Academy Planning Campaign to Enhance Understanding of the Field of HSR

There are countless examples of dollars saved, lives improved, and care advanced because of health services research, says Mary Woolley, president of Research!America and working group member for the Academy campaign. At the same time, there is too often an unmet need to answer policymakers . . . on the impact that research has on cost, quality, and access.

To fill this information void, the Academy is moving forward with its commitment to create and launch an education campaign targeting decision leaders. Known as BUS, for Broadening the Understanding and Support for the Field of Health Services Research, the effort is currently in its second phase of planning and gathering background material on which to build the campaign.

Public Opinion Strategies of Alexandria, Va., completed the first phase of market research last year with funding from The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. That research yielded a clear sense that many stakeholders do not fully understand how health services research contributes to the care patients ultimately receive. The good news is that once decision leaders and consumers learn more about the field, they come to see health services research as a way to answer important questions about the value and efficiency of our health care system. The key messages from this research include:

- Health services research should not compete with medical research. Rather, it should develop messages that link the two areas of research.
- Health services research should show how essential it is in improving the cost, quality, access, and affordability of health care and services the public receives.
- Health services research should serve as a fair, neutral party that provides new knowledge to both the medical community and patients.

Health services research is often harder to understand than even more complex biomedical and clinical research.

David A. Kindig, M.D., Ph.D.

New Membership Director Joins Academy Staff

The Academy is pleased to announce that Kristine Metter joined our staff on May 14 as the new director of membership. Her primary duties are to recruit and retain members and to supervise the membership operations team.

I am very excited to join the Academy team and I am looking forward to working with all of the members, says Metter. I see coming on board as a great opportunity to develop new member services and grow the Academy.

Metter brings with her four years of experience as membership director of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA), where she increased individual membership by nearly 20 percent. Prior to that, she was the donor services coordinator for the National Marrow Donor Program.

Metter has a B.A. in marketing from the University of Missouri and will complete her master’s degree in non-profit management at the University of Maryland in August.

Metter will attend this year’s Annual Meeting in Atlanta, so be sure to stop by the Academy booth in the Exhibit Hall and say hello!
This year’s Annual Meeting is more than another exceptional opportunity for learning, disseminating, and networking. It also marks the Academy’s first anniversary following the merger of the Association for Health Services Research and Alpha Center. As I reflect back over this past year, it is hard to believe that so much has been accomplished in the 12 months since the merger. Notable milestones in the Academy’s first year include:

› For the first time since AHSR was established, individual membership in the Academy topped 3,000! In the coming year, we will continue to work to bring in more researchers and public and private health policy leaders. To serve this expanded membership, a subscription to the premier health policy journal, Health Affairs, was added as a new member benefit in addition to the prestigious Health Services Research journal.

› New opportunities for student members were offered at the Annual Meeting, including a student “meet the expert” breakfast and, for the first time this year, special discounts for students to attend the full-day Methods Seminars.

› A new process for selecting and electing new members of the Academy Board of Directors was approved and, for the first time, members will be able to vote online.

› New online services, including the Academy’s new web site (www.academyhealth.org); the monthly Member Update; an Academy-sponsored, interactive WebBoard was established on a substantive topic (our first subject is workforce issues) and others are now in development; and online job and resume postings are now being done for the Academy’s Career Center.

› We successfully debuted our new National Health Policy Conference (NHPC) in February, with 750 participants engaging in two days of stimulating presentations and discussions. Next year’s NHPC will be held in Washington, D.C., on January 16-18.

› As part of our ongoing efforts to strengthen and link the fields of health services research and health policy, the Academy collaborated with the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) and the Association of Academic Health Centers (AAHC) on ways to improve research translation and dissemination, and on ways to improve center effectiveness and share best practices. At this year’s Annual Meeting, the Academy will once again convene a special meeting for center directors from 1:00-4:00 p.m., on Tuesday, June 12.

› The Coalition for Health Services Research was active this year in setting funding targets and submitting testimony for major federal agencies that support and conduct health services research. We are now meeting with senior officials in the Bush administration and Congress on the significant role that health services research plays in understanding and addressing critical health issues and in ensuring that new medical discoveries result in improved health and health care for the American people. To keep members up to date on advocacy issues, we are also providing periodic e-mail issues of HSR Advocate.

› The first phase of the BUS (Broadening the Understanding and Support for the Field of Health Services Research) project was completed, yielding a report based on a series of focus groups with “opinion elite,” interviews with major health care purchasers and DC opinion leaders, and a national telephone survey of 700 registered voters. This report lays important groundwork for our BUS project to help key audiences better understand the importance of health services research. Through this education campaign, we want to help the field as a whole become more relevant to a myriad of health care decision makers and to become more integrated into the mainstream of health care policymaking.

In future issues of Academy Reports I’ll tell you more about some exciting new projects the Academy is developing. A quick preview includes a new edition of the Directory of Training Programs in Health Services Research and Health Policy, last published in 1997, a salary survey for the fields, expanded online information on funding and research in progress, and our new Cyber Seminars in Health Services Research Methods.

It has been challenging and satisfying to see the potential of the Academy begin to take shape. I hope to see many of you this month at our flagship annual scientific meeting where the latest health services research is presented and discussed. And we look forward to working with each of you as we build on this year’s accomplishments and seek to multiply the ways Academy membership serves and benefits you.

W. David Helms, Ph.D.
Distinguished Investigator: Kenneth B. Wells, M.D., M.P.H.
The Distinguished Investigator Award recognizes individuals who have made significant and long-lasting contributions to the field of health services research. Dr. Kenneth B. Wells is the director and principal investigator of the Research Center on Managed Care for Psychiatric Disorders and director of the University of California, Los Angeles-NPI Health Services Research Center. He is the director of the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)-funded Faculty Scholars Program in mental health services research, an innovative program providing psychiatrists (particularly minorities) from institutions with limited health services research backgrounds with training in mental health services research. As associate director of The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholars Program, Wells facilitates training of psychiatrists across these programs and facilitates their participation in clinical services research projects.

Alice S. Hersh New Investigator: Susan L. Ettner, Ph.D.
The Alice S. Hersh New Investigator Award recognizes the contribution of new scholars to the field of health services research. Dr. Susan L. Ettner is associate professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine and Health Services Research in the UCLA Department of Medicine and in the Department of Health Services in the UCLA School of Public Health. To date, she has published 41 articles. Her first article in a health services journal was published in 1994. Her research interests include reciprocity in the relationship between health and labor market outcomes, mental health and substance abuse services, insurance markets and managed care, chronic disability, and long-term care.

Dissertation Award
The Dissertation Award recognizes an outstanding scientific contribution from a doctoral thesis in health services research. This year the committee selected two dissertations. The 2001 awardees are:

Erik Michiel van Barneveld, Ph.D., “Risk Sharing as a Supplement to Imperfect Capitation in Health Insurance: A Tradeoff Between Selection and Efficiency.”
Erik Michiel van Barneveld is with the AGIS Group, a health insurance company in Utrecht, The Netherlands. Dr. van Barneveld’s dissertation focused on forms of risk sharing between competing health insurers and the regulator that can be used as a supplement to imperfectly risk-adjusted capitation payments. Results of this study are published in Social Science and Medicine (1998), Health Care Management Science (2000), Journal of Health Economics (2001), and Health Affairs (forthcoming).

Courtney Harold Van Houtven, Ph.D., “Informal Care and Elderly Health Care Use.”
Courtney Harold Van Houtven is currently an Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality and National Research and Service Award (AHRQ/NRSA) post-doctoral fellow at the Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her research interests are informal caregiving, long-term care, and econometrics. By examining informal care decisions of children within a family and the effects of informal care on outcomes, her research aims to inform the policy process about which caregiver support programs would be effective. Van Houtven’s dissertation examines the effects of child-provided informal care on subsequent use of long-term care, acute care, and routine care.

Article-of-the-Year Award
The Article-of-the-Year Award recognizes the best scientific work that the field of health services research has produced and published in 2000. This year the committee selected two articles. The 2001 awardees are:


John Kralewske, Ph.D.; Eugene C. Rich, M.D.; Roger Feldman, Ph.D.; Bryan E. Dowd, Ph.D.; Terence Bernhardt; Christopher J. Johnson, Ph.D.; William Gold, M.D.
CAught in the Web

HSRProj and the Internet

HSRProj, the Health Services Research Project's Progress database, is now accessible via the National Library of Medicine (NLM) Gateway (www.gateway.nlm.nih.gov). A free database, HSRProj contains descriptions of ongoing health services research funded by major public and private funding agencies, providing access to information about health services research before results are published.

Funded by the NLM, HSRProj is a joint effort of the Academy for Health Services Research and Health Policy and the Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Why use HSRProj?
Health services researchers, health policy analysts, policymakers, and other health care decision makers can use HSRProj to learn about ongoing research, identify experts in various topic areas, avoid overlap in research activities, and fill research gaps. With more than 6,000 records to search from, individuals can retrieve names of performing and sponsoring agencies, principal investigator contact information, beginning and ending dates of the project, information about study design and methodology, and project descriptions. Additionally, all records are searchable via NLM's Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) the same headings used in PubMed and, when available, the National Institutes of Health CRISP (Computer Retrieval of Information on Scientific Project's) keywords.

Accessing HSRProj
Formerly available via Internet Grateful Med, HSRProj's new home is the NLM Gateway. Once at the NLM Gateway, enter your search terms in the query box and click on the search button. At the next screen, click on the display results button to the right of Other Collections. Designed with the Internet user in mind, the Gateway allows individuals to conduct one-stop searching from a single web interface. Individuals can simultaneously search a number of NLM information resources in addition to HSRProj, for example, journals citations in MEDLINE, consumer health information in MEDLINEplus, book citations in LOCATORplus, and meeting abstracts.

Is your project described in HSRProj?
Organizations that fund health services research are encouraged to participate in the HSRProj database. Researchers are invited to submit a description of their current health services research project. To read more about HSRProj, view a sample record, submit an abstract via the online submission form, or link directly to HSRProj, please visit www.academyhealth.org/hsrproj/index.htm.

Hot off the Press

What is Unique About Public Purchasing?
By Susan O'Laughlin Ward for the National Health Care Purchasing Institute, March 2001
The last 10 years have witnessed a shift in how health care purchasers conduct business. Some innovations in purchasing have been shared in what one expert has characterized as public/private leap frog, with each sector sometimes taking the lead. This paper describes the unique environment in which public purchasers operate and identifies opportunities for the public sector to engage in value-based purchasing. It also explores the differences between government and private purchasers and evaluates to what extent the unique attributes of public purchasing pose barriers to the adoption of new purchasing approaches.
www.nhcppi.net/pdf/WardMono.pdf

Employer Buy-In Programs: How Four States Subsidize Employer-sponsored Insurance
By Jeremy Alberga, State Coverage Initiatives, April 2001
In the past several years, states increasingly have become interested in programs that use public funds to subsidize private health insurance essentially buying in to private insurance. This matrix looks at the efforts of four states in establishing and administering a buy-in program: Massachusetts, Mississippi, Oregon, and Wisconsin. It is intended to provide state policymakers and officials with the current best thinking on how to subsidize health coverage through ESI and to identify the major issues and decisions that a state will face in this endeavor. www.statecoverage.net/employer.pdf

Health Plan Payments Can Motivate Tighter Integration Between Physicians and Hospitals: Effects on Cost Remain Elusive
By Junette McWilliams, Changes in Health Care Financing and Organization, April 2001
Much has been written lately about the rapid change in organizational and financial arrangements among health plans, hospitals, and physician groups. Beyond moving the deck chairs, however, are these organizations really integrating in ways that are likely to reap benefits for the organizations and, ultimately, patients? This study used data from the American Hospital Association and case studies in three markets to examine the relationships between physician-hospital arrangements and managed care organizations on integration activities. They found that the global capitation payment system motivate tighter integration, but they did not find a link between integration and cost of care. www.hcfo.net/findings0401.pdf
can be built. Long a leader of this effort, former AHSR Board President and member of the BUS working group, David Kindig, could lead to a lack of support for our methods, our findings, our researchers, and the financial support of the field. So the ultimate goal of BUS is to give policy leaders concrete examples of the field’s value on which solid advocacy efforts can be built. Long a leader of this effort, former AHRQ Board President and member of the BUS working group, David Kindig, professor, University of Wisconsin at Madison, has described health services research as poised for remarkable growth and importance, joining with other science-based fields in the imperative to produce health improvement in cost-effective ways. But he has acknowledged that health services research is often harder to understand than even more complex biomedical and clinical research and has warned that failure to translate the field’s findings for better understanding among decision makers could lead to a lack of support for our methods, our findings, our researchers, and the financial support of the field. So the challenge is on to improve and expand the understanding of the field and to ensure the support needed for researchers to continue their invaluable contributions to improving the health of all Americans. BUS is therefore moving to meet the challenge and help the field reach its full potential.

For those interested in a more extensive summary of the phase one market research, a report will be available at the Academy booth at the Annual Meeting. Or e-mail a request to BUS@ahsrhp.org.
Members Matter

Moving On and Moving Up

In Members Matter, Academy members can keep up to date on career news of friends and colleagues. Please send your news to membernews@ahsrhp.org. Submissions are printed on a first-come, first-served basis.

- Judith Barr was recently appointed senior scientist at QualiDigm, a quality improvement organization and the PRO for Connecticut.

- Gloria J. Bazzoli, Ph.D., will join the faculty of the department of health administration at Virginia Commonwealth University in July 2001.

- Christy L. Bealdein, Ph.D., M.S.W., CHQ presented, Distingushing Baldridge Criteria from Other Management Initiatives and Regulatory and Accreditation Requirements in May 2001 at the International Quality and Productivity Center Healthcare Executive Series.

- Lawton Burns, Ph.D., of The Wharton School, is spending the spring term at the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom as the Arthur Andersen Distinguished Visiting Professor at the Judge Institute of Management Studies.

- Paula C. Caccard, Ph.D., recently presented a poster titled, Family Perceptions of Privacy in a Special Care Unit at the conference, Aging in the Community: Living Arrangements and Mobility in Heidelberg, Germany.

- Patrick Connell was appointed by Governor Johanns and confirmed to serve a three-year term to the Nebraska State and Territorial Health Officials and also launched the Department of Public Health’s Door to Door health education campaign.

- Bradford H. Gray, Ph.D., director of the division of health and science policy at the New York Academy of Medicine, is now the editor of The Milbank Quarterly.

- Stuart Gutezman, formerly a principal research associate at the Urban Institute and deputy director at the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, moved to the Congressional Budget Office as a senior analyst in the Health and Human Resources Division.

- Michael Harrison, head of graduate organization studies at Bar Ilan University in Israel, is currently a visiting scholar at the Graduate Institute for Public Policy of Georgetown University.

- Samuel Hohmann, formerly vice president of research and statistics for QuadrMed Corporation, is now the director of the I.A.I.M.S. Project and quality information systems at Loyola’s Center for Clinical Effectiveness at Loyola University Health.

- Karl Idlemen was meeting chairperson and a facilitator for the fourth annual National Health Reinsurance Forum on May 31st and June 1st.

- Professor William G. Johnson has been appointed to both the World Health Organization Center, Technical Advisory Committee for the Task Force on Neck Pain and Associated Disorders, and the technical advisory committee for the Disability Research Institute at the University of Illinois.

- Shellie M. Kahane, M.D., M.P.H., has accepted an AHRQ-funded post-doctoral fellowship in health services research at the University of California, San Francisco, Institute for Health Policy Studies.

- John Kimberly has been appointed executive director of the Wharton/INSEAD Alliance, an innovative partnership created to enable and encourage leading-edge research and the delivery of world-class management education on a global scale.

- Dave Krol was recently awarded a 2001 American Medical Association Foundation Leadership Award.

- Judith R. Lave, Ph.D., was appointed to the Institute of Medicine Committee on Assuring the Health of the Public in the 21st Century.

- Shou-Yih Daniel Lee, Ph.D., formerly of the University of Illinois, has accepted a position in the Department of Health Policy and Administration, School of Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

- Joan Leiman, formerly the executive Vice president of the health sciences at Columbia University, is now chief of staff to the President and CEO of the New York Presbyterian Hospital and...
Journal Editor Stephen M. Shortell noted, HSR has been extremely well-served over the years by Health Administration Press, and we have greatly appreciated the contribution that they have made. We are very much looking forward to a productive and facilitate more rapid dissemination of research findings to the field. Blackwell publishes more than 200 journals worldwide.

Effective January 1, 2002, HSR will be published by Blackwell Publishers. The new arrangement permits an expansion from the current 160 pages per issue to 288 pages and will enable the journal to reduce its current backlog of accepted manuscripts and facilitate more rapid dissemination of research findings to the field. Blackwell publishes more than 200 journals worldwide.

The April Supplement Vol. 36, Part II Data Needs for Studies of Competition in Market Areas, was guest edited by Amy B. Bernstein and Anne K. Gauthier. A Special 7th Issue of HSR, published in July, highlights selected papers from a conference titled, Consumer Assessment of Health Plans (CAHPS), edited by Carolyn Clancy.

Authors are encouraged to submit papers accepted at the Academy’s Annual Meeting to HSR for consideration in a special online issue in honor of Alice Hensel, the Academy’s founding executive director. Manuscripts should be sent to: Editor, Health Services Research, School of Public Health, 407 Warren Hall, University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, CA 94720-7360. The deadline for submission is August 1, 2001.

Visit www.hsr.org for more information, including a listing of forthcoming articles. To follow the progress of a submitted manuscript through the review cycle, visit www.hsr.org/InfoForAuthors/Authors.cfm and then click Authors Article Status Page.

News from Health Affairs and HSR Journals

Health Affairs
Health Affairs announces the e-publishing of a web-exclusive paper by James Robinson and Lawrence Casalino, pinpointing how one large insurer has begun to turn away from the pivotal HMO strategy of delegating to physician groups the financial risk and responsibility for managing costs.

Lower payment rates from Medicare and private insurers have undermined the attraction of global capitation to provider organizations, while increased regulation and liability has heightened worries within health plans about the delegation to providers of medical management and claims payment, they write. Visit www.healthaffairs.org to view the full text.

HSR Journal
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Visit www.hsr.org for more information, including a listing of forthcoming articles. To follow the progress of a submitted manuscript through the review cycle, visit www.hsr.org/InfoForAuthors/Authors.cfm and then click Authors Article Status Page.
A decade-long partnership with states, the State Coverage Initiatives (SCI) program supports technical assistance and grants to states interested in expanding health care coverage. An initiative sponsored by The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, SCI helps build the policy and technical capacity of state governments through technical assistance and financial support. The program is particularly interested in helping states expand coverage to families and individuals and develop strategies that build on and expand employer-based coverage.

One of the strengths of SCI is our ability to customize our approach to state circumstances and to provide a variety of products and meeting opportunities that can respond in a timely way to the problems states are struggling to solve, says SCI Deputy Director and Academy Vice President Vickie Gates. There are constraints, of course, but we try to make this program as responsive as possible to both current problems and current opportunities.

SCI offers customized assistance to the states such as on-site consultations, regional and national workshops on timely topics for state officials, and publications such as technical manuals, issue briefs, case studies, and a quarterly newsletter. The newsletter features in-depth articles on issues that affect the states ability to expand health care coverage. The most recent example contains articles on SCHIP federal regulations and the growing problem of Medicaid overexpenditures in the states. All SCI-sponsored publications, including the December 2000 report, Mapping State Health Insurance Markets: Structure and Change in the States Group and Individual Health Insurance Markets 1995-1997 and the January 2001 State of the States can be found on the program's web site www.statecoverage.net. The web site also contains another recently developed tool, the State Coverage Matrix, an Internet product that provides a timely picture of coverage expansion efforts across the states, and links to state web pages.

Financial assistance currently available through SCI includes small grants to support policy-planning activities, such as development and evaluation of coverage options, and larger demonstration grants. Details on both of these grant programs and the application guide are available on the web site.