

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

## Spring 2014 Newsletter

*Greetings from the Schroeder Center for Health Policy!*

During the spring of 2014, the Schroeder Center's faculty affiliates, staff, and students have continued their research and analysis of timely health policy issues and disseminated their findings through various venues. We are pleased to summarize these health policy activities.

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## Table of Contents

- Dr. Steven Woolf Lecture on "Beyond Healthcare"
- W&M/EVMS Collaboration: Workshop and Grants Awarded
- Rossiter Publishes Article on Medical Cost Savings
- Schroeder Center Faculty Present Their Policy Research
- Funding Available for Health Policy Research
- Medicaid Expansion in Virginia: General Assembly Update
- W&M Students Conduct Health Policy Research

## Dr. Steven Woolf Lecture on "Beyond Healthcare"



**Steven H. Woolf** (MD, MPH), Director of Virginia Commonwealth University's Center on Society and Health and Professor of Family Medicine and Population Health, addressed a large group of William & Mary faculty and students, as well as staff of Williamsburg area nonprofits on March 20, 2014. Dr. Woolf's talk focused on how tackling social factors -- inadequate education, poverty, and unemployment -- would have a far greater impact on improving our nation's health than would medical technological advances.

Dr. Woolf stated that although the U.S. spends more per person on health care than do other high-income countries, Americans generally do not live as long and are not as healthy. Dr. Woolf argued that health care accounts for only about 10 – 20 percent of health outcomes, while social factors have a much greater impact on individual health and illness. Focusing on education as an example, Dr. Woolf observed that solving the high school dropout problem would significantly improve our nation's health and that addressing educational disparities alone would avert far more deaths than would new biomedical advances, such as new technology or drugs.

Dr. Woolf's lecture was co-sponsored by William & Mary's Schroeder Center for Health Policy and the Thomas Jefferson Program in Public Policy, together with the Williamsburg Health Foundation. The lecture is available to view on the Schroeder Center website.

## W&M/EVMS Collaboration: Workshop and Grants Awarded

On May 13<sup>th</sup>, the College of William & Mary will host the third in a series of workshops involving faculty from William & Mary (W&M) and Eastern Virginia Medical School (EVMS) as well as representatives from Sentara Healthcare. The workshop will feature two panels that focus on lessons learned from ongoing research and educational collaborations between the institutions:

- Research Collaborations -- The first panel will include **Josh Burk** (W&M, Psychology), **Inga Carboni** (W&M, Mason School of Business), **Aurora Kerscher** (EVMS, Microbiology and Molecular Cell Biology), **Kelli England Will** (EVMS, Pediatrics), and **Janice Zeman** (W&M, Psychology).
- Educational Collaborations -- The second panel will include **Donald Combs** (EVMS, School Health Professions), **Kurt Hofelich** (Sentara Norfolk General Hospital), and **Rosanna Koppelman** (W&M, Corporate Education, Mason School of Business).

The workshop is only one component of the ongoing collaboration between W&M and EVMS. In December 2013, three teams of W&M and EVMS faculty each received \$20,000 in the second round of grant funding for collaborative research. One of the primary reasons for the teams' selection was the potential for the proposed projects to attract and secure external funding. The three selected proposals were as follows:

- **Enhancing Selective Attention in Young Adults on the Autism Spectrum: Development of an Online Intervention.** Principal Investigator: Janice Zeman (W&M, Psychology). Co-Investigators: Maria Urbano (EVMS, Psychiatry and Behavioral Science), J.D. Ball (EVMS, Psychiatry and Behavioral Science), Josh Burk (W&M, Psychology), and Cheryl Dickter (W&M, Psychology).
- **Evaluation of an EEG-Based Neurometric Battery for the Evaluation of Cognitive Decline in Patients at Risk for Alzheimer's Disease.** Principal Investigator: Paul D. Kieffaber (W&M, Psychology/Neuroscience Program). Co-Investigator: Hamid R. Okhravi (EVMS, Internal Medicine: Geriatrics).
- **Rapid Cycle Innovation Training Grant in Healthcare Delivery Science and Health Services Research.** Principal Investigator: Brent Ibata (EVMS, Sentara Cardiovascular Research Institute; Cardiac Research and Education). Co-Investigators: James Olver (W&M, Mason School of Business) and Patric Lundberg (EVMS, Microbiology).

## Rossiter Publishes Article on Medical Cost Savings

In April 2014, Schroeder Center faculty affiliate, **Lou Rossiter**, along with his colleagues (Noam Y. Kirson, Amie Shei, Alan G. White, Howard G. Birnbaum, Rami Ben-Joseph, and Edward Michna), published an article in the *Journal of Medical Economics* entitled "Medical Cost Savings Associated with an Extended-Release Opioid with Abuse-Deterrent Technology in the U.S." The authors find that the use of a newly formulated extended-release oxycodone with abuse-deterrent technology "has been associated with reductions in abuse rates and substantial medical cost savings."

## Schroeder Center Faculty Present Their Policy Research

Schroeder Center faculty affiliates presented or will soon present their research at conferences and meetings around the country.

- **Carrie Dolan.** “Geospatial Data, Tools and Research to Target and Evaluate Aid More Effectively.” Institute for Disease Modeling at Intellectual Ventures. Seattle, Washington. March 2014.
- **Carrie Dolan.** “Does Location Matter? Proximity to Testing for HIV and Development Finance for Testing in Malawi.” Poster presentation at Virginia Commonwealth University's Global Health Showcase. Richmond, Virginia. April 2014.
- **Tracy Johnson-Hall.** “Food Product Recall Effectiveness: An Empirical Investigation of the Role of Recall Strategy and Supply Chain Capabilities in Recall Timing in the FDA-Regulated Food Industry.” Annual conference of the Industry Studies Association. Portland, Oregon. May 2014.
- **Jennifer Mellor, Melissa McInerney, and Lindsay Sabik.** “The Effects of State Medicaid Expansions on Medicare Beneficiaries.” Biennial conference of the American Society of Health Economists (ASHEcon) entitled “Health & Healthcare in America: From Economics to Policy.” Los Angeles, California. June 2014.

## Funding Available for Health Policy Research

The Federal government and many private foundations fund researchers whose work focuses on health policy-related issues. At least twice a year, the Schroeder Center for Health Policy compiles a list of funding opportunities that highlights selected broad areas of interest. Topics include health disparities (racial and ethnic), health technology, health costs, health care financing, economics of aging, obesity, diet and nutrition, environmental policy and health, disability and employment, social media and health, and the influence of socioeconomic status on health. In its May 2014 compilation of health-related external funding opportunities, Schroeder Center staff identified nearly 100 funding prospects available through Federal government agencies as well as grants from 22 foundations and other non-governmental organizations. This latest summary of funding possibilities is available on the Schroeder Center's website.

## Medicaid Expansion in Virginia: General Assembly Update

Schroeder Center staff recently prepared a brief summary of Medicaid expansion, an issue attached to a \$96 billion state budget bill currently before the Virginia General Assembly. The Virginia General Assembly adjourned on March 8, 2014, but reconvened on March 24<sup>th</sup> for a special session to resolve legislators' differences on the Medicaid expansion issue. The special session ended with no resolution. Some members believe the Medicaid expansion issue attached to the budget is so contentious that a government shutdown is possible if a budget deal is not worked out by July 1<sup>st</sup>. The summary of this issue before the Virginia General Assembly is available on the Schroeder Center's website.



## W&M Students Conduct Health Policy Research



Through the generous contributions of Cliff and Lois Schroeder, the Schroeder Center supports both graduate and undergraduate study in health policy through two separate William & Mary programs.

**Graduate Fellowships.** Each year, the Schroeder Center awards fellowships to graduate M.P.P. students in William & Mary's Thomas Jefferson Program in Public Policy who have exceptionally strong academic backgrounds and who plan to pursue careers in health. This spring, the Schroeder Center was pleased to continue its work with Emily Uselton, a first year M.P.P. student, who graduated in 2008 from Xavier University with a B.S.B.A. in Accounting and Finance. This summer, Emily will work at The Commonwealth Institute for Fiscal Analysis.

**Undergraduate Research Assistant Program.** Every semester, the Schroeder Center offers William & Mary undergraduates the opportunity to gain valuable research experience in paid assistantships supervised by faculty members. This spring, four talented undergraduates worked with faculty in the Departments of Economics and Government and the Mason School of Business.

- **Effect of Agency Inspections and Compliance Findings on Recalls of Food Regulated by the Food & Drug Administration.** John Snouffer, Public Policy (2015), worked with Mason School of Business Professor Tracy Johnson-Hall. John's work included submitting FOIA requests, coding press releases on recalls for later quantitative analysis, and constructing data models.
- **Impact of the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA) on Individuals' Insurance Take-up and Health Outcome.** Michael Gropper worked with Economics Professor Daifeng He. Michael's work included creating a single dataset from panels of the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) and documenting which states passed laws similar to EMTALA.
- **Microfoundations of Public Opinion on the Health Care Reform Effort Resulting in the Affordable Care Act.** Taylor Feenstra, Public Policy/Psychology (2014), worked with Government Professor Jaime Settle. Taylor's work included exploring the use of psychophysiological data in understanding individuals' responses to politically contentious issues, including the Affordable Care Act.
- **Segregation, Access to Health Care and Racial Disparities in Health.** Leonymae Aumentado, Economics (2015), worked with Economics Professor John Parman. Leonymae's work included identifying death certificates of former North Carolina residents and cataloguing data, including the disease(s) or condition(s) that led to each individual's death.

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