

CHPR Turns 25!

UC Davis leadership and former Directors of CHPR joined faculty and staff to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the UC Davis Center for Healthcare Policy and Research and the 50th Anniversary of the UC Davis School of Medicine. Paul Dodd, Associate Vice Chancellor for Interdisciplinary Research and Strategic Initiatives within the UC Davis Office of Research, highlighted that “given the size of UC Davis, with multiple health science schools and a large academic health center, CHPR should be seen as ‘mission critical’ for the University.” He noted that CHPR “plays a key role in facilitating collaborations in health services research and health policy that bridge the main campus and the medical/nursing campus.”

Dr. Richard Kravitz hailed CHPR as “a catalyst for the kind of work that improves patients’ lives and helps to advance policy.” Dr. Kravitz, CHPR’s director from 1996 to 2006, is currently Director of UC Center Sacramento and co-Vice chair for Research in the Department of Internal Medicine.

School of Medicine Interim Dean Lars Berglund called out CHPR as one of two Organized Research Units on the UC Davis Health campus and “something that we take real pride in.” He described CHPR’s interdisciplinary research mission as determining “how to implement healthcare delivery and do it in the right way, using scientific principles to guide this work.” Dr. Berglund also mentioned that CHPR is “one of the most important tools” UC Davis Health has for connecting with California State government and the policymakers there. He acknowledged CHPR’s current Director, Dr. Joy Melnikow, for her work in expanding CHPR’s role in training the next generation of researchers.

The event honored CHPR’s founding director, Dr. Klea Bertakis. Dr. Bertakis described how the Center got its start by building on UC Davis Medical School’s stellar reputation in Primary Care education (still a top ten Medical School for Primary Care) to include Primary Care research. Director Melnikow, presenting an award to Dr. Bertakis, summarized research Dr. Bertakis has conducted over the years, pointing out how “ahead of her time” and “prescient her work has been” on topics like gender issues in medicine and the obesity problem in the United States.

As well as honoring the past work of CHPR, Interim Dean Berglund looked to the future. “I can see this Center as being more and more important “for finding solutions to societal problems like drug addiction and the opioid crisis.” He mentioned CHPR investigators’ current research focus on this issue. For this kind of work, and “for the betterment of our entire institution,” Dr. Berglund said that CHPR is “a good investment.”