

HEALTH POLICY HIGHLIGHTS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GW SPHHS
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH POLICY

September 1

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

The Inaugural Southby Lecture 2

Health Policy Online Resources 2

Volunteer Opportunities & Upcoming Conferences 3

Spotlight on Health Reform 4

DHP Calendar 5

Health Policy in the News 6

Student Opportunities & Alumni News 7

Calendar Resources for Health Policy 8

HPSA 9

FALL SEMESTER 2009

WELCOME, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH POLICY STUDENTS!

A MESSAGE FROM DHP CHAIR, SARA ROSENBAUM, JD

"Welcome everyone! There has never been a more momentous time to begin the study of health policy. With Congress poised to make extraordinary decisions this fall on matters of national health reform, you can expect issues of reform to be a constant theme in your classes and throughout the special sessions and events that we have planned for you. Please take advantage of all that the Department has to offer, particularly its wonderful faculty and staff. And most of all, enjoy the year!"



On July 1st, President Barack Obama announced his intent to nominate DHP's **Michael R. Taylor** to serve as senior advisor to the commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration!



"I am pleased to welcome Mike Taylor back to the FDA. His expertise and leadership on food safety issues will help the agency to develop and implement the prevention-based strategy we need to ensure the safety of the food we eat."

-Margaret A. Hamburg, M.D., commissioner of FDA

Congratulations and Best of Luck
Professor Taylor!

To submit items of interest, e-mail Miranda Crowley, Miranda.Crowley@gwumc.edu by the first Friday of the month.

Thank you to DHP Staff Becky Beauregard, Rick Mauery, and Lee Repasch and DHP Student Wendy Korrick for their assistance in producing this newsletter.

After a long summer of relaxation and fun, the editors have returned to regular publishing of the DHP newsletter. If there is something we missed over the summer or a topic you would like us to include in the next issue, please email Miranda.crowley@gwumc.edu



blog!

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

has begun a blog on Health Reform!

[http://](http://rnjfblogs.typepad.com/healthreform/)

[rnjfblogs.typepad.com](http://rnjfblogs.typepad.com/healthreform/)

[/healthreform/](http://rnjfblogs.typepad.com/healthreform/)

DHP Alum **Brad Wright** (MS '06) has a health policy blog: www.healthpolicyanalysis.com

Brad is also looking to identify individuals with particular expertise (both faculty and students) who might be interested in writing a piece on a subject of their choosing as a guest contributor to the blog. This will begin as a one-time opportunity, with the potential to develop into a regular contributing role, depending on reader response. Email bradwright@unc.edu for more information.

And if you'd like to submit your contributions (or any suggestions for contributions) to the DHP newsletter, please send them to Miranda.crowley@gwumc.edu

THE INAUGURAL RICHARD & JANET SOUTHBY DISTINGUISHED LECTURESHIP IN COMPARATIVE HEALTH POLICY



In April, the School of Public Health and Health Services had the pleasure of welcoming Dr. Karen Davis for the Inaugural Richard and Janet Southby Distinguished Lecture in Comparative Health Policy. Dr. Davis is president of The Commonwealth Fund, a national philanthropy engaged in independent research on health and social policy issues. She is a nationally recognized economist, with a distinguished career in public policy and research and has published a number of significant books, monographs, and articles on health and social policy issues. Dr. Davis spoke on "The Path to a High Performance Health System: Lessons from Abroad" as part of SPHHS's celebration of National Public Health Week. The event was very successful, drawing over fifty students, faculty and staff to this inaugural event. Keep a watch out for emails announcing the next Southby Lecture.

For more information on Dr. Davis's presentation, visit www.commonwealthfund.org

NEW HEALTH POLICY RESOURCES

Since our last publications, many new Health Policy websites have sprung up. Check them out:

The **Commonwealth Fund** has launched a new Health Reform Resources section on commonwealthfund.org, offering easy access to Fund content that informs the health care policy debate. Here you'll find research and analysis that explore how we can move the U.S. toward a system that provides access to high-quality care for all Americans, while slowing the unsustainable growth in health care costs. The section also features the Fund's Washington Health Policy Week in Review newsletter, a digest of selected stories from the daily newsletter CQ HealthBeat.

As Congress considers health reform legislation, the **Kaiser Family Foundation** has launched a gateway page, at <http://healthreform.kff.org>, featuring resources about health reform in a centralized location. As part of the gateway page, the Foundation unveiled some new resources:

- * An interactive tool for comparing major health care reform proposals. The side-by-side allows users to choose which proposals and characteristics to compare, including coverage, cost containment and financing. The side-by-side will be regularly updated to reflect changes in the proposals and to incorporate major new proposals.
- * A new, interactive Web-based timeline that chronicles key events and noteworthy activities in health reform from the early 1900s through today.
- * A series of Explaining Health Care Reform Briefs providing an overview of key topics and concepts being discussed in health reform efforts. The initial three Briefs explore "what is health insurance", "what is an employer pay or play requirement", and "what are health insurance exchanges".
- * A glossary providing simple, straightforward definitions of key terms to assist in understanding the concepts included in health reform proposals.

The **White House** launched new website to debunk myths about health insurance reform, entitled Reality Check. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/realitycheck/>

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:

www.gwumc.edu/sphhs/healthpolicy/mentor/

HEALTH AND MEDICAL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Children's National Medical Center

Boys & Girls Clubs

2220 11th St, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Started in 1997, the Teen Life Clubs (TLC) are after-school health education empowerment programs for 11-14 year olds, housed in the Division of Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine at Children's National Medical Center. Using a holistic, curriculum-based approach to risk reduction, TLC integrates health information with decision-making and negotiation skills to prepare African American youth to safely navigate adolescence and make informed, responsible choices. TLC provides academic support through tutoring and structured enrichment activities after each weekly club session. **Website:** www.cnmc.org

Contact: Aarti Shastry (202) 884-6018

PetConnect Rescue

11011 Glen Road
Potomac, MD 20854

PetConnect Rescue is seeking volunteers to serve as temporary, foster parents for homeless cats/kittens, dogs/puppies while the group works to find permanent, loving homes for these discarded, but precious animals. All the rescued animals are up to date on all their vaccinations and PetConnect pays for all of the animal's medical expenses. The foster parent provides a loving, temporary home for the animal, giving it food, water, exercise and plenty of love. In addition to providing safe havens for the animals, placing them in foster homes is vital for these animals because it provides them human socialization and helps them become more adoptable. Foster parents also participate in the adoption process because they know their foster feline or canine and whether he or she would be a good match for the applicant.

Contact: Mike Courlander (301)299-3798

Website: www.petconnectrescue.org

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

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

NATIONAL ACADEMY for STATE HEALTH POLICY

Annual State Health Policy Meeting

October 5-7, 2009
Long Beach, California

Planned by state health policymakers for state health policymakers, NASHP's 22nd Annual State Health Policy Conference features presentations by state-level program administrators, legislators and their staff, as well as dozens of national experts who offer insight into policy and program design and implementation.

Visit <http://nashpconference.org/>
for details and more information.



Public Meeting

September 17-18, 2009
Washington, DC

The Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) is an independent Congressional agency established by the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (P.L. 105-33) to advise the U.S. Congress on issues affecting the Medicare program. The Commission's statutory mandate is quite broad: In addition to advising the Congress on payments to private health plans participating in Medicare and providers in Medicare's traditional fee-for-service program, MedPAC is also tasked with analyzing access to care, quality of care, and other issues affecting Medicare. MedPAC meets publicly to discuss policy issues and formulate its recommendations to the Congress.

Visit <http://www.medpac.gov/>
for details and more information.

Conference information and updates are on APhSA's conference web site at <http://www.aphsa.org/Conference/calendar.asp>

SPOTLIGHT ON NATIONAL HEALTH REFORM

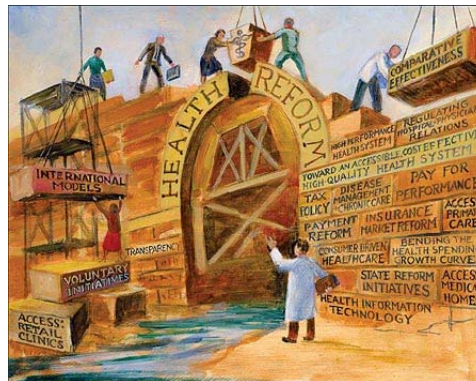
Congress Returns to Work on National Health Reform President Obama to Address Joint Session of Congress

Members of the House and Senate will return to Washington on September 8th. For many legislators, completion of a national health reform bill for President Obama's signature will be the top priority.

Before the August recess, three House Committees with jurisdiction over health reform-related issues—Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and Education and Labor—worked together to develop one bill, the America's Affordable Health Choices Act (HR 3200). The Tri-Committee bill is currently awaiting further consideration by the House.

In the Senate, two Committees have jurisdiction over health reform related issues—Finance and Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP). In June, the HELP Committee voted to report legislation, the Affordable Health Choices Act, to the full Senate. Although the Finance Committee has held several hearings and engaged in active deliberations, agreement on a bill to report to the Senate has not yet been achieved.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid have invited President Obama to address a Joint Session of Congress on Wednesday, September 9th, on health insurance reform. It is anticipated that he will outline his expectations for changes in the health care system.



The President's address will follow what has been a very turbulent month for Members of Congress who have sought the views of their constituents on national health reform and faced organized and vocal opposition to reforms advanced in the bills completed to date by House and Senate Committees.

It does appear that we may be on the verge of far-reaching changes in the laws and policies that have over several decades produced the American health care system of today. The Department, through its Hirsh Health Law and Policy Program, has launched a special project that is designed to provide an ongoing and comprehensive analysis national health reform proposals as they are developed and considered. Information about this project and the ongoing analysis itself can be found at: <http://www.gwumc.edu/sphhs/departments/healthpolicy/healthReform/>

Will Congress be able to reach agreement on a bill for the President to sign into law? If so, what will it look like? Anything could happen!

SOCIETY OF HEALTH POLICY YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

The Society of Health Policy Young Professionals was founded in May 2006 on behalf of DC-area young professionals working or interested in the health, health care, and health policy fields. The Society is an innovative organization created to foster new relationships among young professionals, to provide a forum for networking and socializing, as well as to organize professional development and skill-building events.

For information about upcoming Society events, please visit the website and event calendar of the Society for Health Policy Young Professionals at <http://dchealthpolicy.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: Emma Sandoe
esandoe@gwmail.gwu.edu

DrPH: Saqi Maleque
saqi@gwu.edu

PhD: Emily Jones
emilybjones@gmail.com

DHP SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

September 2009

- ◆ For YOUR Health lectures will be held ever Friday from 12-1pm in Ross Hall 237.
- ◆ The STOP Obesity Alliance is hosting a discussion on Wed. 9/9 at the Newseum from 9:30-11am. "Has America Reached its Tipping Point on Obesity?" RSVP to obesity@ccapr.com
- ◆ Dr. Stanley Joel Reiser, GW Clinical Professor, will speak of his new book, "Technological Medicine: The Changing World of Doctors and Patients," at Reuters Bookstore on 9/17 at 6pm.
- ◆ Professor Christine Ferguson and the STOP Obesity Alliance will host The World Health Congress 4th Annual Obesity Congress from September 30 - October 2, 2009 at the Westin Alexan-

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	31	1	2	3	4 Health Lecture	5
GW First Week of Classes						
6	7 Labor Day—no classes	8	9 STOP Obesity Alliance	10	11 Health Lecture	12
13	14	15	16	17 Reiser Book Release	18 Health Lecture	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 Health Lecture	26
27	28	29	30 Obesity Congress			



Watch your e-mail for late-breaking events and any changes to our calendar!

October 2009

DHP OCTOBER CALENDAR

- ◆ Professor Christine Ferguson and the STOP Obesity Alliance will host The World Health Congress 4th Annual Obesity Congress from September 30 - October 2, 2009 at the Westin Alexandria Hotel in Alexandria, V.A.

Visit <http://www.gwumc.edu/sphhs/events/index.cfm> for more details and events!

Suggest an event! E-mail Lee Repasch at Lee.Repasch@gwumc.edu if you have an idea for a brown-bag lunch, seminar, or other health policy gathering.



Watch your e-mail for late-breaking events and any changes to our calendar!

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 Obesity Congress	2 Obesity Congress	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 Health Lecture	10
11	12 Columbus Day	13	14	15	16 Health Lecture	17
18	19	20	21	22	23 Health Lecture	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 Health Lecture	31 Halloween

**HEALTH POLICY IN THE NEWS:
 PROFESSOR AVI DOR FIRST DEPARTMENT
 RESEARCHER TO RECEIVE RO1 GRANT FROM NIH**



This summer Professor Avi Dor was awarded a \$1.17 million grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Research Project (RO1) Grant Program. He is the first researcher in the Department of Health Policy to receive an RO1 grant. The Research Project Grant Program is the original and historically oldest grant mechanism used by NIH. Competition for these funds is intense. Dr. Dor's grant received one of the highest possible scores.

The grant has been designed by Professor Dor to develop a clearer understanding of the correlation between the quality of care that cancer patients receive and the price of that care. Through the grant the relationship between

the pricing and outcomes of three specific surgical procedures associated with the diagnosis of colorectal, lung and uterine cancers will be examined. Research in this area will help fill an important information gap about the distribution of prices for cancer care for the ultimate purpose of improving patient care in an environment of escalating costs. Dr. Dor will work in collaboration with researchers at Case Western Reserve University and the National Bureau of Economic Research in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Dr. Dor is a Professor of Health Policy and Economics in the Department. Prior to joining the Department in 2006 to lead a new department program in economics and health policy, his most recent appointment was as a Mannix Medical Mutual Professor of Health Care Economics at Case Western Reserve University.

For more information, Dr. Dor is available via email at avidor@gwu.edu or at the Department of Health Policy, 2021 K St NW, Suite 800.



Recently receive a grant, publish a paper, speak at a conference, attend an event or simply have something exciting to share with the DHP Community?

Send an email to Miranda.crowley@gwumc.edu with details and we'll be sure to include it in the next issue!

Looking for something to do?

Whether new or old to DC, these are sure to be fun!

- ◆ Check out free, live music at the **National Gallery of Art** on Sunday evenings at 6:30pm.
- ◆ Walk among living butterflies at the **National Museum of Natural History's** Butterfly Pavilion
- ◆ Check out the **Library of Congress'** new and interactive elements, like the re-creation of Thomas Jefferson's original library.
- ◆ Enjoy a veritable feast for the senses each Sunday at the Dupont Circle **FRESHFARM** Market. During peak season.
- ◆ Have breakfast at **Busboys & Poets** on a Sunday morning, or visit any Tuesday night at 9pm to hear spoken word at the venue's open mic night.
- ◆ Eat at one of the famous restaurants around DC: **Ben's Chili Bowl**, **Julia's Empanadas**, **Amsterdam Falafel Shop** and so many more!

For more ideas, check out <http://www.washington.org/visiting/browse-dc/attractions/100-free-things-to-do>



**NCHS/AcademyHealth Health Policy Fellowship
Call for Applications due January 4, 2010**

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention's National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) and AcademyHealth are seeking applications for their 2010 Health Policy Fellowship.

FELLOWSHIP GOALS

The aim of the fellowship is to foster collaboration between NCHS staff and visiting scholars. The fellowship allows scholars to conduct new and innovative analyses and participate in developmental and health policy activities related to the design and content of future NCHS surveys and offers access to the data resources provided by the CDC.

WHO SHOULD APPLY

Applicants may be at any stage in their careers—from doctoral students to senior investigators. Doctoral students must have completed course work and be at the dissertation phase of their program.

REQUIRED TRAINING

Applicants must demonstrate training and/or experience in health services research and methodology, reflecting disciplines such as:

- ◆ Public Health
- ◆ Economics
- ◆ Health Care Administration
- ◆ Public Administration
- ◆ Sociology
- ◆ Behavioral Sciences

LOCATION AND COMPENSATION

The entirety of the fellowship must be completed at the NCHS headquarters in Hyattsville, Md. Fellows receive a salary commensurate with qualifications and experience. For details, view the FAQ page of the fellowship Web site.

To learn more about the fellowship, review application requirements, or view past fellows' profiles, visit the AcademyHealth Web site:
<http://www.academyhealth.org/Training/content.cfm?ItemNumber=1441&navItemNumber=2332>

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/>

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/>

News from Alumni

- ◆ In May, **Dr. Gisele Almeida** successfully defended her dissertation research this morning. Her dissertation is entitled "Measuring and Explaining Income-Related Inequalities and Inequities in Healthcare Utilization: Evidence from Brazil."
- ◆ **Brad Wright**, a 2006 MS graduate of DHP, and now a doctoral candidate in health policy and management at UNC-Chapel Hill, has recently started a new blog. Wright on Health aims to cover a wide range of topics related to health care, health policy, and health services research.
<http://www.healthpolicyanalysis.com/>

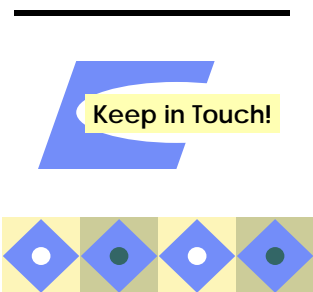
Are you an Alum with news you'd like to share?
We'd love to hear from you!
Please send an e-mail to Lee Repasch
lrepasch@gwumc.edu

**GW SPHHS
Department of Health
Policy**

2021 K Street NW
Suite 800
Washington, DC 20006

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

www.gwhealthpolicy.org



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 Miranda Crowley
[*Miranda.Crowley@gwumc.edu*](mailto:Miranda.Crowley@gwumc.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

GW Health Policy Student Association!

Welcome back! The GW Health Policy Student Association is excited to start our second year in perhaps one of the most exciting times to be learning health policy! We are excited to welcome all new and continuing students and have a lot of events planned in the coming months.

Starting the fall off with some good music and new friends, we will be attending Jazz in the Sculpture Garden at 6pm on Friday, August 28th. We will meet in the Northwest corner of the National Gallery Sculpture Garden where we will enjoy some music, conversation, food, and drink.

On Wednesday September 16th at 8pm HPSA will be holding an open meeting. All are welcome to come share your ideas and get up to date on current activities. Location is yet to be determined so watch your email for more information.

One of our big events this fall is a National's game. We have tickets for the Friday night game on September 25th where our Nat's will be taking on the Atlanta Braves. Tickets will be \$12 and will undoubtedly go quickly.

We will also be having elections early this fall. We have three "member at large" positions open to incoming and current students. Becoming involved in the Health Policy Student Association is a great way to meet people and get to know the Department.

We have many events in the works for the rest of the semester. We will be holding a speakers panel featuring young people involved in the health care reform debate. In October we will be having a Halloween event. Finally, everyone should come out for our bake sale fundraiser. If there is one thing you can trust your HPSA officers with, it's great baked goods!

For more information about HPSA or to share your ideas for new HPSA events, please contact Emma Sandoe at esandoe@gwmail.gwu.edu.

President: Emma Sandoe

Vice President of Communications: Mariza Hardin

Vice President of Events: Amy Erhardt

Treasurer: Susan Baade



For more information about HPSA or to share your ideas for new HPSA events, please contact Emma Sandoe at esandoe@gwmail.gwu.edu.