UN Population Prize Winner Opens CHPR Weekly Seminar Series

“Primary Health Care and Family Planning in the Islamic Republic of Iran” was the topic of the September 4 talk by former Iranian Deputy Minister for Education and Technology Hossein Malekafzali. Dr. Malekafzali was the speaker for the opening session of the 2008-2009 CHPR Health Services Research Seminar. He is also the winner of the 2007 United Nations Population Prize, and is currently a professor in the Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology, School of Public Health, Tehran University.

The seminar was held in one of the auditoriums at the UC Davis School of Medicine Medical Education Building in Sacramento, and was videobroadcast live to Gladys Valley Hall in Davis. Approximately 60 attendees were present in Sacramento, including UC Davis Chancellor Larry Vanderhoef.

Dr. Malekafzali’s interesting talk focused on the way in which the structure of the health system in Iran facilitates access to data on infant, child and maternal mortality, and how these data were used to promote the relaxation of government and religious restrictions on family planning practices in that country.
News

Frederick Meyers Receives Excellence in Palliative Medicine Award

The California Hospice and Palliative Care Association selected Frederick Meyers, professor and chair of the UC Davis Department of Internal Medicine, to receive their Excellence in Palliative Medicine award.

Dr. Meyers was given the award on September 16, during the annual conference of the Association, which was held at the Marriott Hotel in San Mateo, California. The award recognizes his considerable work over 21 years in the areas of hospice and end-of-life, palliative care.

Dr. Meyers is the second recipient of the award since its creation in 2003. The award is only bestowed when the association feels such recognition is warranted.

Study Finds Decrease in Complications from Hysterectomy

CHPR Senior Statistician Guibo Xing collaborated with other UC Davis researchers to find significant decreases in post-hysterectomy complications among California women during the 13 year period from 1991 and 2004. The study looked at hospital discharge records for close to 650,000 women over that period. There was also a decrease in the overall number of hysterectomies performed during the same period.

Lloyd Smith, professor and chair, UC Davis Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, was the lead author on the study, published in the September 2008 issue of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Dionne Evans Dean Completes MHA Degree

CHPR Project Coordinator Dionne Evans Dean was awarded a master’s degree in health administration from the University of Southern California in August of this year. Congratulations, Dionne!

Study Looks at Biracial Asian Americans and Mental Health

A new study of Chinese-Caucasian, Filipino-Caucasian, Japanese-Caucasian and Vietnamese-Caucasian individuals concludes that biracial Asian Americans are twice as likely as monoracial Asian Americans to be diagnosed with a psychological disorder. The study was conducted by Center member Nolan Zane and co-investigator Lauren Berger, and was presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association, in Boston, Massachusetts, on August 16.

Welcomes

New Center Members

The Center for Healthcare Policy and Research welcomed the following new members during the third quarter of 2008:

Lars Berglund, M.D., Ph.D. Professor Associate Dean, Clinical and Translational Research, UC Davis School of Medicine Director, Clinical and Translational Science Center (CTSC)

Dr. Berglund is the associate dean for clinical and translational research and the director of the UC Davis Clinical and Translational Science Center (CTSC). He holds a medical degree from the University of Uppsala, Sweden, as well as a Ph.D. from the same university.

Dr. Berglund’s research interests include the facilitation of clinical and translational research and the provision of educational opportunities for new research investigators.

Christian Sandrock, M.D., M.P.H., F.C.C.P. Assistant Professor of Medicine, UC Davis Department of Internal Medicine

Dr. Sandrock received his medical degree from Georgetown University School of Medicine and a Masters of Public Health from Lund University, Sweden.

His research interests are in the assessment of delivery and outcome measures surrounding emergency preparedness planning. Currently he is working with Patrick Romano’s team on the ongoing emergency preparedness measures study being funded by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), a federal agency with a stated mission to “improve the quality, safety, efficiency, and effectiveness of health care for all Americans.”

Grants Awarded

$2.7 Million Awarded to Explore Effectiveness of Interactive Program

An investigative team led by CHPR Executive Committee Member Anthony Jerant has received a $2.7 million grant from the National Cancer Institute to determine whether a computer program which provides customized, native language information about colorectal cancer screening will increase the number of Hispanic patients who receive screening for the disease. Also included on this team is CHPR Executive Committee member Peter Franks.

$950,000 Awarded to Continue Primary Care Outcomes Research (PCOR) Fellowship Program

A three-year grant totaling close to $1 million was awarded to Patrick Romano, CHPR Executive Committee member and professor of medicine and pediatrics, to continue the Primary Care Outcomes Research (PCOR) Fellowship Program, a program which helps prepare primary care physicians to work as investigators and educators. The award was granted by the Health Resources and Services Administration, part of the US Department of Health and Human Services. The CHPR administers this program, which is being jointly organized with the Clinical and Translational Science Center (CTSC).

For more information on the PCOR Fellowship, see the feature on page 5.
Recent Publications


Kuppermann N. Pediatric head trauma: the evidence regarding indications for emergent neuroimaging. Pediatric Radiology. 2008 Sep 23. [Epub ahead of print]


Recent Presentations

The following presentations occurred during the third quarter of 2008 (July - September):

Lorena Garcia, MPH, DrPH
Assistant Professor
Department of Chicana/o Studies
“Differences in Heart Disease and Stroke between US-Born and Foreign-Born Latinos.”
Presented at the American Heart Association, 2008 Young Investigators Forum, Davis, CA, September 26, 2008.
**Primary Care Outcomes Research (PCOR) Fellows Graduate**

Svetlana Popova, M.D., M.P.H., and Erik Fernandez y Garcia, M.D., M.P.H., were recently honored at a special session of the CHPR Health Services Research Seminar Series for their completion of the Primary Care Outcomes Research (PCOR) fellowship program.

The two fellows each gave brief talks on topics of their choice. Dr. Popova presented “The Breast Health Experience of Slavic Women” which detailed recent research exploring the thoughts and beliefs of women in the Slavic community about breast cancer and care. Dr. Fernandez y Garcia chose to present a retrospective look at the fellowship experience, entitled “Purposeful Serendipity.”

After the presentations, certificates of completion were awarded to both program graduates by their respective mentors. Richard L. Kravitz, M.D., M.S.P.H. presented a certificate to Dr. Fernandez y Garcia, and Deborah A. Paterniti, Ph.D., presented a certificate to Dr. Popova. Dr. Kravitz is a former Director of the CHPR, and Dr. Paterniti is a former Associate Director of the CHPR.

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**Bridging the Causeway Pilot Grant Overview:**

**Validation of a Parent Exit Interview Survey to Assess Physician Counseling on Diet and Physical Activity during Pediatric Well Child Visits**

**PI:** Ulfat Shaikh, MD, MPH  
**Co-PIs:** Robert A. Bell, PhD, Patrick Romano, MD, MPH

Obesity is now a public health “epidemic” in the United States affecting approximately 16% of children, with an additional 16% of children considered overweight. Although healthcare provider counseling on diet and physical activity is associated with obesity risk reduction, healthcare providers infrequently provide such counseling to children. The 2007 Expert Committee Recommendations on the Assessment, Prevention, and Treatment of Child and Adolescent Overweight and Obesity include delivering diet and activity counseling to modify health behaviors. Rigorous assessment of the effectiveness of interventions to increase counseling on diet and physical activity by physicians requires determining levels of such counseling, as well as validating counseling measures and instruments.

The investigators plan to determine if parent reported counseling of diet and physical activity, as measured by the Nutrition and Physical Activity Exit Survey (NAPAS), correlates well with physicians’ actual counseling, as measured by coding of audio-taped clinical encounters in a primary care pediatric setting. They will additionally describe counseling practices for diet and physical activity, as well as factors associated with such practices, in a primary care pediatric setting.
Focus on:
Primary Care Outcomes Research Fellowship Program (PCOR)

The Primary Care Outcomes Research (PCOR) Fellowship program is a two-year program to train primary care physicians for careers as scholars and educators. The program enjoys collaborative relationships with State agencies and public health organizations. By providing shared resources and opportunities for interdisciplinary exchange, the co-sponsorship of this fellowship by general internal medicine, family medicine, pediatrics and geriatrics provides the opportunity for better training. PCOR fellows have access to shared knowledge and resources from other fellows and a diverse faculty with broad interests in a wide array of questions related to primary care and public health.

The PCOR program is designed to train primary care physicians to be effective, independent, and productive researchers who will assume leading roles in primary care research and education, especially for underserved and high-risk populations. Accordingly, the curriculum emphasizes development of core competencies and strong mentoring relationships so that fellows can gradually assume increasing responsibility and independence. All fellows complete a core fellowship curriculum which introduces them to methods in clinical epidemiology and health services research. This includes basic biostatistics, epidemiology, research design, survey methods, practical data analysis, qualitative research, responsible conduct of research and grantwriting.

Applicants to the program also request admission to one of three program tracks. The health services / public health track emphasizes health services research, clinical epidemiology, public health, and health policy. These fellows are encouraged to complete a Masters in Public Health (M.P.H.) through UC Davis (unless they have already earned a similar degree). A “capstone experience” or practicum enables students to integrate knowledge acquired through their coursework and clinical experiences, and to apply theory and principles of public health in a “real world” setting.

The clinical / translational research track offers a Masters of Advanced Studies (M.A.S.) in clinical research through UC Davis. The M.A.S. program provides a standardized set of skills critical to all types of clinical and translational research, including biostatistics, health informatics, study design and grantwriting.

The community advocacy track focuses on service learning and community-participatory research. This track is specifically designed to train future primary care faculty to be effective educators and researchers within community settings. This fellowship track also includes a Master’s Degree in Public Health and a “capstone experience.”

Applications to the PCOR Fellowship are being accepted now. Eligible applicants should have completed an accredited residency program in internal medicine, family medicine, or pediatrics by the time of entry into the program. Candidates for a combined geriatrics and health-service research fellowship must be independently accepted into the UC Davis Geriatrics Fellowship Program.

Interested applicants should visit http://www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/chpr/fellowship/ for more information.
Tobacco Control Policy Expert Stanton Glantz Visits UC Davis, CHPR

Elisa Tong, M.D., M.A., Assistant Professor, UC Davis Department of Internal Medicine

Smoking is still the leading preventable cause of death in the U.S. and worldwide. On August 7, UC Davis was fortunate to have Professor Stanton Glantz from the University of California, San Francisco give two presentations about tobacco control. Professor Glantz is the first American Legacy Foundation Distinguished Professor of Tobacco Control and the Director of the UCSF Center for Tobacco Control Research and Education. Although he started his career as an aeronautical engineer, he established himself as a professor in cardiovascular physiology research and began his tobacco control activities in the 1970s as community service. Since then, he has published seminal works on tobacco control and is widely respected internationally as a tobacco control expert.

His first presentation, for Internal Medicine Grand Rounds, was an update on the biological and epidemiologic evidence that supports smokefree policies. He highlighted biological evidence of how low-level smoke exposure has large rapid effects within minutes on the cardiovascular system, and epidemiologic evidence from several studies demonstrating that enacting smokefree public regulations is associated with a decline in hospitalizations for acute myocardial infarction. He also discussed the importance of examining women subgroups by menopausal age in demonstrating that secondhand smoke exposure is associated with breast cancer for younger, pre-menopausal women. A summary of the literature on secondhand smoke has been published in the 2006 U.S. Surgeon General Report on the Health Effects of Exposure to Secondhand Smoke and 2006 California Environmental Protection Agency report listing secondhand smoke as a toxic air contaminant.

His second presentation was a special Center for Health Care Policy and Research noon seminar, hosted in the UC Davis Cancer Center Auditorium, entitled “Update on State and National Tobacco Control Policy.”

Professor Glantz described how California has had one of the strongest state tobacco control programs since 1988, and how many other states have worked to implement similar programs after 1998 when state Attorney Generals and the tobacco industry settled on a Master Settle Agreement for Medicaid smoking-related costs. He also described the federal judge’s 2006 ruling that the tobacco industry violated the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations act, which the tobacco industry has been appealing. Internationally, the World Health Organization has enacted since 2005 its first public health treaty, the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, which promotes best practices for population-based tobacco control.

We greatly appreciate Professor Glantz’ visit. On July 1, UC Davis Medical Center enacted a smokefree campus policy on its 143 acres, joining over 500 medical campuses going smokefree to promote patient and staff health. His presentations were a wonderful opportunity to learn how scientific evidence is translated into policy for tobacco control.
Governor Schwarzenegger Signs Two Health Benefit Mandate Bills Analyzed by CHBRP

Dominique Ritley, M.P.H., CHPR Research Analyst

The Center for Healthcare Policy and Research (CHPR) is a contributing member to the California Health Benefits Review Program (CHBRP). An article in last quarter’s newsletter summarized the purpose, structure and process CHBRP uses to analyze the medical effectiveness, cost and utilization impacts, and public health impacts of the California legislature’s proposed mandated health benefits. This article updates the outcome of the legislative analysis during this two-year session and summarizes two bills analyzed by the CHPR team.

The state legislature referred 18 bills to CHBRP for evidence-based analysis in 2007 and 2008. The legislature passed nine bills to the Governor for signature. In a flurry of end-of-year activity, Governor Schwarzenegger signed two bills into law and vetoed seven bills on September 30, 2008. At right is list of bills chaptered into law and vetoed with attached messages from the Governor. (Not all approved measures received a “signing message,” but all vetoed measures received the same veto message.)

The CHPR team prepared the public health impact analysis for AB 1894, HIV Testing and the medical effectiveness analysis for AB 16, HPV Vaccination. The HIV testing bill required group insurance policies and plans to cover HIV testing regardless of whether the testing is related to a primary diagnosis. There was “clear and convincing evidence” that tests for HIV reduce the risk of clinical progression, opportunistic infection and death and a “preponderance of evidence” that the tests are highly accurate. CHBRP estimated minimal utilization and cost increases, although a cost shift to the insurers and plans was anticipated. Costs related to the bill were estimated to increase California health insurance premiums by $512,000 annually, or 0.0007%. Because CHBRP estimated that the covered population would remain the same and the mandate was unlikely to alter provider practice patterns or utilization of HIV testing, no impact on overall public health was anticipated. This bill and the CHBRP report received national media attention.

The HPV bill analysis found a “preponderance of clinical evidence” that the approved vaccine was medically effective, assuming no prior exposure to HPV and full compliance with a 3-dose regimen spanning a six month administration period. The cost modeling estimated an overall increase in expenditures at $4,562,000 (0.006% of total California health care expenditures) following the mandate implementation. CHBRP estimated that utilization would increase minimally during the first year of implementation because most plans already cover the vaccine. The public health analysis estimated that over 1,000 cases of HPV and 10 deaths due to cervical cancer would be averted over the lifetime of women vaccinated in the first year postmandate.

CHBRP expects a similar number of new bill referrals when the California legislature commences its new session in January 2009. For more information, see cbbrp.org or contact Dominique Ritley at dritley@ucdavis.edu.

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<tr>
<th>Approved</th>
<th>Governor’s Signing Message</th>
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<td>AB 1461 – Alcohol and Drug Exclusion</td>
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<tr>
<th>Vetoed</th>
<th>Governor’s Veto Message</th>
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<td>AB 16 – HPV Vaccination&lt;br&gt;AB 30 – IEM Disorders&lt;br&gt;AB 368 – Hearing Aids for Children&lt;br&gt;SB 1198 – Durable Medical Equipment&lt;br&gt;AB 1887 – Mental Health Services&lt;br&gt;AB 1962 – Maternity Services&lt;br&gt;SB 1634 – Cleft Palates</td>
<td>“To the Members of the California State Assembly: I am returning Assembly Bill 1894. Recent data from the federal Centers for Disease Control shows the HIV epidemic is worse than previously known. The alarming new number of infections underscores the need to take all possible steps to prevent the spread of this disease. By preventing the spread of infection, the population is not only healthier, but avoids the costly medical interventions required for people living with HIV and AIDS. Last year, I signed legislation that fundamentally changed the way HIV testing is done in California. I felt it was important that HIV testing become a routine prevention activity for all patients in order to ensure the spread of this disease does not continue. Since strong medical data continues to suggest more can be done, I am signing this bill.”</td>
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Center for Healthcare Policy and Research
Event Calendar

CHPR Weekly Noon Seminar Series:

October 23:
• Thomas J. Stopka, M.H.S., PhD Student
  UC Davis Graduate Group in Epidemiology
  Location: LaBou Cafe, Conference room 1104

October 30:
TBA

November 6:
HPV Vaccine Information: What do Parents Want?
• Joy Melnikow, M.D., M.P.H.
  Associate Director, CHPR
  Professor, Department of Family and Community Medicine
  Location: LaBou Cafe, Conference room 1104

November 13:
Who should be prioritized for renal transplantation?:
Analysis of stakeholder group and altruistic preferences
• Domenico Moro, Ph.D.
  Research fellow, Economics Department, Universita’ Cattolica Sacro Cuore, Piacenza, Italy
  Researcher, Warwick Medical School, University of Warwick, UK
  Location: LaBou Cafe, Conference room 1104

November 20:
Designing Interventions to Improve Health Literacy and to Motivate Behavior Change

David W. Baker, M.D., M.P.H., F.A.C.P.
Chief, Division of General Internal Medicine
Associate Director for Research, Institute for Healthcare Studies
Professor of Medicine, Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University, Chicago, IL
Location: UC Davis School of Medicine
Medical Education Building, Room 1222
4610 X Street
Sacramento, CA, 95817

November 27:
Thanksgiving Day (No Seminar)

December 4:
TBA

December 11:
Topic TBA
• J. Paul Leigh, Ph.D.
  Professor, Department of Public Health Sciences
  Location: LaBou Cafe, Conference room 1104

CHPR Mission Statement

The Mission of the Center is to facilitate research, promote education and inform policy about health and healthcare.

The Goals of this Mission are to improve the health of the public by contributing new knowledge about:
• access
• delivery
• cost
• outcomes

Current emphases include disparities, clinician-patient interaction, utilization, cost-effectiveness and quality.

The Center is an interdisciplinary collaborative research unit that will perform the following Functions:
• development and support of interdisciplinary collaboration on research projects related to the Center's Mission.
• education and career development for scholars with interests in health services and health policy research.
• synthesis, interpretation and dissemination of research findings that assist healthcare policy formation and improve health services delivery.

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