



HEALTH POLICY & MANAGEMENT PHD PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

FALL 2020

Welcome, New & Returning PhD Students!

Welcome to the start of a new school year! Autumn has always been a time of optimism for me, and optimism is certainly what we need now. The Calendar year 2020 has been challenging, so let's all hope that the academic year 2020-2021 brings a fresh start.

The Department and University are doing what they can to get things going in a productive direction. Classes will be online for both Fall and Winter Quarters, and while a decision about Spring has not been made, don't buy those fancy shoes yet. While it's disappointing not to be together, this is the right choice for campus safety, and faculty have been hard at work to make the Zoom format meaningful and engaging.

UCLA at all levels has also been engaged in a process of responding to demands for racial justice that have been given new urgency by the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and others. The university will be hiring 10 new faculty across campus to address issues of the Black Experience, and our Department will compete to be the home for one of those faculty slots. The Department is also reviewing its curriculum systematically and will offer trainings for all faculty in promoting more inclusive classrooms.

UCLA was recently ranked the #1 public university in the country. As we move into a heavy season, I'm optimistic the PhD program can continue to contribute to this record of achievement.

- Fred Zimmerman, Director of the MS & PhD programs



Congratulations to HPM PhD students who completed their dissertations and graduated this spring!

- Jonathan Baghdadi, "Use of the Sepsis Bundle in Hospital-Onset and Community-Onset Sepsis and Effects of Lack of Insurance in Community-Onset Sepsis" (*co-chairs: Jack Needleman and Robert Brook*)
- Landon Gibson, "Causal Inferences with Longitudinal Data: Moving Beyond Difference-in-Difference" (*chair: Frederick Zimmerman*)
- Hiroshi Gotanda, "The Effects of the Affordable Care Act Medicaid Expansions on Out-of-Pocket Spending, Healthcare Utilization, and Health Outcomes" (*chair: Gerald Kominski*)
- Arpan Arun Patel, "Advance Care Planning in Patients with Decompensated Cirrhosis at Liver Transplant Centers" (*co-chairs: Emmeline Chuang and Jack Needleman*)
- Claire Than, "Gender Sensitivity in Primary Care: Three Studies" (*chair: Jack Needleman*)
- Ayae Yamamoto, "Healthcare Use and Outcomes of Homeless Patients: Multi-State Population-Based Analyses" (*chair: Jack Needleman*)
- Dahai Yue, "Educational Attainment and Hospital Admissions: New Evidence from the Health and Retirement Study" (*co-chairs: Ninez Ponce and Adriana Lleras-Muney*)

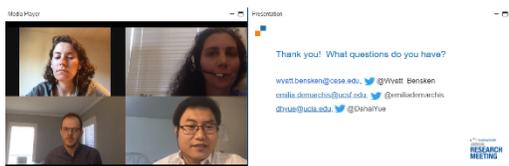
Congratulations to these students recognized at the FSPH Academic Honors and Awards Ceremony on June 10:



- **Eryn Block:** E. Richard (Rick) Brown Social Justice Fellowship
- **Taylor Rogers:** Public Health Impact Fellowship
- **Heidi West:** Samuel J. Tibbitts Fellowship
- **Dahai Yue:** Dean's Outstanding Student Award

Additionally, **Landon Gibson** and **Dahai Yue** were inducted into the Delta Omega honorary society.

It was also an exciting year for HPM PhD students presenting at AcademyHealth's Annual Research Meeting, which was chaired by Professor Ninez Ponce.



- Dahai Yue presented "How to Identify Homelessness Using Administrative Data"
- Taylor Rogers participated in a special session about "Creating Safe Spaces in the Workplace: Promoting a Diverse, Inclusive, and Sustainable Research Culture"



Workplace: Promoting a Diverse, Inclusive, and Sustainable Research Culture"

Several students led poster presentations:

- Ellie Albertson, "Coordination of Health Care and Housing Services for Homeless and Other High-Need Medicaid Patients: Lessons from California's Medicaid Section 1115 Pilot Program"
- Purnima S. Bharath, "Facilitation as a Key Ingredient in Enhancing Team Behaviors and Communication in Primary Care Quality Improvement Teams in VA"
- Amy Bonilla, "Mental Health Staffing at HRSA-Funded Health Centers to Improve Comprehensive Care Access"
- Petra Rasmussen, "Star Power: How Do Consumers Respond to Health Plan Quality Star Ratings?"
- Jeffrey Rollman, "Barriers and Facilitators of Medication Adherence in High-Cost, High-Need Veterans"
- Brayan Viegas-Seixas, "Examining the Relationship between Childhood Adversities and Cognitive Health in Later Life: Evidence from Brazil"
- Ayae Yamamoto, "Pregnancy and Delivery Outcomes of Homeless Compared to Non-Homeless Women – a Multi-State Study"



Publication Spotlight!

Three HPM doctoral students and an HPM faculty member recently coauthored a paper (see below, Yue et al). We asked Dahai to tell the story behind the paper.

"The research idea came from a paper Ninez Ponce (HPM faculty), Petra Rasmussen (HPM doctoral student), and I [Dahai Yue] worked on evaluating the impact of Medicaid expansions on access to care. We found very few research studies on how expansions affected patients with diabetes. Given the enormous economic burden and the diseases, we thought it would be exciting and important to look at. We then asked Jamie Godwin (HPM doctoral student) to join us for his expertise in conducting research among patients with diabetes and also asked Yuhui Zhu (EPI doctoral student) to contribute her expertise in causal inference, especially the construction of Directed Acyclic Graphs (DAGs). We benefited a lot from each other's distinct perspectives. We found that the ACA increased care coverage and affordability for people with diabetes immediately after Medicaid expansions, but not after 2016. Closing coverage and affordability gaps was largely driven by improvements in non-expansion states."

Meet some of the new HPM PhD Students!

Ashkan Ara: Fortunate husband of the loveliest lady on the planet, "dad" for our two poofy dogs, triathlete, tennis player, and rheumatology "STAR" fellow at UCLA - combined rheumatology fellowship and health policy & management Ph.D. program.



Valentina Lin: Valentina's research interests include social determinants of health, access to care, health systems transformation, health equity, and global health. In her spare time, Valentina enjoys traveling, hiking, and exploring national parks.



Matt Chenoweth: Hi! My name is Matt. I'm a health economist and epidemiologist by training, with research interests in the design and analysis of clinical trials, as well as statistical methods related to health policy, evidence synthesis, and economic evaluations. I live with my wife Laura in Cambridge, MA and enjoy running, hiking, reading, good coffee, and craft beer.



Ashwini Nagappan's research interests lie in direct-to-consumer medicine and related emerging technologies. In her free time, she enjoys all things art, discovering new music, and hiking.



Kendall Darfler: I am interested in substance use policy research, with a focus on treatment access, harm reduction, and peer-delivered services. I have two dogs, named Seabass and Harvey, and I love gardening on my patio, which often entails preventing them from eating the plants.



Joseph Nwadiuko is an internal medicine physician interested in the intersection of immigration, global and US health systems, and policy. He's currently joining virtually from Philadelphia, and when he's not working you can find him cooking, hiking, or looking for the best new spiced jams.



We also have 2 new faculty members joining the HPM department. Welcome!



➤ **Xi Zhu:** "I was trained as an organizational sociologist. My research interests in healthcare organizations and teams evolved as a result of a longstanding curiosity about how social structures and institutions affect human behaviors, including decision making, and the influence of important mentors (Douglas Wholey, David Knoke, and Andy Van de Ven in particular) at specific points in my career. I like to use a variety of data sources and methods in my research, including collecting primary data through survey, interviews, and archives, and applying proper (and fun) analytical methods such as social network analysis, statistics, and qualitative comparative analysis. For example, one of my current projects is using social network analysis to measure the structures of communication networks among healthcare professionals providing care to the same cancer patients and explore how these structures affect team and patient outcomes. Besides working and spending time with my family, I enjoy running, swimming, and practicing Chinese calligraphy."



➤ **Daniel Eisenberg:** "I am excited to join the HPM community and to contribute to the PhD program. I worked closely with many PhD students while at University of Michigan, and believe it is important for graduate students to take on leading roles in projects early in their careers. My research focuses mainly on mental health among children and youth, with an overarching goal to understand how to invest most effectively in the health and development of young people. My training is in economics but my work is multidisciplinary and I enjoy learning from diverse perspectives. On the personal side, I am a bit of a sports junkie--both playing sports and following professional and college teams. I also enjoy traveling to beautiful and interesting places with my wife and two daughters (now ages 9 and 11). We especially like going to France (my mother is French) and are also excited to discover more of California in the coming years."

Recent publications by HPM PhD students:

Martin, E. and Jones, J. (2020). **Palliative Radiotherapy Education for Hospice and Palliative Medicine Fellows: A National Needs Assessment.** *Journal of Palliative Medicine*, 23(2): 268-274.

Yue, D., Zhu, Y., Rasmussen, P.W., Godwin, J., Ponce, N.A. (2020). **Coverage, Affordability, and Care for Low-Income People with Diabetes: 4 Years After the Affordable Care Act's Medicaid Expansions.** *Journal of General Internal Medicine*, 35: 2222-2224.

Hubbard, J., Phiri, K., Moucheraud, C., McBride, K., Bardon, A., Balakasi, K., Lungu, E., Dovel, K., Kakwesa, G., Hoffman, R.M. (2020). **A Qualitative Assessment of Provider and Client Experiences with 3- and 6-Month Dispensing Intervals of Antiretroviral Therapy in Malawi.** *Global Health Science and Practice*, 8(1): 18-27.

Olmos-Ochoa, T.T., Bharath, P., Ganz, D.A., Noel, P.H., Chawla, N., Barnard, J.M., Rose, D.E., Stockdale, S.E., Simon, A., Finley, E.P. (2020). **Staff Perspectives on Primary Care Teams as De Facto "Hubs" for Care Coordination in VA: A Qualitative Study.** *Journal of General Internal Medicine*, 34(Suppl 1): 82-89.

Cordasco, K.M., Saifu, H.N., Song, H., Hsiao, J.J., Khafaf, M., Doyle, B., Rubenstein, L.V., Chrystal, J.G., Bharath P., Ganz, D.A. (2020) **The ED-PACT Tool Initiative: Communicating Veterans' Care Needs After Emergency Department Visits.** *Journal for Healthcare Quality*, 42(3): 157-165.

Oronce, C.I.A., Scannell, C.A., Kawachi, I., Tsugawa, Y. (2020). **Association Between State-Level Income Inequality and COVID-19 Cases and Mortality in the USA.** *Journal of General Internal Medicine*, 35(9): 2791-2793.

Tao W., Zheng, Z., Dang, H., Li, P., Chuong, L., Yue, D., Wen, J., Zhao, R., Li, W., Kominski, G. (2020). **Towards universal health coverage: achievements and challenges of 10 years of healthcare reform in China.** *BMJ Global Health*, 5(3): e002087.

Albertson, E.M., Scannell, C., Ashtari, N., Barnert, E. (2020). **Eliminating Gaps in Medicaid Coverage During Reentry After Incarceration.** *American Journal of Public Health*, 110(3): 317-321.

Roiland, R., Singletary, E., Saunders, R.S., Dentzer, S., Counts, N., Pereira, N., Schor, J., Halfon, N. (2020). **Alternative Payment Models to Support Child Health & Development: How to Design and Implement New Models.** Duke Margolis Center for Health Policy; Center for Healthier Children, Families & Communities; Mental Health America.

Block, E.P., Xu, H., Azocar, F., Ettner, S.L. (2020). **The Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act evaluation study: Child and adolescent behavioral health service expenditures and utilization.** *Health Economics*.