

HEALTH POLICY HIGHLIGHTS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GW SPHHS
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH POLICY

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A MESSAGE FROM DHP CHAIR, SARA ROSENBAUM, JD



As we go to bed on this issue of the newsletter, I am preparing to end my eight-year term as Department Chair and return to a full and rich life as a member of the health policy and law faculty. Beginning in the 2011-2012 academic year, Dr. Paula Lantz, a nationally renowned health policy researcher, will assume the chairmanship. A gifted scholar and teacher, Dr. Lantz comes to GW from the University of Michigan, where she served as Chair of the Department of Health Management and Policy at the School of Public Health.

Being able to serve as the founding Chair of this Department and as the Director of the Center for Health Policy Research for 8 years before that, has been the greatest honor of my career. The Center (from which the Department ultimately emerged) established a national reputation in health policy research. Since its 2003 initiation, the Department has grown into one of the finest in the U.S. Our graduates can be found in virtually every part of the world of health policy, from Congressional offices to federal agencies and health and health care organizations. Our scholarship is regularly covered in the press and routinely appears in the most important academic publications. Our nearly 200 faculty and research staff include numerous individuals considered leading experts in the field. And our students are superb.

I look forward to this next wonderful chapter of my life with more time for teaching, advisement, scholarship, public health practice and in university and public service.



Executive Dean Emeritus
Dr. Richard Southby

Third Annual Richard and Janet Southby Distinguished Lectureship in Comparative Health Policy held on April 21, 2011

Richard Southby, PhD, Executive Dean Emeritus of GW's School of Public Health and Health Services (SPHHS), presided over the third annual **Richard and Janet Southby Distinguished Lectureship in Comparative Health Policy** on April 21, 2011. This year's topic, "The Health Care Workforce: At Home and Abroad", featured keynote speakers **Barbara Starfield, MD, MPH** and **Fitzhugh Mullan, MD** as well as four respondents. The lectureship was organized to increase global understanding about the ideal composition of the health care workforce, where primary care is best utilized, how medical students choose a specialty, and how their decisions can be influenced.

Dr. Starfield is a Distinguished Professor with appointments in the Department of Health Policy and Management and Pediatrics at the Johns Hopkins University Schools of Public Health and Medicine. Her keynote lecture addressed the theory, policy and practice of measuring international need for primary care. She demonstrated that countries that are primary-care orientated have, among other traits, more equitable distribution of resources, little or no private health insurance and better health at lower costs. Starfield stressed that the U.S. emphasis on specialty care, rather than primary care, is a likely culprit for the system's high costs and relatively poor outcomes. Respondents to her keynote were **James Cawley**, Professor and Vice Chair, Department of Prevention and Community Health and **Dr. Patricia Pittman**, Associate Professor, Department of Health Policy.



Southby story continues on page 3

Watch your e-mail
for late breaking
events!

CONGRATULATIONS
2011
DHP GRADUATES!



Student Spotlight



Penelope Hughes

"I have had a wonderful experience at GW! When I started the MPH program, my primary exposure to the school was through the work study students that I had hired, managed and supervised in my former capacity as hotline director and VP at the nonprofit RAINN. I knew from that experience that GW was a place for people who really wanted to make a difference. I am one of those people, so when I decided to go back to school for an MPH, I felt that GW would be a good fit - and I have not been disappointed! My experience at RAINN, where I developed an online hotline for survivors of sexual violence, inspired my interest in health information technology and health privacy issues, and GW has proven to be an excellent environment for me to learn more about and explore that interest. I am so grateful for all that I have learned from fellow classmates and professors, and especially from my experience working as a research assistant in the department. I am hoping to stay in the Washington, DC area and work in this field, and I know that my experience in the MPH program has given me an excellent foundation for that pursuit."

In addition to her new MPH, Ms. Hughes holds a law degree from Georgia State University College of Law and a BA in History from Davidson College.



Jodie Low Lockhart

"My previous work as a government affairs and policy consultant for pharmaceutical and medical device companies offered me a good foundation in health policy. However, the skills and knowledge I gained at GW has bolstered my confidence to provide clients with better insight into the many varied factors influencing the delivery of and access to health products and services in the U.S. As our health care economy continues to evolve in response to public and private sector forces, I look forward to using these skills to advocate for supporting access to life-saving and life-changing technologies."

Ms. Lockhart completed her MPH in December 2010. She also holds a BS from Vanderbilt University in Economics and Mathematics. She is currently Vice President for Government Affairs and Policy Development for Jeffrey J. Kimball & Associates. Ms. Lockhart also served as Executive Director of the Coalition for Dialysis Patient Choice and is currently involved with National Kidney Foundation fundraising activities.



Cody Unser

"The Department of Health Policy within the School of Public Health and Health Services at George Washington University has been challenging and very rewarding in allowing me to continue my mission that for me began when I became paralyzed due to an auto-immune disorder at 12 years old. The DHP has set me up perfectly to make the biggest difference in bringing together science and politics for the better health of the human race."

Ms. Unser holds a BA in Biopolitics from the University of Redlands. After being diagnosed with Transverse Myelitis, she founded the Cody Unser First Step Foundation to raise public awareness about this condition and provide support to families and individuals living with the disorder. She has lobbied on Capitol Hill as well as the state level for stem cell research and quality of life improvements for individuals living with disabilities.



5th Annual George Silver Lecture

On April 7th **Sarah S. Brown** delivered the 5th Annual George Silver Lecture on **“U.S. Teen Pregnancy: What it Teaches About Health Policy and About Social Norms”**. Following an introduction by Lisabeth Bamberger Schorr, Lecturer in Social Medicine at Harvard University, Ms. Brown reviewed national and international trends in teen births and pregnancy rates, including recent declines in U.S. teen birth rates. She offered practical guidance about many of the things we have learned about teen pregnancy over the last six decades in the form of “Aunt Sarah’s Tips”. Ms. Brown’s presentation, including Aunt Sarah’s Tips, can be found at: http://www.gwumc.edu/sphhs/departments/healthpolicy/dhp_publications/

Ms. Brown is the CEO of The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, a non-profit organization that works to promote values, behavior, and policies that reduce both teen pregnancy and unplanned pregnancy. Before helping to establish the Campaign in 1996, she was a senior study director at the Institute of Medicine in the broad field of maternal and child health.

The Annual Silver Lecture, part of the school’s Public Health Grand Rounds series, commemorates Dr. George Silver, one of the leading figures in 20th century health policy. Dr. Silver dedicated his career to the belief that social justice and public health are inseparable from delivering health care and advancing health.

Southby story continued from page 1



Dr. Mullan is Murdock Head Professor of Medicine and Health Policy, a joint position in GW’s SPHHS and the SMHS. How best to achieve health equity has been an overriding theme of his academic work in community health, domestic and global workforce policy. Professor Mullan’s keynote addressed “new winds” in health professions education with a special focus on lessons learned from Africa. His remarks highlighted “transformative health professions education”, a process of education, system and health system reform that addresses quantity, quality and relevance of health professionals. Respondents to his keynote were **Mary Jean Schuman**, Executive Director of the Nursing Alliance for Quality Care at the GW School of Nursing, and **Dr. Jordan Cohen**, Professor in SPHHS and the SMHS.

Presentations from the Southby Distinguished Lectureship can be found at: http://www.gwumc.edu/sphhs/departments/healthpolicy/dhp_publications/

The Richard and Janet Southby Distinguished Lectureship in Comparative Health Policy is made possible by a gift from Dr. Richard and Janet Southby to the School of Public Health and Health Services (SPHHS). The lectureship is dedicated to issues in health policy that focus on aspects of domestic policy as they relate to comparative and global policy matters.

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>.

Join Us
for
DHP
Brown Bag
Research
Seminars
on the
4th Thursday of
every month !

Watch for email
announcements !

blog!

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Blog on Health Reform!

<http://>

rwjfblogs.typepad.com

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

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

www.healthpolicyanalysis.com

GW Hatchet Blog

<http://blogs.gwhatchet.com>

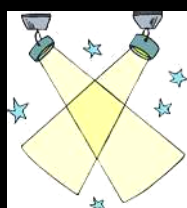
GW's GradLife

Website

<http://>

Thank you Lisa Feng, Roma Sharma and Mark Dorley for your assistance in producing this newsletter.

Becky Beauregard
Editor



Faculty Spotlight

ROBERT GRAHAM, MD



The distinguished Robert Graham, MD is the newest faculty member to join the Department in May 2011.

Dr. Graham is a research professor of Health Policy and the director of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's (RWJF) [Aligning Forces for Quality](#) (AF4Q) program.

AF4Q is the Foundation's signature initiative to improve the quality and equality of health care in 16 diverse communities across the country. "Aligning Forces for Quality communities are tackling well-established problems in health care with cutting-edge solutions to transform the quality and equality of health care delivered in the United States," he said. The Center for Health Care Quality, within the Department, serves as the national program office for AF4Q.

Just prior to joining GW, Dr. Graham was a professor and endowed chair in the Department of Family Medicine at the University Of Cincinnati College Of Medicine.

Dr. Graham received his medical degree from the University of Kansas, and has had a distinguished career in health policy administration. He served as administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration in the U.S. Public Health Service, held senior positions with the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality and was CEO of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP).

Dr. Graham is a renowned advocate for policy studies in family medicine and primary care and visionary for the AAFP [Robert Graham Center](#), a center that focuses on a blend of research to support the Academy's policy development and advocacy efforts and Center-initiated studies.

He is currently chair of the board of the [Alliance for Health Reform](#) and a member of the Institute of Medicine.

---Lisa Feng

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/sphhs/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/sphhs/studentres/careers/jobs/>

HEALTH AND MEDICAL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**Health Advocacy Program
GW Health Insurance Counseling Project**
2136 Pennsylvania Ave., NW,
Washington, DC 20037

The Health Advocacy Program was established to help educate the community about programs in the District of Columbia that help pay for Medicare health and prescription drug costs. Volunteers assist with outreach to raise awareness of the Medicare Savings Program and assist with applications. Counselors screen clients for benefit eligibility, assist Medicare beneficiaries with enrollment and advocate for participants throughout the process. Health Advocacy counselors may also respond to hotline calls to find solutions for problems people encounter with their Medicare and Medicaid coverage.

Contact: Chris DeYoung (202) 739-0668

Hepatitis B Initiative-DC
1725 I Street, NW, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20006

The mission of the Hepatitis B Initiative is to help communities mobilize to prevent hepatitis B and its consequences among at-risk groups, particularly Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. The Initiative prepares outreach materials and collaborates with existing community resources to provide free screenings and vaccinations.

Volunteers are needed for a variety of important activities.

For more information email:
info@hepbinitiative.org

or

Contact: Jane Pan at (703) 750-2938

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

UPCOMING CONFERENCES



American Public Health Association

**139th Annual Meeting & Exposition
October 29—November 2, 2011
Washington, DC**

The APHA Annual Meeting & Exposition is the oldest and largest gathering of public health professionals in the world, attracting more than 13,000 national and international physicians, administrators, nurses, educators, researchers, epidemiologists, and related health specialists. APHA's meeting program addresses current and emerging health science, policy, and practice issues in an effort to prevent disease and promote health.

For more information visit:
[http://www.apha.org/meetings/Annual Meeting/](http://www.apha.org/meetings/AnnualMeeting/)



Are you looking for...

“Advancing Healthy Populations: The Pfizer Guide to Careers in Public Health” ?

It can be found at:

<http://www.nynj-phtc.org/phnx/res/pfizer-publichealthcareers.pdf>.

DHP HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ **Three annual awards were given to graduating students in Health Policy** at the Department of Health Policy's end-of-the-year celebration on May 2nd. **Penelope Hughes** was the recipient of the **Scholar's Award**. This award is presented to the graduating Health Policy student with the highest overall GPA. **Jodie Low Lockhart** was the recipient of the **Excellence in Culminating Experience Award**. This award is presented to the student who completes the overall best Special Project/Practicum through the Health Policy Seminar. **Xaher Gul** was the recipient of the **Chair's Award**. This award is presented to the student who has been a leader in all three areas central to the Department's mission — academics, research, and service.
- ◆ **Christine Ferguson, JD** has been appointed to the Standing Committee on Family Planning of the Institute of Medicine (IOM). Sponsored by the Department of Health and Human Service's Office of Family Planning, the Committee will follow-up on issues addressed in the 2009 IOM report, *A Review of the HHS Family Planning Program: Mission, Management, and Measurement of Results*, as well as identify emerging issues in this field.
- ◆ **Katherine Hayes, JD** has written a new article that appears in the Spring 2011 of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA) Journal. The article summarizes the provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA), and offers unique insights into its legislative history and into the health policy that the law is designed to address.
The article may be accessed at: <http://viewer.zmags.com/publication/4afec968#/4afec968/1>
- ◆ **Jennifer Leonard, JD, MPH** received the 2011 Teaching Excellence Award for Full-time faculty in the SPHHS's Health Services Management Leadership Program.
- ◆ **Rebecca Katz, PhD, MPH** received the 2011 inaugural award for Writing in the Disciplines Best Assignment Design. The award honors the unique framework she created for a semester-long writing project that combined an intense focus on the writing process with a rich program of professional training for students headed into public health policy work.
- ◆ **Patricia MacTaggart, MPA** was extensively quoted in the April issue of State Health Watch about the hard health care services decisions facing states. She emphasized the need for states to determine how their programs fit into evolving payment and service delivery models and incorporate health information technology into their approaches to improve quality and efficiency.
- ◆ **Hirsh Professor of Health Law and Policy and Department of Health Policy Chair, Sara Rosenbaum, JD**, authored an article on Accountable Care Organizations (ACO) for the BNA Health Care Policy Report. The article, "An Overview of the Administration's ACO Policy: Opportunities and Challenges," appears in the BNA Insights section of the May 16, 2011 Health Care Policy Report, and is available through the DHP website recent publications link.

Something to Share?

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 e-mail to: Becky.beauregard@gwumc.edu with details and we'll be sure to include.

Looking for a scholarship to help pay for school? Or maybe you need an internship?

Check out the Office of Student Opportunities at <http://www.gwumc.edu/smbs/students/opportunities/index.htm>.

The OSO is a resource to all students in the School of Medicine and Health Sciences (SMHS) providing a large database of national and international programs for summer study, electives, conferences and other educational opportunities, many of which are funded. The OSO further supports students' interests through educational program scholarships for medical students and by helping all students select opportunities to meet their scholastic and future career goals.

Looking for something to do?

Whether new or old to DC, these websites will provide you with lots of things to do!

- ◆ **GW Today** at <http://www.gwu.edu/explore/gwtoday/events>
- ◆ **100 Free Things to Do in Washington** at <http://www.washington.org/visiting/browse-dc/attractions/100-free-things-to-do>
- ◆ **What's on Washington** at <http://whatsoncity.net>

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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
Alexandra Stewart
Alexandra.Stewart@gwumc.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.

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 Reform
- 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

Health Policy Students,

On behalf of the Health Policy Student Association, I would like to thank you for a wonderful year! We held a number of informative and community-building events this year including a film screening and discussion on paralysis policy, outings to Jazz in the Park, an Election Day event, and numerous socials. Most recently we held a Career Panel at the Circle Bistro where experts in the field shared their candid advice with students. Input and participation from health policy students throughout the year made these events a tremendous success!

As the academic year comes to an end, we wish graduating students success in their careers shaping health policy to the betterment of society. I am confident the knowledge and skills acquired here at GWU will allow us to do just that. Continuing students, get ready for an exciting year ahead with your new HPSA Board members! They will be planning events beginning this summer. To hear about these and other great opportunities, make sure to sign up for emails sent through the DHP listserv by contacting Jay Inglis (jinglis@gwu.edu).

Thank you and have a great year!

---Roma Sharma

The 2011-2012 HPSA Executive Board:

President - Dana Chesla

Vice President of Events - Shilpa Gogna

Vice President of Communications - Ricardo Lopez

Treasurer - Liz Harper

