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**WILLIAM & MARY**  
SCHROEDER CENTER FOR HEALTH POLICY

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## Spring 2016 Newsletter

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### Rachael Rowland Speaks about Health Policy Issues and Health Insurers



**Rachael Rowland, Vice President of State Affairs for Anthem, Inc. and a William & Mary alum**, recently spoke to William & Mary students about health policy issues that are important to health insurers. With the implementation of the Affordable Care Act and the expansion of Medicaid in some states, the perspective of private health insurers is an important one in understanding the health insurance market. Anthem is one of the largest health benefits companies in the United States, with its affiliated companies serving over 72 million people in 25 states, paying \$226 billion in benefits and processing over 720 million claims.

In her talk, Ms. Rowland discussed the high cost of prescription drugs and issues surrounding their coverage, value-based purchasing, risk adjustment, specialty plans for particular diagnoses, and lessons learned from public insurance programs in managing population health. She also addressed coverage issues related to mental health and substance use, two particularly important policy areas for insurers.

Prior to working at Anthem, Ms. Rowland served as Senior Vice President of Government Affairs & Strategic Business Development at Magellan Health Services; National Vice President of Government Affairs at UnitedHealth Group; Vice President of Government and Public Relations at MAXIMUS; and Director of Intergovernmental Affairs at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

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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 Public Policy Program at the College of William & Mary.

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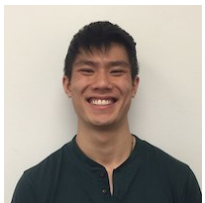
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## Research Awards on Cardiovascular Disease Treatment, Hospital Risk Adjustment, and Opioid Overdose Deaths

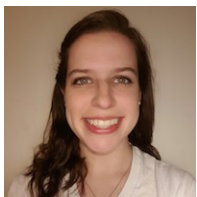
The Schroeder Center is pleased to announce fellowship awards to three students for Summer 2016. These fellowships support intensive student research experiences involving data analysis, writing, and presentation. All three William & Mary research fellows will also interact with students and faculty from both William & Mary and Eastern Virginia Medical School (EVMS) as part of an initiative to bridge the activities of the Schroeder Center and EVMS's Brock Institute for Community and Global Health. The fellows will use hospital discharge data available from Virginia Health Information (VHI) in their projects. The VHI databases contain information on every patient discharge that occurs in licensed Virginia hospitals. Based on their exceptional academic records and research proposals, this year's fellowship awardees are Aidan Fielding, Andy Loh, and Grace Nowadly.



Aidan Fielding (B.A., Economics, 2018), from Alexandria, Virginia, received a fellowship to investigate the **effects of peers in physicians' treatment of cardiovascular disease (CVD)**. Aidan is particularly interested in examining CVD given its impact on overall healthcare spending and the availability of treatment options. Local peer groups are those physicians who treat CVD at the same hospital. Aidan's study will focus on peer group stability, group size, and residency programs and their effect on physicians' choices for treatment of CVD. Aidan will also review whether malpractice suits and reimbursement changes affect how physicians in the same hospital treat CVD.



Andy Loh (B.S./B.A., Computational Applied Math and Economics, 2017), from Alexandria, Virginia, received a fellowship to examine the **quality of care provided by hospitals, focusing on risk adjustment methodologies used in measuring hospital performance**. Because a hospital's patient mix affects hospital performance, evaluations of hospital quality adjust for this mix ("risk adjustment") to allow appropriate comparison of care among U.S. hospitals. Andy's study will apply various risk adjustment methodologies to Virginia's hospitals to measure performance of care provided to heart attack patients. Andy hopes to assess the sensitivity of performance measures to patient demographics and to describe risk adjustment mechanisms in place for Virginia's hospitals.



Grace Nowadly (B.A., Economics, 2017), from Williamsburg, Virginia, received a fellowship to examine **opioid overdose-related deaths in Virginia and evaluate the effectiveness of Virginia's overdose reversal pilot program, REVIVE!**. Grace will describe Virginia's hospitalization rates and patient deaths due to opioid overdoses, by age, gender, race/ethnicity, regions of the state, and type of health insurance. She will also evaluate the REVIVE! Program by comparing the changes in opioid hospitalizations in the pilot counties involved in the program to changes in other Virginia counties.

## William & Mary Faculty Disseminate Health Policy Research

William & Mary faculty routinely conduct health policy research and distribute their findings at conferences and universities around the country. Below are some recent examples of their work:

### Presentations

“Medicare Hospital Payment Adjustments and Nursing Labor Markets,” by McHenry, P. and Mellor, J.M., presented at the annual meeting of the Society of Labor Economists, Seattle, WA, May 2016 and the biennial conference of the American Society of Health Economists, Philadelphia, PA, June 2016.

“Welcome Mat Effects for Dual Medicaid and Medicare Eligibles,” by Mellor, J.M., McInerney, M., and Sabik, L.M., presented at the biennial conference of the American Society of Health Economists, Philadelphia, PA, June 2016.

“Health Care Related Needs of Pregnant Prisoners,” by Dallaire, D., Forestell, C., and Boland, A., presented at the conference on “Bridging the Gap Between Corrections, Health Care, and Community Resources,” Richmond, VA, May 2016.

“Market Penalties and Long-Term Operating Performance Impacts of Product Recalls: The Role of Firm Disclosure,” and “Organizational Learning from Product Recalls: The Role of Firm Disclosure of Quality Failure Sources,” by Johnson-Hall, T.D. and Hall, D.C., presented at the Production and Operations Management Society Conference, Orlando, FL, May 2016.

“Gender and Intergenerational Mobility: Using Health Outcomes to Compare Intergenerational Mobility Across Gender and Over Time,” by Parman, J., presented at Williams College, Stanford University, University of Pittsburgh, and University of Iowa, March and April 2016.

“The Role of Medical Expenditure Risk in Portfolio Allocation Decisions,” by Ayyagari, P. and He, D., presented at the annual meeting of Allied Social Science Associations (ASSA) conducted by the American Economic Association, San Francisco, CA, January 2016.

“Municipalization and Disease: Evidence from the Public Acquisition of Private Waterworks in 19th Century England,” by Beach, B., Troesken, W., and Tynan, N., presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Economic Association, New Orleans, LA, November 2015.

### Publications

“Typhoid Fever, Water Quality, and Human Capital Formation,” by Beach, B., Ferrie, J., Saavedra, M., and Troesken, W. *The Journal of Economic History* 76(1): 41-75, 2016.

“The Mortality Consequences of Distinctively Black Names,” by Cook, L.D., Logan, T.D., and Parman, J.M. *Explorations in Economic History* 59: 114-125, 2016.

(continued on the following page)

### William & Mary Faculty Disseminate Health Policy Research: Publications (continued)

“Childhood Health and Sibling Outcomes: Nurture Reinforcing Nature During the 1918 Influenza Pandemic,” by Parman, J. *Explorations in Economic History* 58: 22-43, 2015.

“Mitigating the Effects of Low Birth Weight: Evidence from Randomly Assigned Adoptees,” by Beach, B. and Saavedra, M. *American Journal of Health Economics* 1(3): 275-296, 2015.

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### Daily Press Highlights Study on ACA Dependent Coverage Expansion Effects



John Snouffer, a 2015 Schroeder Center health policy fellow, recently presented his research on the effects of the Affordable Care Act’s (ACA) dependent coverage expansion on Virginia’s young adults at William & Mary’s Graduate Research Symposium. The *Daily Press* highlighted John’s study in a March 18, 2016 article entitled “Student Researchers Find Mixed Results with Affordable Care Act at William and Mary Symposium.”

The ACA required that all insurance plans covering dependents extend that coverage to children up to age 26 beginning on or after September 23, 2010. The *Daily Press* article reported John’s findings that this ACA coverage mandate increased non-emergency hospital admissions by 9% among patients ages 19-25 and increased non-emergency mental illness admissions by 12% when compared to Virginians ages 27-29, who did not receive expanded health coverage under the ACA. John is quoted as saying his findings were “encouraging” and that he hopes his research “may help legislators make more informed decisions” about health insurance coverage in the future.

John received a B.A. from William & Mary in 2015, and will graduate with a M.P.P. in 2016.

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### Evaluating Public Health Initiatives and the Impact of Mandatory Testing

Every semester, the Schroeder Center provides support to William & Mary faculty to hire undergraduate research assistants on ongoing health policy research projects. Since 2010, the Schroeder Center has employed over 40 undergraduate students, representing a wide range of majors, on faculty-led projects.

During the Spring 2016 semester, the Schroeder Centers supported two projects:

**Evaluating the Efficacy of Public Health Initiatives** (Faculty Member: Brian Beach, Ph.D., Economics; Research Assistant: Yi Wang, Economics, 2016). This project’s goal is to digitize annual mortality statistics (1900-1960) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and to use this data to evaluate the efficacy of public health initiatives.

**Assessing the Ability of Mandatory Testing to Control the Spread of Disease** (Faculty Member: John Parman, Ph.D., Economics; Research Assistant: Lauren Hurley, Economics, 2017). This project studies the timing and scope of premarital blood test laws to examine their impact on marriage rates, birth rates, and syphilis morbidity rates among adults and infants.