

HEALTH POLICY HIGHLIGHTS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE GW SPHHS
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH POLICY

October 15, 2007

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To submit items of interest, e-mail Rick Mauery at rmauery@gwu.edu before the end of the month.

Thank you to MPH student Arista Salimi, DHP Professor Rick Mauery, DHP Public Affairs Liaison Lee Repasch, and DHP researcher Jennifer Bretsch for their assistance in producing this newsletter.

FALL 2007 SEMINAR SERIES LAUNCHES WITH GREAT SUCCESS!



National Health Reform Current and Future Challenges for the FDA

This fall, the Department of Health Policy is hosting two highly important and unprecedented series of presentations and discussions on the topics of national health reform and current and future challenges for the FDA. These seminars are open to all students, faculty, and staff.

National Health Reform: As we approach the 2008 elections, many candidates, organizations, and health policy experts have offered various proposals to reform how health care is organized, financed, and delivered in the U.S. Beginning Monday, Sept. 17, Sara Rosenbaum, JD, DHP Chair, has arranged a series of eight Monday evening seminar sessions focused on a variety of national reform issues. Guest speakers are among the most well-known and authoritative experts in the country, including:

- ◆ David Helms, AcademyHealth

- ◆ Ruth Lopert, DHP
- ◆ Peter Hess, The RAND Corporation
- ◆ Diane Rowland, the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation
- ◆ Peter Orszag, Congressional Budget Office
- ◆ Chris Jennings, Jennings Policy Strategies
- ◆ Christine Ferguson, DHP
- ◆ David Nexon, AdvaMed
- ◆ Karen Ignagni, America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP)
- ◆ Charles (Chip) Kahn, Federation of American Hospitals
- ◆ John Castellani, Business Roundtable
- ◆ Ron Pollack, Families USA
- ◆ Alan Weil, National Academy for State Health Policy
- ◆ DHP Professors Carolyn Clancy, Fitzhugh Mullan, Bruce Siegel, and Daniel Hawkins

Information about the specific topics can be found on the DHP Calendar in this newsletter. Don't miss these opportunities to hear from these experts how options (*cont. p. 2*)

A MESSAGE FROM DHP CHAIR, SARA ROSENBAUM, JD



Hi all, I hope that you are enjoying the semester, which has gotten off to a roaring start, with a great series on the FDA, Dr. Patricia Gabow as our stellar Gieger Gibson visitor, the outstanding Pfizer Grand Round series, and superb guests in the Chair's seminar on health policy. I hope to see you at upcoming Departmental events!

Please stop by for a visit or send me an e-mail (sarar@gwu.edu) with your thoughts and suggestions.

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/>

DHP Seminar Series (cont. from p. 1)

for reforming the U.S. health care system might evolve. Each session occurs on selected Mondays from 6:00—8:00 pm at the DHP, 2021 K Street NW, Suite 800.

Current and Future Challenges for the FDA

DHP Professors Ruth Lopert and Mike Taylor have teamed to create a series of Monday noon-time seminars focused on critical FDA issues. Sessions include topics such as:

- ◆ Food safety
- ◆ Independence, influence, transparency, and conflict of interest at FDA
- ◆ Regulation, intellectual property and follow-on biologics
- ◆ FDA oversight of nanotechnology.

In addition to Professors Lopert and Taylor, the seminar series will feature Susan Wood, an SPHHS research professor of Environmental and Occupational Health, and Randy Lutter, FDA Deputy Commissioner for Policy.

The series will address key issues such as:

- ◆ Should new drugs be required to demonstrate evidence of their therapeutic value relative to existing treatments prior to marketing approval?
- ◆ The need to modernize FDA's food safety program legislatively and organizationally, and to bolster the agency's resources, in order to better protect public health and maintain consumer confidence in food safety.
- ◆ Biologics are often more complex than small-molecule drugs, and their manufacture may involve processes that are difficult to replicate. What are the technical, regulatory and intellectual property issues surrounding the establishment of an approval pathway for these products?

This seminar series occurs on selected Mondays at noon (brown-bag lunch) at the DHP, 2021 K Street NW, Suite 800. Information about the specific topics can be found on the DHP Calendar in this newsletter.

HEALTH AND MEDICAL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Inova Fair Oaks Hospital Seeking Emergency Room Volunteers

Adult volunteers are needed to work in the Emergency Room, helping to make beds, stock supplies, run errands and additional duties as assigned. Opportunities are available Monday - Sunday between the hours of 9:00am - 9:00pm.

Volunteers must enjoy working in a very fast paced, constantly changing environment. Volunteers must be self-motivated and quick learners, who are comfortable working as a team, as well as, completing assignments individually. Volunteers must be customer service oriented, friendly, and helpful. Volunteers must be at least 18 years of age or older, be in overall good health, be able to stand, walk, bend, and push wheelchairs for an entire 3 hour shift. Volunteers are required to attend orientation, complete TB screenings, and pass reference and background checks. Volunteers must be willing to make a 3 month, 30-hour commitment to our program. For more information about volunteering, or to register for the next volunteer orientation, please call the volunteer information line at 703-391-3659.

Bread for the City--WHUR DAY November 15, 2007

Bread for the City provides food, clothing, social services, legal assistance and medical care at no cost to low-income DC residents in an atmosphere of dignity and respect. It is seeking volunteers for WHUR (96.3) Day. The event is on Thursday, November 15th at the Old Post Office Pavilion in Washington, DC. The event will last from 6:00 am-6:00 pm. They will need 200-300 hundred volunteers for the day.

- ◆ Bucket Brigade: need 30-50 per shift. Armed with buckets and signs, the volunteers will collect money
- ◆ Power Squad: need 8-10 men per shift to collect canned goods from cars, etc
- ◆ SE Group: need a group around noon to be in SE to help unload the donation boxes.
- ◆ There will be four, 3-hour shifts during the day

Contact: Matthew Hall, (202) 386-7606,
www.breadforthecity.org.

For a comprehensive listing of a diverse array of volunteer opportunities in the Metro DC area, please visit:

www.volunteermatch.org

HEALTH POLICY IN THE NEWS

Children Receive Proper Outpatient Care 47% of the Time, Study Finds

Children receive proper outpatient care 47% of the time, according to a study published on Thursday in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. For the study, researchers at RAND, the Seattle Children's Hospital Research Institute and the University of Washington School of Medicine examined the medical records of 1,536 children in 12 metropolitan areas and compared their treatment to 175 established standards of care in 12 clinical areas.

The study, led by Rita Mangione-Smith of the Seattle Children's Hospital Research Institute, used data from 1996 to 2000. Three-fourths of study participants were white, 82% had private health insurance and all lived in or near large- or mid-sized cities. According to the study, participants received proper care for acute conditions about 68% of the time. Participants received proper care for chronic conditions about 53% of the time and received

proper preventive care 41% of the time, the study found. In addition, the study found:

- ◆ Fewer than one-third of participants ages three to six had their height and weight measured over two years;
- ◆ Participants received proper care for severe diarrhea 38% of the time;
- ◆ Participants received proper care for upper respiratory infections 92% of the time and for hay fever 85% of the time;
- ◆ Participants received proper care for urinary tract infections 48% of the time;
- ◆ Participants received proper care for asthma 46% of the time; and
- ◆ About 35% of teenage participants received proper preventive care, and only 15% of those participants had their height and weight measured annually.

CMS, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the California HealthCare Foundation funded the study.

Source: Kaiser Daily Health Report, 10/11/07

"As a pediatrician, I was shocked by some of our findings. That almost all of the kids in the study had health insurance yet still failed to get good care is pretty disturbing. This study shows that health care quality for kids is an issue in itself."

Rita Mangione-Smith
Seattle Children's Hospital
Research Institute

[The study] "is a real wake-up call for the American public. The care for kids is way below what many of us as parents would hope to see."

Elizabeth McGlynn
RAND

"There can be dire consequences for the children, for their families and for society as a whole" when chronic conditions are not treated properly."

Julia Paradise
Kaiser Family Foundation

"We've been lulled into complacency, thinking this kind of thing doesn't happen with children" but "we need much more accountability for what's going on with children's health."

James Perrin
Massachusetts General
Hospital



KAISER FAMILY FOUNDATION'S NEW WEBSITE: HEALTH08.ORG

HEALTH08.ORG, A HUB FOR INFORMATION ABOUT HEALTH CARE AND THE PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN

New Website Provides Up-to-Date Polling, Analysis, Facts, News, Video, and Interviews from Kaiser and a Broad Range of Sources

With health care emerging as the top domestic issue in the 2008 presidential election, the Kaiser Family Foundation has launched a new website – health08.org – that will provide analysis of health policy issues, regular public opinion surveys, and news and video coverage from the campaign trail.

The new health08.org website, www.health08.org, – is free of charge and does not include advertising – will serve as a hub of information about health and the election, including original content produced by Kaiser and easy access to health-related resources from the campaigns, other organizations, and news outlets. Elements of the site include:

- ◆ Analysis of health policy issues, summaries of health reform proposals, and basic facts and information about the health system from Kaiser's research staff.

- ◆ Regular Kaiser tracking surveys examining the public's views on health issues and perceptions of the presidential candidates on health care, as well as links to the latest polls by other organizations.
- ◆ Syntheses of news coverage about health and the campaign, updated frequently.
- ◆ Video and podcasts from the campaign trail, including candidate speeches, and health-related highlights from forums and debates.
- ◆ Interviews with candidates and other key players in the health reform debate.
- ◆ Dedicated pages for the candidates, with easy-to-access links to their health positions and other resources.
- ◆ A calendar of events taking place around the country and links to studies and resources from other organizations.
- ◆ A weekly email roundup of developments related to health and the election and free syndication of content available to other websites.

Visit www.health08.org/news.cfm for more details.

DHP OCTOBER CALENDAR

Events are at DHP, 2021 K Street, Suite 800 unless otherwise indicated

- Mon., 10/1—Nat'l Health Reform Seminar. Dimensions of National Health Reform (Diane Rowland, Executive Vice President, the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation; Executive Director, Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured), 6:00-8:00 pm
- Mon., 10/8—Chat with the Chair. 12:00- 1:00 pm
- Mon., 10/8—Nat'l Health Reform Seminar. Cost Estimation and National Health Reform (Peter Orszag, Executive Director, Congressional Budget Office; Chris Jennings, Jennings Policy Strategies). 6:00-8:00 pm
- Mon., 10/15—Nat'l Health Reform Seminar. National Health Reform, The Clinton Plan: Lessons for the Future (Professor Christine Ferguson, David Nexon, AdvaMed), 6:00-8:00 pm
- Wed., 10/17—"National Health Reform: The Way Forward?" - Judy Feder, PhD, MA, Professor and Dean, Georgetown Public Policy Institute; Tom Miller, JD, Resident Fellow, American Enterprise Institute; Robert Zarr, MD, MPH, FAACP, Chief of Pediatrics, Unity Health Care, Inc. Assistant Clinical Professor, GWU Department of Pediatrics. 12:00-2:00 PM, Ross Hall Room 224—Arrive early, limited seating!
- Mon. 10/22—FDA Seminar, Independence, influence, transparency, and conflict of interest at FDA. Susan Wood and tba. 12:00-1:00 pm
- Mon., 10/22—Nat'l Health Reform Seminar. The stakeholders in national health reform (Karen Ignagni, President, America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP), Charles (Chip) Kahn, President, Federation of American Hospitals, John Castellani, President, Business Roundtable, Ron Pollack, Families USA). 6:00-8:00 pm

October 2007

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 NHR Seminar	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 Chat with the Chair;	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 NHR Seminar	16	17 NHR Panel Discussion	18	19	20
21	22 FDA & NHR Seminars	23	24	25	26	27
28	29 NHR Seminar	30	31			

- Mon. 10/29—Nat'l Health Reform Seminar. Roundtable Discussion on National Health Reform and the 2008 Presidential Election. 6:00-8:00 pm

November 2007

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1		2 Richard Carmona, MD, Speech	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 Chat with the Chair	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 FDA & NHR Seminars	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 NHR Seminar	27	28	29	30	

DHP NOVEMBER CALENDAR

- Fri., 11/2—Speech on obesity by former Surgeon General Richard Carmona, MD. 12:00-1:30 pm, Jack Morton Auditorium
- Mon., 11/12—Chat with the Chair. 12:00-1:00 pm
- Mon., 11/19—FDA Seminar. Regulation, intellectual property and follow-on biologics—what are the issues? 12:00—1:00 pm
- Mon., 11/19—Nat'l Health Reform Seminar. National health reform and the states (Alan Weil, President, National Academy for State Health Policy). 6:00—8:00 pm
- Mon., 11/26—Nat'l Health Reform Seminar. National health reform: quality, workforce, health care infrastructure, and medically underserved populations (Professors Carolyn Clancy, Fitzhugh Mullan, Bruce Siegel, Daniel Hawkins, Professorial Lecturer in Health Policy and Senior Vice President, National Association of Community Health Centers).

December 2007

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3 FDA Seminar	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 Chat with the Chair	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

DHP DECEMBER CALENDAR

- Mon., 12/3—FDA Seminar. FDA oversight of nanotechnology. Mike Taylor and Randy Lutter. 12:00—1:00 pm
- Mon., 12/10—Chat with the Chair. 12:00-1:00 pm.
- TBA—DHP Holiday Party



Research!America and the [American Public Health Association](#), the [Association of Schools of Public Health](#), the [Association of State and Territorial Health Officials](#), and the [National Association of County & City Health Officials](#) ask Americans to give special thanks to their state and local "public health heroes" who protect the nation's health throughout the year.

Every year, prevention and public health research save millions of lives by giving people the information they need to avoid injuries, illnesses and chronic diseases such as diabetes, arthritis and heart disease. But because prevention isn't something we can usually see, we often take it for granted. Prevention also has huge economic benefits by keeping Americans out of hospitals and on the job.

Who knows how much more could be done if prevention and public health research received more than one cent of every health dollar? Even so, agencies such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that lead the prevention effort must continue to protect the health of our nation. As Thanksgiving approaches, join us in thanking your state and local public health professionals for protecting what's important to you. Now more than ever America's commitment to protecting our nation through prevention is essential.

For more information about your public health heroes and for ways to say thank you, visit www.researchamerica.org.

Your Student Representatives on the DHP Student Affairs Committee

Do you have an idea for a DHP event? Suggestions you would like to offer the DHP to improve your experience as a student in the Department?

Please contact the following individuals who serve on the DHP Student Affairs Committee:

MPH: Arista Salimi
asalimi@gwu.edu

DrPH: Saqi Maleque
saqi@gwu.edu

PhD: Emily Jones
emilybjones@gmail.com

Spotlight on DHP Faculty and Staff

Jennifer K. Bretsch, MS



Jennifer Bretsch is a Senior Research Associate at the Center for Health Services Research and Policy at The George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services for the *Expecting Success: Excellence in*

Cardiac Care National Program Office. Her responsibilities include creating and maintaining a web-based information management system, managing and analyzing program data, generating reports, and supporting hospital training and communications efforts.

Before joining the Center, Ms. Bretsch implemented physician education programs and developed disease prevention and health promotion policies for the American

College of Preventive Medicine. She also has worked with the National Environmental Education & Training Foundation where she coordinated efforts to improve health care providers' knowledge, skills, and training in environmental medicine.

Ms. Bretsch earned a BS in Biology from East Stroudsburg University and received her MS with a concentration in environmental public health from the State University of New York. Ms. Bretsch has also completed coursework at Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs and The George Washington University.

Jennifer serves on the Department of Health Policy's Student and Alumni Affairs Committee where she contributes to the newsletter and organizes guest speaker events.

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.

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

Expecting Success Releases New Report

Collecting Patient Race, Ethnicity and Language Data is Helping Hospitals Improve the Quality of Care

According to a September 2007 issue brief from *Expecting Success: Excellence in Cardiac Care*, the collection of data on patient race, ethnicity and primary language is helping hospitals improve the quality of their care and reduce racial and ethnic disparities. The nation's first multi-hospital collaborative focused on reducing disparities, *Expecting Success'* 10 hospitals have implemented new systems for collecting and analyzing patient data in order to both improve the quality of care for all patients and track if there are racial and ethnic disparities in the care they provide.

According to the report, "Leaders of U.S. hospitals say they provide the same level of care regardless of a patient's race, ethnicity or language, but few, if any, really know for certain. That's because most of America's hospitals do not have a uniform system for tracking the race, ethnicity and language preferences of their patients. Those that do collect data often 'eyeball' patients to make those determinations, rather than asking patients directly, and hardly any hospitals use these data to gauge how their care of minority patients stacks up against known quality standards."

"By uniformly tracking information on patients' race, ethnicity and language preferences, these hospitals are discovering powerful tools for ensuring that consistent care is provided to every patient," said Bruce Siegel, M.D., M.P.H., who heads the *Expecting Success* program. "Seeing the data has opened their eyes. When we started this project, hospital leaders told me that they provide the same care to everyone, even though they didn't track the data. That's assumed equity. If they don't gather and analyze the data, they don't really know."

"All of the *Expecting Success* hospitals were collecting information on race at patient registration, but we found that the registrar often guessed the race based on appearance or left the field blank," said Marcia Wilson, M.B.A., deputy director of the *Expecting Success* program. "When every site started asking the same questions of every patient, it made a huge difference in what their numbers showed." Now the data provide accurate answers about who their patients are, which drives decisions about languages for discharge materials, whether more interpreters should be hired and where cultural competencies of the staff can be improved.

Visit www.expectingsuccess.org to download the full report.

Online Jobs Lists

GW and the SPHHS maintain online job lists as a way to connect students with job opportunities throughout the world of Health Policy (and elsewhere). You may search by key words and 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://gwired.gwu.edu/career/>

and

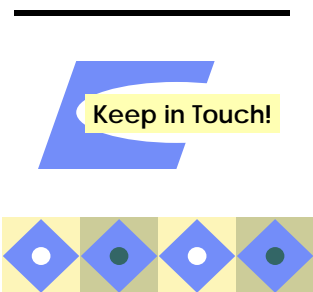
<http://www.gwumc.edu/spbhs/studentres/careers/jobs/>

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

Please keep the DHP informed of your most current contact information.

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

Professor
Taylor Burke
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 Rick Mauery rmauery@gwu.edu.

Valuable Calendar Resources for Health Policy Events

The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation's **Kaisernetwork.org** provides a searchable list of events in health policy, HIV/AIDS, women's health policy, global health and health disparities. It also offers complete listings for HealthCasts -- live and archived online video coverage of key meetings, conferences and other health policy events in Washington, D.C. and across the globe. Users can choose to view all events or select from various topics such as:

- HIV/AIDS
- Women's Health Policy
- Health Policy
- HealthCast
- Global Health
- Health Disparities

Calendars can be viewed for specific days, weeks, or months.

This is a particularly rich resource for those looking for opportunities to fulfill professional enhancement requirements for a degree, or for obtaining an insider's view on a topic that you are writing about.

Visit:
<http://www.kaisernetwork.org/calendar/calendar.cfm>

Hearings on the Hill

The schedules of House and Senate hearings and committee meetings is maintained at <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/schedules.html>. Here you can view congressional floor schedules:

- House Floor This Week
- House Committee Hearing Schedule
- Senate Committee Hearing Schedule
- Senate Floor Schedule
- Senate Majority Schedule
- Senate Minority Schedule
- Days-in-Session Calendars
- Senate Executive Calendar
- Current and Previous House and Senate Calendars
- Current and Previous Senate Calendars