

Schroeder Center for Health Policy at the College of William & Mary

Spring 2013 Newsletter

Greetings from the Schroeder Center for Health Policy!



We are pleased to share recent news about the Schroeder Center for Health Policy at the College of William & Mary.

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Exploratory Relationship between W&M and EVMS

The College of William & Mary and Eastern Virginia Medical School (EVMS) continue to explore potential collaborations in the areas of research and instructional programs. A recent report by the William & Mary Due Diligence Committee pointed to healthcare delivery science as a possible focus of collaboration.

Jennifer Mellor, Professor of Economics and Director of the Schroeder Center for Health Policy, and Don Combs, EVMS Vice President and Dean of the School of Health Professions, are working closely to spearhead conversations across the two campuses.

As part of that process, W&M and EVMS faculty are invited to a faculty retreat on May 14th at the College of William & Mary. The retreat will feature two nationally renowned guest lecturers in the areas of health care delivery science and health services research, as well as networking opportunities for the faculty. The confirmed speakers are Dr. Lisa Simpson, President and CEO of AcademyHealth and Dr. Ellen Meara of the Dartmouth Center for Health Policy and Clinical Practice and the Dartmouth Center for Health Care Delivery Science. Faculty can also learn how to apply for grants for collaborative research involving scholars from both institutions.

This workshop is the first of several events to be held over the next 18 months. For more information, contact Elizabeth Vestal at bevestal@wm.edu.

Schroeder Center Small Grant Recipients

This spring, the Schroeder Center awarded its first set of Small Grants Program awards to four faculty members for research in health policy. For 2013, the Small Grants Program will provide \$2,000 for each of the following faculty-led research projects:

- Chon Abraham (Business), “Data Analytics and Healthcare Information Technology”
- Danielle Dallaire (Psychology), “Healthy Beginnings”
- Scott Ickes (Kinesiology and Health Sciences), “Defining the Influence of Maternal Capacities on the Adoption of Essential Child Survival Interventions in Malawi and Uganda”
- Nick Sanders (Economics), “The Clean Air Act Amendments, Sulfur Dioxide, and Infant Health in the US”

New Schroeder Center Faculty Affiliates

The Schroeder Center is pleased to welcome three new faculty affiliates. Each brings a unique set of skills and expertise in her approach to health policy research.



Danielle Dallaire, Associate Professor of Psychology, focuses her research on how children cope with the multifaceted risk of parental incarceration. In particular, she is examining the protective factors in these children which may help foster resiliency. Danielle received her Ph.D. in developmental psychology from Temple University.



Tracy Johnson-Hall is an Assistant Professor in Operations and Information Technology at William & Mary's Mason School of Business. Tracy's research focuses on foodborne illnesses and the effect of policy, firm strategy and supply chain factors on product recall performance as well as consumer perceptions of product recalls and quality failures. Tracy earned her M.B.A. from the Pennsylvania State University and her Ph.D. in management from Clemson, where she was awarded a fellowship from the Joseph M. Juran Center for Leadership in Quality.



Alison Scott, Assistant Professor of Kinesiology and Health Sciences, joined the William & Mary faculty in 2012 after teaching six years at the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health at Georgia Southern University. Her research focuses on the social determinants of health and health disparities as they relate to chronic and infectious diseases. Alison received a M.H.S. in international health and a Ph.D. with a focus on the social and behavioral aspects of public health from Johns Hopkins School of Public Health.

Health Policy Research Presentations

This spring, faculty members will present findings from their work in health policy research at several, prestigious academic conferences.

“Recession Depression: Physical and Mental Health Effects of the 2008 Stock Market Crash” by Melissa McInerney (W&M), Jennifer Mellor (W&M) and Lauren Hersch Nicholas (Michigan) was presented at the Mental Health Policy, Economics and Health Care Reforms, Venice, Italy, March 22-24, 2013.

Christine Jensen presents “National and State Policies for Family Caregivers of Persons with Alzheimer’s Disease” at the 34th Annual Meeting of the Southern Gerontological Society, Charlotte, NC, April 6, 2013.

Jaime Settle presents “Public Opinion and Attention to Contentious Policy Issues: Pairing Conventional and Innovative Data Sources to Study Public Discourse on ‘Obamacare’” at the 2013 Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, April 11-14.

Christine Jensen, Kyle Allen, and Kym Lucas present “SBIRT: A Brief Screening and Intervention to Identify Older Adults At-Risk for Substance Use Disorders” at the 2013 Annual Scientific Meeting of the American Geriatrics Society, Grapevine, TX, May 4, 2013.

New Health Policy Resources from the Schroeder Center

The Schroeder Center for Health Policy is pleased to share a recent report prepared by Jennifer M. Mellor, Elizabeth Vestal, and Carrie Dolan, entitled, “Health Outcomes and Health Determinants in the Historic Triangle,” that presents information on the current health status of Historic Triangle area residents.

To supplement the full report, Schroeder Center staff prepared two research briefs. “Measuring the Health of the Historic Triangle” summarizes key findings on the health of the Historic Triangle, and “A Guide to Community Health Data in Virginia” details the available community health data and provides an explanation of what users should know about using these data.



This research was conducted as part of a generous grant from the Williamsburg Community Health Foundation.

In addition to providing health information on the Historic Triangle, Schroeder Center staff have compiled a listing of over 100 health-related bills introduced in the Virginia General Assembly during the 2013 session. Bills considered during the recent General Assembly session included imposing a fine for smoking in a car with a child and revising Virginia’s health insurance regulation laws so that they conform with relevant provisions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The Virginia General Assembly’s 2013 session convened on January 9, 2013 and concluded on February 23, 2013.

Health Policy Awards for Student Scholarship

The Schroeder Center is pleased to announce its new Health Policy Awards for Student Scholarship Program. As part of the Schroeder Center's mission to increase health policy research at William & Mary, these new awards encourage and support student research in the field of health policy. All currently enrolled William & Mary students are eligible to apply by April 12. The program invites students to submit a briefing memo on a health policy topic of their choosing. First, 2nd, and 3rd place winners will receive \$250, \$150, and \$50 awards, respectively, for superior health policy briefing memos.

For more information, contact Kelly Metcalf-Meese at klmetcalfmeese@wm.edu or visit the Schroeder Center website for policies and application procedures.

William & Mary Undergraduates Assist Faculty in Health Policy Research

Each semester, the Schroeder Center offers several William & Mary students the opportunity to gain valuable research experiences in paid assistantships supervised by William & Mary faculty members. This spring, five talented undergraduate students are working with faculty in Economics, Government, Psychology, Public Policy and the Mason School of Business on a variety of topics related to health policy:

Taylor Feenstra, Public Policy/Psychology (2014), is working with Government Professor Jaime Settle on a project that examines the microfoundations of public opinion on the health care reform effort resulting in the Affordable Care Act.

Megan Fitzpatrick, Psychology (2013), is working with Psychology Professor Danielle Dallaire on the William & Mary Healthy Beginnings project which strives to help women have healthier pregnancies and babies.

Michael Gropper, Finance (2014), is working with Economics Professor Daifeng He on a project studying how private long-term care insurance coverage affects both private nursing home use and home health care use.

Maryam Kanna, Economics (2014), is working with Economics Professor Nick Sanders on a project studying the role of environmental stress on in utero development and infant outcomes such as birth weight and premature birth.

Thomas Sanders, Government (2014), is working with Business School Professor Tracy Johnson-Hall on a project that examines recalls of food regulated by the Food & Drug Administration.

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