Highlights from the Last Month

Improve the Performance of Healthcare Markets

Upcoming health insurance mergers may affect health care prices and consumer premiums, but exactly how is open for debate. Erin Trish and Paul Ginsburg discuss theories that suggest the possibility of price increases in this LA Times article.

A post by Dana Goldman in the New York Times shines an alternative light, giving evidence to suggest less competition may not actually be such a bad thing.

Increase Value in Healthcare Delivery

Seth Seabury, Dana Goldman, and Darius Lakdawalla published a study that looked at whether measuring medication adherence might be a good way to rate plan performance. In discussing the correlation they found they write, "The constellation of activities that high-adherence plans undertake to improve quality seems to produce gains in health outcomes for patients."

Improve Health Outcomes for an Aging Society

The Schaeffer Center is proud to announce the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has renewed the Roybal Center for Health Policy Simulation’s funding for an additional five years. "This renewal will allow us to expand our scope to international questions of aging and learn what types of public policy can work in a global setting," said Etienne Gaudette, Director of Policy at the Roybal Center.

Foster Better Pharmaceutical Policy and Global Regulation

Schaeffer Center researchers Etienne Gaudette, Seth Seabury, and Neeraj Sood presented at the 2015 International Health Economics Association (iHEA) World Conference.

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Faculty Announcements

Neeraj Sood was appointed to Vice Dean for Research for the USC Price School of Public Policy.

Geoffrey Joyce was appointed as chair of the Department of Pharmaceutical and Health Economics at the USC School of Pharmacy.

Michael Nichol was appointed as the Interim Dean for Faculty Affairs for the USC Price School of Public Policy.

Upcoming Events

Seminar Series
Leemore Dafny
Tuesday | 9.29.2015
Congress in Milan, Italy. The papers presented by Gaudette, Seabury, and Sood spanned from patent litigation to aspirin use in elderly populations to consumer price shopping.

Blog: The Evidence Base

- **Ending Suffering by Ending Persons** by Jason Doctor
- **The Schaeffer Center's Data Core Bring a Wealth of Experience, Expertise** by Jillian Wallis
- **Reports of a Slowdown in Childhood Obesity Don't tell the Whole Story** by Ashlesha Datar
- **Myopia and Complex Dynamic Incentives** by Gautam Gowrisankaran
- **Four Evidence-Based Strategies to Improve Medicare** by Alice Liu

New Schaeffer Publications

- **Medication Adherence and Measures of Health Plan Quality** by Seth A. Seabury, Darius N. Lakdawalla, J. Samantha Dougherty, Jeff Sullivan, and Dana P. Goldman in *AJMC*

Schaeffer Experts in the News

- **Paul Ginsburg** in *LA Times*: Anthem to buy Cigna for $54 billion, creating nation’s largest insurer
- **Dana Goldman** in *Modern Healthcare*: Medicaid plans struggle to provide mental health services
- **Dana Goldman** in *San Diego Union-Tribune*: Can Medicare afford personalized medicine?
- **Neeraj Sood** in *AcademyHealth Blog*: Savings associated with consumer directed health plans
- **Neeraj Sood** in *Vox*: George W. Bush was a much better president than liberals like to admit
- **Erin Trish** and **Paul Ginsburg** in *LA Times*: As health insurers merge, consumers' premiums are likely to rise
- **Erin Trish** in *San Diego Union-Tribune*: Is Obamacare working?

About the Schaeffer Center

The mission of the **Leonard D. Schaeffer Center for Health Policy & Economics** at the **University of Southern California** is to measurably improve value in health through evidence based policy solutions, research excellence, transformative education, and private and public sector engagement. The Center is a unique collaboration between the **USC Sol Price School of Public Policy** and the **USC School of Pharmacy**.

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Read our blog at:
http://evidencebase.usc.edu/