federal long-term-care initiative all bear the stamp of her influence. Dr. Lambrew was also involved in the health reform efforts of the early 1990s. Her main research interests are focused on policy-relevant Medicaid, Medicare, long-term-care and the uninsured.

### DHP Online Jobs List

The Department of Health Policy maintains an online job list as a way to connect students with job opportunities throughout the world of Health Policy (and elsewhere). You may view the jobs by job category, as well as all at once:

- Full-Time jobs
- Part-Time jobs
- Internships
- Fellowships

For more information, visit:  
<http://www.gwumc.edu/sphhs/healthpolicy/jobs.html>.



### **The Geiger Gibson Program in Community Health Policy**

*is a special initiative of The George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services. This program was established in 2004 to honor Drs. H. Jack Geiger and Count Gibson, pioneers in community health practice and tireless advocates for civil and human rights.*

*Through education, research, and training in community practice and leadership, the program aims to develop the next generation of community health leaders. Particular emphasis is placed on the study of community health centers.*

*<http://www.gwumc.edu/spbhs/healthpolicy/ggprogram/>*

## APPLAUSE FOR OUR STUDENTS!



**Brad Wright**, second-year MS Health Policy student, has been busy in his work with the Association of Clinicians for the Underserved (ACU).

This month, he authored a book review that appears in the February issue of the *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved* (the official journal of ACU).

He has also created an ACU email advocacy newsletter. SPHHS faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to subscribe to the free newsletter by visiting [www.clinicians.org](http://www.clinicians.org) and entering their email address.

**Andrea Maresca**, MPH Health Policy student in her last semester and member of the DHP Student Affairs Committee presented at the 340B Coalition Conference, *Medicare Rx and*

*Patient Assistance Programs: Key Issues for 340B Stakeholders, 2/28-3/2.* Andrea was part of a panel discussion about health centers' experiences in assisting their patients in applying for the Low-Income Subsidy for Medicare Part D.

*Help us celebrate your achievements! Please e-mail [lrepasch@gwu.edu](mailto:lrepasch@gwu.edu) with news about your progress, awards, promotions, & other activities.*

## MEET OUR GEIGER GIBSON DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

The Geiger Gibson Program in Community Health Policy currently has two Distinguished Visitors, **David Reynolds**, Executive Director of Northern Counties Health Care in Vermont, and **Anne Kauffman Nolon**, President and CEO of Hudson River HealthCare upstate New York. In the fall, David assisted with a doctoral course, Leadership in Public Health and has continued to be a guest lecturer

in several public health courses this semester. David will be with us through the spring semester. Anne joined us in the beginning of 2006 and will remain with the Department throughout the year. Anne has been active in working on migrant farmworker policy issues on the state and national level, and will continue to focus on those issues during her visitorship.

Both Anne and David are available to assist students with their coursework and outside research as well as provide advice regarding career opportunities.

For more information about Anne, David, and the Geiger Gibson Program, please visit our website at <http://www.gwumc.edu/spbhs/healthpolicy/ggprogram/>

## ALUMNI NEWS

Each month this section will feature news from DHP alumni.

If you are a graduate of one of our programs, please let us know about what is happening with

you in your current career. Have you received an award, presented at a conference, or had a report or article published? We'd particularly like to have you share with current students how your

DHP academic work contributed to your current profession.

If you know someone who is a DHP alum, please forward this Newsletter on to them!

**GW SPHHS  
Department of  
Health Policy**

2021 K Street NW  
Suite 800  
Washington, DC 20006

Phone: 202-296-6922  
Fax: 202-296-0025

[www.gwumc.edu/sphhs/departments/healthpolicy/](http://www.gwumc.edu/sphhs/departments/healthpolicy/)  
- OR -  
[www.gwhealthpolicy.org](http://www.gwhealthpolicy.org)



*We're in touch, so  
you be in touch!*

Please keep the  
DHP informed of  
your most current  
contact informa-  
tion.

If your mailing ad-  
dress, telephone,  
or e-mail address  
changes, please  
send an e-mail to:

Professor  
Taylor Burke  
[taylorb@gwu.edu](mailto:taylorb@gwu.edu)

The Department of Health Policy is the home for health policy studies and research at The George Washington University and its School of Public Health and Health Services. The Department focuses on virtually all phases of U.S. health policy -- both public health and health services -- and emphasizes preparing students to understand and analyze health policy matters in a broad, cross-cutting, and real-world context. Among Schools of Public Health, the SPHHS Department of Health Policy is unique; it has been created to take maximum advantage of our location in Washington D.C., the nation's health policy-making epicenter. The Department offers lectures and symposia on emerging issues in health policy throughout the academic year for students, graduates, and DC's health policy community. The Department's courses are taught by both core faculty, as well as faculty drawn from Washington D.C.'s health policy leadership. The curriculum is structured to train students in the methods and tools of health policy analysis, including qualitative and quantitative analysis techniques, legal analysis, economic analysis, and the preparation and presentation of research results and policy options to health policy makers.

*Suggestions?*  
*Do you have a suggestion for a DHP Activity  
or for Newsletter Content?*  
*We'd love to hear from you!*  
*Please send an e-mail to Lee Repasch,  
[lrepasch@gwu.edu](mailto:lrepasch@gwu.edu).*

## ANSWER CENTRAL

Got a Question? E-mail it to [rmauery@gwu.edu](mailto:rmauery@gwu.edu)

*"I know that having good data is fundamental to making good policy decisions. What is a good source of reliable data about the health status and demographics of the U.S. population?"*

One of the most comprehensive resources available is published annually by the National Center for Health Statistics of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The current edition is entitled, "**Health, United States, 2005: With Chartbook on Trends in the Health of Americans.**"

This 522-page book is chock-full of tables, graphs, and charts that present detailed views of:

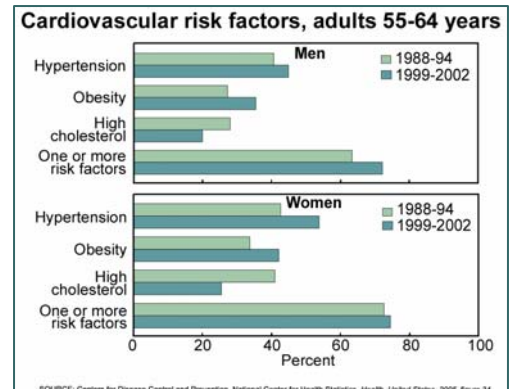
- U.S. population demographics;
- Health insurance and expenditures;
- Health risk factors;
- Morbidity and limitation of activity;
- Health care utilization; and
- Leading causes of death.

**From the Executive Summary:**

*For those entrusted with safeguarding the Nation's health, monitoring the health of the American people is an essential step in making sound health policy and setting priorities for research and programs. Measures of the population's health provide essential information for assess-*

*ing how the Nation's resources should be directed to improve the health of the population.*

This year's edition includes a special feature on adults ages 55-64 (the leading edge of the "baby boomers"). Heart disease and stroke are the #1 and #3 leading causes of death in the U.S. The chart below illustrates trends over time from 1988-2002 in cardiovascular risk factors in adults ages 55-64:



For online access to Health United States, 2005, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus.htm>.