Greetings from the Schroeder Center for Health Policy!

Part of the Thomas Jefferson Program in Public Policy at the College of William & Mary, the Schroeder Center for Health Policy seeks to inform current decision makers on a broad array of public policies related to healthcare and public health. We also strive to educate future decision makers by creating opportunities for William & Mary graduate and undergraduate students to work in close association with faculty members on health policy research. In this email, our inaugural quarterly newsletter, you can read about some of our activities on and off campus.

*Jennifer M. Mellor, Ph.D., Director*

Schroeder Center findings presented at Virginia's Weight of the State Conference

Virginia’s annual [Weight of the State Conference](#) on childhood obesity took place in Richmond earlier in October, and the results from two evaluation reports conducted by the Schroeder Center for Health Policy were on display. Findings from Schroeder Center reports were featured in two sessions on school-based programs designed to address childhood obesity. Both presentations were delivered by executive staff members of the [School Health Initiative Program](#) (SHIP) implemented by the Williamsburg-James City County Public School system. SHIP is funded by the [Williamsburg Community Health Foundation](#). [Read more...](#)

Health policy in the news

The Schroeder Center seeks to provide timely information on current health policy issues that affect Virginians and all Americans. In this newsletter, we focus on two issues that made national headlines in recent weeks.

- Staff member Elizabeth Vestal answers the FAQs, or Frequently Asked Questions, on the recent controversy surrounding the HPV vaccine and takes a look at state policies on the vaccine. [Read more...](#)

- Professor Christine Jensen explains the discontinuation of the CLASS Act, a component of the Affordable Care Act, and what it means for local seniors and caregivers. [Read more...](#)
New publication series introduced

This month the Schroeder Center for Health Policy unveils a new series of Fact Sheets. These new publications provide timely information on current health policy and public health topics. Each Fact Sheet highlights important information on an issue affecting Americans in general and residents of the Commonwealth of Virginia in particular. This first installment includes Fact Sheets on four topics:

**Childhood Obesity.** Childhood obesity has more than tripled in the past 30 years, exposing children to increased risk for health-related illnesses and diseases in childhood and adulthood. Read more...

**Diabetes.** Americans are at an increasing risk for developing type 2 diabetes. Diabetes is the seventh leading cause of death in the United States. Read more...

**The Uninsured.** Lack of health insurance reduces access to medical care and can increase the cost of some preventable conditions later on. Nearly 50 million people are not covered by health insurance. Read more...

**Medicare Advantage.** The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act recently implemented spending cuts in Medicare Advantage plans. Read more...

Faculty to present health policy research

William & Mary faculty members are actively engaged in scholarly research studies on various health policy issues. In the coming months, faculty members will present findings from their work at several national and regional conferences, including conferences hosted by the premier organizations in public policy, economics, and gerontology.

**November 3-5, 2011**
Fall Research Conference of the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management
Washington, DC
- “Hospital Responses to Medicare's Outpatient Prospective Payment System: Evidence from Florida” by Daifeng He (W&M) and Jennifer Mellor (W&M)
- “Quality Disclosure and Demand Rationing: Evidence from the Nursing Home Market” by Daifeng He (W&M) and Tamara Konetzka (University of Chicago)
- “Recessions and Workplace Injuries” by Melissa McInerney (W&M) and Kosali Simon (Indiana University)

**November 19-21, 2011**
Annual Meeting of the Southern Economic Association
Washington, DC
- “Do Employers Accommodate Injured Workers in Response to Higher Workers’ Compensation Costs?” by Erin Todd Bronchetti (Swarthmore College) and Melissa McInerney (W&M)
- “Hospital Responses to Medicare's Outpatient Prospective Payment System: Evidence from Florida” by Daifeng He (W&M) and Jennifer Mellor (W&M)
• “Quality Disclosure and Demand Rationing: Evidence from the Nursing Home Market” by Daifeng He (W&M) and Tamara Konetzka (University of Chicago)

November 18-22, 2011
Annual Conference of the Gerontological Society of America
Boston, MA
• “Overcoming Barriers to Care: Serving Older Adults with Substance Use Disorders” by Christine Jensen (W&M)

January 6-8, 2011
Annual Meeting of the Allied Social Science Associations
Chicago, IL
• “Labor Market Conditions and Medicare Utilization and Spending: Evidence from Microdata” by Melissa McInerney (W&M) and Jennifer Mellor (W&M)
• “Quality Disclosure and Demand Rationing: Evidence from the Nursing Home Market” by Daifeng He (W&M) and Tamara Konetzka (University of Chicago)

William & Mary students assist faculty with research projects

Every semester, the Schroeder Center for Health Policy offers several William & Mary students the chance to gain valuable research experiences in paid assistantships supervised by faculty members. This fall, six talented undergraduate students are working as research assistants to faculty members and providing valuable support on various health policy research projects:

**Ryan Buckland (Class of ’13)** is working with Professor Christine Jensen of the Thomas Jefferson Program in Public Policy to study Medicare coverage of memory screens and substance abuse screens as part of seniors’ annual wellness exams. Ryan is majoring in Public Policy.

**Catherine Cognetti (Class of ’12)** is a dual major in Government and Economics. Catherine is working with Professor Chon Abraham of the Mason School of Business on a study of health information technology. Catherine is assisting with interviews and data collection efforts regarding usage statistics for vendor specific business intelligence tools.

**Amy Filipek (Class of ’12)** is working with Professors Daifeng He and Jennifer Mellor of the Economics Department on a study about the Medicare Outpatient Prospective Payment system and its effects on inpatient utilization. Amy is working with hospital inpatient discharge data from the state of Florida and using Stata software to construct measures of inpatient utilization by hospital. Amy is a dual major in Economics and Mathematics.

**Charles Nagel (Class of ’12)** is working with Professor Patricia Roberts of the Marshall-Wythe Law School. Charles is tasked with identifying challenges in the Veterans Administration’s current model of evaluating and assessing disabilities in soldiers and difficulties faced by the VA in processing disability benefits claims. Charles is majoring in Mathematics.

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Jane Ryngaert (Class of ’13) is a dual major in Economics and English. Jane is working with Professor Melissa McInerney of the Economics Department on various projects related to both medical care utilization and workers’ compensation. As one of her tasks this semester, she has helped Professor McInerney prepare healthcare utilization measures from the Dartmouth Atlas of Health Care.

Mariel Tavakoli (Class of ’13) is working with Professor John Parman of the Economics Department on a project that examines racial disparities in long-run health outcomes and the ways in which childhood household characteristics affect those health outcomes. Mariel is helping to build a database that spans the entire 20th century. Mariel is a Public Policy major.

Staff spotlight: Elizabeth Vestal, J.D., M.P.P.

The Schroeder Center is pleased to welcome a new research analyst to its highly qualified research team.

Elizabeth Vestal holds a J.D. from the University of Tennessee and recently received a Master’s degree in Public Policy from William & Mary’s Thomas Jefferson Program. Elizabeth joined the Schroeder Center in June.

Elizabeth’s main responsibilities include writing Fact Sheets and other Schroeder Center publications, conducting research on various Center projects, and managing the Center’s website. Elizabeth also represents the Schroeder Center on the City of Richmond’s Food Policy Task Force which was recently created to study ways to increase access to nutritious and locally grown food. In the coming months, the Food Policy Task Force will recommend strategies to improve both access to healthy food and the health of Richmond residents.

The Schroeder Center for Health Policy is made possible by a generous gift from Cliff and Lois Schroeder and was established to inform and educate decision makers on a wide array of health policy issues. The Schroeder Center is part of the Thomas Jefferson Program in Public Policy at the College of William & Mary.

For more information on the Schroeder Center for Health Policy, please contact:

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