A Renewed Focus
The Schaeffer Center 2014-2015 Annual Report

The 2014-2015 Annual Report showcases the center's ongoing commitment to evidence-based research and a glimpse into the work that has been done across the center's four initiatives:

1. Improve the performance of healthcare markets.
2. Increase value in healthcare delivery.
3. Improve health outcomes for an aging population.
4. Foster better pharmaceutical policy and global regulation.

May Highlights

Improve the Performance of Healthcare Markets

Neeraj Sood Provides Expert Testimony at a CA State Senate Hearing

Neeraj Sood testified to the California State Senate Committee on Health at two informational hearings. The topic of one hearing was high-deductible health plans. Their increased popularity has raised concern that individuals are reducing their health care to off set costs. Compounding this complication is the fact that many people who are newly insured "don't have a lot of experience with the intricacies of the health care system," explained Neeraj Sood. In a separate hearing, he provide evidence on why health care costs are high and continue to rise.

Increase Value In Healthcare Delivery

Mitchell Katz Speaks on Health Policy for the Spring Quintiles Seminar Series

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Faculty Announcements

Paul Ginsburg Appointment
Paul Ginsburg has been appointed to the AHRQ National Advisory Council.

Etienne Gaude, Director of Roybal
Etienne Gaude has been selected as Policy Director of the Roybal Center for Health Policy Simulation.

Neeraj Sood Finalist for NIHCM Award
A paper by Neeraj Sood, Bob Kocher and others titled, "Association Between Availability of Health Service Prices and Payments for These Services" is a finalist for the 21st Annual NIHCM
Dr. Mitchell Katz, director of the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services, spoke about the intersection of public health issues and health policy as part of the Schaeffer Center’s Spring Quintile Seminar Series. Drawing on stories from his efforts in San Francisco and LA, he discussed the creativity and gumption needed to tackle large scale public health priorities and the importance of sound policy decisions.

Improve Health Outcomes for an Aging Society

Paul Ginsburg on the consequences of Fee-for-Service Medicine in vulnerable populations

While debating Richard Amerling, Paul Ginsburg pointed to the negative effects that fee-for-service (FFS) medicine can have on elderly and vulnerable populations in a recent article in the Wall Street Journal. Ginsburg talked about how hospitalization of elderly patients leads to post-acute care but that under the current FFS model, neither physicians nor hospitals have an incentive to care about the quality or cost of this required post-acute care. Amerling and Ginsburg also joined reporter Melinda Beck in a video interview on the topic.

Foster Better Pharmaceutical Policy and Global Regulation

Dana Goldman on the Current Drug Pricing Model

Dana Goldman argued the way drugs are currently priced is inadequate in an interview with AJMC at AMCP’s 27th Annual Meeting and Expo. Pricing drugs effectively will require a very different model argues Goldman in the video: "For drugs that are highly effective, we want to reward the innovators but then we want to price [the drugs] low so that everyone has access," he explained.

New Schaeffer Publications

- Daniella Meeker, Jason Doctor, & Tara Knight; "Use of Insurance Against a Small Loss as an Incentive Strategy" in Decision Analysis.
- Warren Stevens, Tomas Philipson, Zeba Khan, Joanna MacEwan, Mark Linthicum, and Dana Goldman "Cancer Mortality Reductions Were Greatest Among Countries Where Cancer Care Spending Rose the Most, 1995-2007" in Health Affairs.
- Darius Lakdawalla, et al; "Quality-Adjusted Cost of Care: A Meaningful Way to Measure Growth in Innovation Cost Versus The Value of Health Gains" in Health Affairs.

Schaeffer Experts in the News

Research Award.

Academic Programs

MS in Healthcare Decision Analysis
We are Hiring a Deputy Program Director to lead the Master of Science in Healthcare Decision Analysis (HCDA) program!

The USC School of Pharmacy’s MS in HCDA is now formally housed within the Schaeffer Center. For more information about the program, and student admissions click here.

Executive Masters of Health Administration
The USC Price School of Public Policy’s EMHA program is currently accepting applications for the Fall 2015 cohort.

The program offers the opportunity for healthcare professionals to gain advanced skills and knowledge in healthcare administration and leadership.
• **Paul Ginsburg** in *LA Times*; *With Billions in the Bank, Blue Shield of California Loses its State Tax-Exempt Status.*
• **Paul Ginsburg & Glenn Melnick** on *KPCC; State Revokes Blue Shield of California's Tax-Exempt Status.*
• **Paul Ginsburg** in *USA Today*; *Hospitals Leave Downtowns for More Prosperous Gigs.*
• **Paul Ginsburg** in *The New York Times*; *Doctors See Benefits and Risks in Medicare Changes.*
• **Paul Ginsburg** in *The Wall Street Journal; Why Growth in Medicare Prices Vastly Outstrips Rise in Health Costs.*
• **Paul Ginsburg** in *The Wall Street Journal; Should the US Move Away from Fee-for-Service Medicine?*
• **Dana Goldman** in *AJMC; Dr. Dana Goldman Says Drug Pricing is Being Viewed the Wrong Way.*
• **Glenn Melnick** on *KPCC; A Look at the Big Bucks Behind Nonprofit Health Insurers Like Blue Shield.*
• **John Romley, Dana Goldman, Neeraj Sood** in *The Economist; Will Obamacare Cut Costs? The Growth in America's Health-care Spending is Slowing.*
• **Neeraj Sood** in *KPCC; California State Lawmakers are Concerned about Health Costs.*
• **Neeraj Sood** in *Modern Healthcare; Employers Seeing Benefits of High-Deductible Plans.*
• **Neeraj Sood** in *NPR; High-Deductible Health Plans Cut Costs, At Least for Now.*

### 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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