New Publications


Hahn, A. They Are Back! Summer Jobs Return for Poor Kids, and a Confession. *Youth Today: The newspaper on youth work* Viewpoints: 22, April 2009.


Mechanic, R. and Altman, S. Payment Reform Options: Episode Payment is a Good Place to Start. *Health Affairs* 28, no. 2 (2009): w262–w271. Published online January 27, 2009; [http://content.healthaffairs.org/cgi/content/full/28/2/w262](http://content.healthaffairs.org/cgi/content/full/28/2/w262)


New Publications (cont.)


New Grants

Christine Bishop (PI)  
“Private Funding for Long-Term Care in Massachusetts”  
Funder: Massachusetts Medicaid Policy Institute  
This project will prepare background for the Massachusetts Long-Term Care Financing Advisory Committee concerning the use of private resources for long-term services and supports in Massachusetts. The project will also carry out Massachusetts-specific analyses of assets available for long-term services and supports.

Joan Kaufman (PI)  
“Supporting Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation HIV Program Development in China”  
Funder: Gates Foundation/Family Health International  
Working as a technical advisor to the Foundation for the development of a set of activities to better link the efforts of AIDS NGOs to government efforts to control AIDS in China. Developing a training course and strategic plan with indicators and milestones to better foster and evaluate government and NGO collaboration on the AIDS response in the 13 Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation project sites.

Alan Melchior (PI), Tracy Cutter, Chris Kingsley  
“Evaluation of FIRST LEGO League”  
Funder: U.S. FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology)  
The FIRST LEGO League (FLL) involves over 135,000 students in 42 countries in robotics competitions based on the LEGO Mindstorms robotics kits. This 18-month study will evaluate the FLL program in Iowa and includes both a process study focusing on the expansion of the program within the state and a study of the impacts of the program on participants.

Alan Melchior (PI), Sadie Miller  
“Summer of Service Evaluation Toolkit”  
Funder: Innovations in Civic Participation  
This project will develop an evaluation toolkit for use by practitioners operating Summer of Service (SOS) service-learning programs for middle and high school aged youth. Innovations in Civic Participation has been a national leader in the movement to create a federally-funded Summer of Service program, which was included in the recently passed Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act.
New Grants (cont.)

Donald Shepard (PI), Veronika Ancukuwicz, Aung Lwin, Wu Zeng
“Developing and Testing Intervention Costing Tools for Substance Abuse Treatment”
Funder: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Substance Abuse Policy Research Program
This project will develop and test two Excel-based costing tools (called Planner and Analyst) for estimating the costs of implementing evidence-based practices in substance abuse treatment.

Donald Shepard (PI), Aung Lwin
“Cost-effectiveness of Vector Control to Help Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis”
Funder: The Task Force for Global Health
This project will examine the cost-effectiveness of strategies to control the mosquito which transmits lymphatic filariasis, a debilitating tropical illness, and hasten the disease’s elimination.

Donald Shepard (PI)
“Restructuring Services for Drug Abusing TANF Women”
Funder: National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism/Subcontract to Center on Addictions and Substance Abuse (CASA)
Heller is conducting the economic analysis of intensive case management for women with substance abuse disorders who are receiving public assistance (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families).

Cindy Thomas (PI), Stanley Wallack, Christopher Tompkins
“Tufts Clinical and Translation Science Institute”
Funder: Tufts University/Subcontract to NIH
This project is a multiple institution consortium led by Tufts University, with the goal of transforming the research and training environment to enhance the efficiency and quality of clinical and translational research. The CTSA program is led by the National Center for Research Resources, part of the National Institutes of Health.

Cindy Thomas (PI), Constance Horgan, Deborah Gar- nick
“Technical and Assistance Support Services for Quality Improvement and Finance Programs”
Funder: Synergy Enterprises/SAMHSA
This project will develop performance measures for medication in substance abuse treatment.

Christopher Tompkins (Project Director): Thomas Croghan, MD, Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. (PI)
“Measure, Instrument Development, and Support (MIDS)”
Funder: Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
This is an umbrella contract that CMS will use for work related to quality measures.

Christopher Tompkins (Project Director): Myles Maxfield, Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. (PI)
“Resource Use Reports, Phase 2, Physician Value-Based Purchasing”
Funder: Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
CMS must submit a Report to Congress in early 2010 regarding how Medicare might implement a physician value-based purchasing program, and must distribute reports to physicians on their resource use and value serving Medicare beneficiaries.

Christopher Tompkins (Project Director)
“Physician Quality Reporting Initiative”
Funder: Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS); Iowa Foundation for Medical Care
Heller is helping to specify new measures for 2009, and helping to improve the Physician Quality Reporting Initiative in general.

Christopher Tompkins (Lead Analyst for Evaluation)
“Hospital Leadership Quality Assessment Tool”
Funder: Commonwealth Fund; University of Iowa
A new survey tool measuring hospital leadership and targeted Technical Assistance Protocols will be field-tested and evaluated on a national basis to learn whether improvements in hospital leadership activities also lead to improvements in hospital quality.

Stanley Wallack (PI), Gary Gaumer, Joanne Beswick, Marwa Farag, Seyed Moaven Razavi
“Health Systems Analysis Support: Hospital Leadership Quality”
Funder: Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
The research team will conduct an analysis of health care financing topics related to product and disease specific issues (e.g., malaria) as well as institutions that provide or channel financing for product and intervention uptake to developing countries (e.g., Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization, Global Fund, multilateral development banks).

Stanley Wallack (PI), Cindy Thomas, Stuart Altman, Robert Mechanic, Palmira Santos, Signe Peterson Flieger, Saleema Moore
“Provider and Payer Costs and Cost Trends”
Funder: Commonwealth of Massachusetts/Division of Health Care Finance and Policy
This project will create a report and hold hearings on health care cost trend drivers.
Recent Presentations


Espinosa, C. Session Chair, “Spirituality, Ethnicity and Health,” Annual Meeting of the Society for Applied Anthropology, Santa Fe, NM, March 2009. Prof. Espinosa presented on “Ethnic Spirituality, Gender and Health Care in the Peruvian Amazon,” as part of the session. Heller Adjunct Associate Professor Ellen Messer served as discussant for the session.


Gittell, J.H. “Is the Doctor In? A Relational Approach to Job Design and the Coordination of Work.” Featured Speaker, Ohio State University Medical Center Grand Rounds, Columbus, OH, April 2009.


Green, M. “Engaging the UN Human Rights System Around Climate Change.” Presented at the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee’s Climate Change Roundtables, Cambridge, MA, January 2009.


Reif, S. “Does Chronic Disease Affect Substance Abuse Treatment Utilization by Alcohol and Drug Dependent Adults?” Presented at Integrating Services, Integrating Research for Co-Occurring Conditions Conference, Bethesda, MD, March 2009.
Recent Presentations (cont.)


Public Engagement

Stuart Altman made numerous appearances in print and broadcast media to discuss President Obama’s plans for health care reform. In January he discussed retiree spending on WBUR’s “Here and Now” and weighed in on fixing the healthcare crisis on PBS’ NewsHour with Jim Lehrer. He also discussed “Kennedy’s 40-Year Push for Universal Coverage” on WBUR in January and revisited the early 90s health care reform efforts in “No Harry and Louise” in Newsweek in March. Also in March, he was also quoted in the New York Times in “Massachusetts Faces Costs of Big Health Care Plan” and in the Huffington Post’s blog on “Zeke Emanuel, Obama’s Health Care Alchemist.” In April alone, he compared the Canadian and US health care systems with “Dan Rather Reports;” graded Obama’s health care initiatives for NPR in “Obama and Health Care: Big Hurdles Yet to Come;” and weighed the pros and cons of long-term care coverage in “Long-Term Care Gains Attention in Health Reform” on WBUR.

Robert Dunigan served as a faculty mentor and reviewer at the NIDA Special Populations Research Development Seminar Series workshop in Washington, DC, April 2009.


In March 2009 Maria Green served as a Resource Person (one of a small group of outside human rights experts expressly asked to participate) in the United Nations’ annual month-long online HURITALK discussion of human rights and development, which includes United Nations Development Programme staff from all over the world.

The Institute on Assets and Social Policy (IASP) drafted the Progress Report of the Massachusetts Asset Development Commission, which appeared in January 2009. In the report, the Commission, appointed by Governor Patrick and the state legislature, puts forward 18 recommendations for immediate administrative and legislative action. The Commission’s mission is to “ensure Massachusetts residents, especially those who are low and moderate income or asset poor, throughout life, have opportunities to develop the assets necessary for sustainable economic security and improved quality of life, and the capacity to end intergenerational cycles of poverty.” http://iasp.brandeis.edu/pdfs/MADCprogressreportweb.pdf

IASP research was cited in a Boston Globe editorial, “Good news from the tax man,” that appeared in April 2009. The editorial cited the recent IASP study of the economic benefits experienced by low income families receiving EITC and financial education.

IASP’s study was quoted in the Insurance News Net article, “What does $10,000 a year cost? Why Income Annuities might offer the best value for retirees,” by John Rafferty, Vice President Annuity Marketing, American General Life Companies, in March 2009.
In February 2009, the Institute for Behavioral Health coordinated a one-day expert panel meeting in Washington DC focused on developing performance measures for medication-assisted treatment for addiction. Cindy Thomas chaired the meeting which was sponsored by the Washington Circle, a multidisciplinary group supported by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and focused on policy and performance measurement for addictions. Constance Horgan chaired a panel focused on approaches in the private sector and Deborah Garnick chaired a panel focused on the public sector.

Joan Kaufman was interviewed by the Associated Press about swine flu in China, May 2009.

Peter Kreiner and Carol Prost participated in a regional meeting of 15 Prescription Monitoring Programs (PMP) administrators and staff from nine southern states in Birmingham, AL, in April 2009. Participants identified a number of emerging issues, including data security and the easy availability of prescription drugs in states such as Florida which do not have a prescription monitoring program.

The economic crisis gave Dean Lisa Lynch many opportunities to address the public and the media. She and Brandeis International Business School Dean Bruce Magid presented a Brandeis Spotlight event on “Depressing, but it’s no Depression” in March. She was the subject of a Boston Globe profile, “Exciting times, for an economist,” in January. She discussed the January unemployment statistics on PBS’ NewsHour and the February unemployment statistics on Minnesota Public Radio.

In March 2009, Dominic Hodgkin, Cindy Thomas, Linda Simoni-Wastila, Grant Ritter, and Sue Lee received an Excellence Award from the International Journal of Mental Health Policy and Economics, for their paper “The Effect of a Three-Tier Formulary on Antidepressant Utilization and Expenditures.”

Public Engagement (cont.)

Thomas McLaughlin published the article “A Cheat Sheet for a Down Economy” in the Nonprofit Times Weekly in March 2009.


Tatjana Meschede provided written testimony to the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging in February 2009. Her report was entitled “Boomer Bust? Securing Retirement in a Volatile Economy.”

Tatjana Meschede was interviewed by WirtschaftsWoche, a German magazine, on the decline of the U.S. middle class, March 2009.

Tatjana Meschede was quoted in the article “Study Finds Today’s Seniors Face Uncertain Economic Future,” published by Aging News Alert in April 2009.

Huong Nguyen was invited to attend and participate in the preconference session, Development in the Context of Immigration: International Perspectives on Emerging Issues of the Society for Research in Child Development’s Biennial Meeting, Denver, CO, April 2009.


Honors/Awards

Susan P. Curnan was appointed to two Topical Interest Group Peer Review Panels of the American Evaluation Association in March 2009. The panels are on “Organizational Learning and Evaluation Capacity Building” and “Nonprofit and Foundation Evaluation.”

Jody Hoffer Gittell was appointed to a National Science Foundation review committee in May 2009.

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Laura Lorenz was named a Member of the Defense Centers for Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury, Community-Based Partnerships Working Group, Building Bridges to Support Military and Veteran Families Collaborative Working Group in February 2009.

Laurie Nsiah-Jefferson was appointed Senior Fellow, National Center for Health Behavioral Change, Inc., Urban Medical Institute, Morgan State University, Baltimore, MD, in February 2009.

Marji Erickson Warfield began her tenure as Chair of the Deborah Munroe Noonan Memorial Fund scientific review panel in March of 2009.
Student Recognition

Honors/Awards

Khitam Abu-Hamad, PhD student, was accepted into the 2009-2010 Population Research Bureau’s Population Policy Communication Fellows program.

Khitam Abu-Hamad also received a research grant from the Palestinian American Research Center.

Andrea Acevedo, PhD student, was recently awarded 2 years of F31 funding from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) to complete her dissertation, “Racial/Ethnic Differences in the Quality of Substance Abuse Treatment.”

MPP students Audrey Etlinger and Brian Schon were awarded summer internships through the Eli J. Segal Citizen Leadership Program. Ms. Etlinger is an intern at the Washington, DC office of Senator Edward Kennedy (D-MA), and Mr. Schon is at Health Care for All in Boston.

Sirii Morley, MBA ’10, and Denise Rosetti, MBA ’11, are the winners of this year’s Sage Scholarships. SAGE Publications grants two Sage Scholarships annually to Heller MBA students who demonstrate outstanding leadership potential, scholarly excellence, and a commitment to social justice. The awards were presented at this year’s Distinguished Management Lecture on April 21, 2009.

Khitam Abu-Hamad, Malka Jampol and Sara Wall were the recipients of the Sillerman Summer Philanthropy Internships. Mr. Francis has a placement at the EOS Foundation and Boston Rising in Boston, Ms. Jampol’s placement is with the Jewish Funders Network in New York, and Ms. Wall is an intern at the California Community Foundation in Los Angeles.

Publications


Presentations


Educational Programs


The annual Distinguished Management Lecture was held in April 2009 on the topic of “Innovating Under Pressure,” with four speakers: Ron Bell, Director of Community Affairs and Senior Advisor, Office of the (Massachusetts) Governor; Catherine D’Amato, President and CEO of the Greater Boston Food Bank; Carol Goss, President and CEO of the Skillman Foundation; and Paul Grogan, President and CEO of the Boston Foundation. The speakers discussed how the human service sector is responding to the current financial crisis, including the need for consolidation and new models of service delivery.

In April 2009, the Heller Inequalities Working Group, in concert with the MPP program, organized and held a seminar, “The Intersection of Race, Ethnicity, Gender and Class: Implications for Research and Policy.” The presenter was Olena Hankivsky, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Public Policy Program, and Founder and Co-Director, Institute for Critical Studies in Gender and Health, Simon Fraser University; and Co-Leader, Women’s Health Research Network. Dr. Hankivsky also held a special workshop for the Ph.D. students in February 2009.

In April 2009, the Heller Inequalities Working Group in collaboration with the Heller Ph.D. Program held a Joint Ph.D. seminar entitled, “Race/Ethnicity and Inequalities: Concepts and Strategies for Research.” The presenters were Dr. Dolores Acevedo-Garcia from Harvard School of Public Health and Dr. Lisa Dodson, Ph.D. ’93, from Boston College. They presented on issues and options for addressing race and ethnicity in research.
After the Crossing: Implications of Alternative Policy Responses to Illegal Immigration was the topic of the annual Zinner Lecture Series, held in March. The Sillerman Center for the Advancement of Philanthropy and Associated Grantmakers of Massachusetts co-sponsored a dinner prior to the event. Foundation trustees and staff, as well as philanthropists interested in or already funding projects involving immigration, had the opportunity to participate in a discussion with the event speakers, Rinku Sen and Steven Camarota.

The Institute on Assets and Social Policy (IASP) held a panel discussion that coincided with the release of its report “Living Longer on Less in Massachusetts: The New Economic (In)Security of Seniors,” at Heller in March 2009.

The Inaugural Distinguished Public Policy Lecture was held in February 2009. Congressman Barney Frank (D-MA) spoke on “Fixing What’s Broken: Regulation, Legislation, and the New Administration.”

Heller’s Executive Education Program presented a two-day Massachusetts Medical Society Health Leaders Program in March. Heller faculty members Stuart Altman, Jon Chilingerian, Jody Hoffer Gittell, and Jeffrey Protas led sessions on a variety of topics, including health care economics and financing, strategic thinking and decision making, high performance health care, and conflict resolution and negotiation.

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The Health Industry Forum, under the direction of Robert Mechanic, held a forum entitled “Implementing Bundled Payments for Health Care Services” in April 2009. Presenters included Francois De Brantes of PROMETHEUS Payment® Inc., Michael Zucker of Baptist Health System, Terry Carroll of Fairview Health Services, Tom Valdivia, of Carol, Inc., and Ellen Zane of Tufts Medical Center.

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The Massachusetts Health Policy Forum, under the direction of Michael Doonan, held a forum entitled “The Massachusetts Health Waiver Renewal: Advancing Massachusetts Health Care Reform” in February 2009. Stephanie Anthony from the Center for Health Law and Economics, University of Massachusetts Medical School, gave an overview of the waiver, followed by reactions from Health and Human Services Secretary JudyAnn Bigby, Senator Richard Moore, and Stacey Sachs from the Office of Senator Edward Kennedy. Additional speakers included: Alan Weil from the National Academy for State Health Policy, Elaine Ullian, the Chief Executive Officer of Boston Medical Center, Beth Waldman from Bailit Health Purchasing, and Meg Kroeplin from Community Partners.

In January, the Executive Education Program co-sponsored the 2009 Health Policy Forum with the Massachusetts Medical Society. This year’s theme was “Physicians Affecting Change,” with presentations by Stuart Altman, Jon Chilingerian, Robert Mechanic, Cindy Thomas, and Christopher Tompkins.

The Massachusetts Health Policy Forum held a forum entitled “Mass in Motion: Addressing Obesity and Overweight in the Commonwealth” in January 2009. At this forum, Department of Public Health Commissioner John Auerbach laid out the details of Mass In Motion, a comprehensive set of initiative to address the overweight and obesity epidemic in the Commonwealth. A panel which included Rep. Peter Koutoujian then reacted to the new plan. This event was co-sponsored by The Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation’s Growing Up Healthy initiative.