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- Newsletter Spotlight: Marian Jarlenski and Eric Roberts Discuss Payment Reform
- Pitt MHA Rises in the 2019 *U.S. News and World Report* Rankings
- HPM Celebrates Fifth Year of the Dawn Gideon Lecture and Scholars

## HEALTH POLICY AND MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER FALL—WINTER 2019

- Wes Rohrer Retires, Receives Professor Emeritus Designation
- HPM Alumnus Mark Sevco (MHA/MBA '91) Named President of UPMC Children's Hospital
- HPM Welcomes HPM Alumnus Rob Curry (MPH '79) as the Executive in Residence for 2019-2020

# LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



I seem to be sounding like a broken record when I once again say that there are a host of exciting things happening in the Department of Health Policy and Management that we need to report to the alumni and community of friends and associates. But, in fact, it's true again. This newsletter reports the outstanding accomplishments of our program, students, faculty,

and staff, which I am sure you will agree demonstrate the ongoing success of the department.

Foremost in this news is the marked improvement of the MHA program in the *U.S. News and World Report* from 29th to 17th – making us currently the highest ranked program in the State of Pennsylvania. Congratulations to Kevin Broom and all the faculty and students in the program – details on page 3.

Our students continue to form the foundation of the excellence in our educational programs, and Dr. Broom provides highlights on page 7. On page 15, we profile our Dawn Gideon Scholarship awardees, followed later with profiles of two of our PhD students. We continue to place our MHA and MPH students in competitive administrative residencies for the summer, and our extended residencies remain popular and competitive. We graduated an excellent class this past May; they have been hired into competitive fellowships and employment both in western PA and around the country. We have outstanding students entering all of our programs this year, and the details are found on pages 17-23.

We have had several important comings and goings in the department. We would like to welcome Bonnie Jin, PhD, as a new assistant professor whose expertise is in healthcare management and organizational behavior (see page 6). She will be teaching our MHA and PhD students as well as developing more research relationships with the organizational behavior folks at Katz.

As many of you know, Donald Burke stepped down as Dean of the school this year, and one of our own, Everette James, JD, MBA has been appointed the interim dean (page 6). The school is in capable hands while we search for a new dean.

It is with mixed emotions that I also report that Wes Rohrer, MBA, PhD, has retired and been granted emeritus status. The contributions Dr. Rohrer has made to the educational programs in this department, Pitt Public Health, and the greater university are too numerous to fully describe in a newsletter – it would take a multi-volume book! See the pictures from his celebration on page 4.

The research activities of the department continue to expand, and we highlight the work of Marian Jarlenski and Eric Roberts, two of our outstanding junior faculty, on their research into healthcare payment reform (page 13). Also – congratulations go to Dr. Jarlenski, who was the recipient of the John D. Thompson Prize from AUPHA for her contributions to health services research (see page 8 for details). Coleman Drake, PhD received an institutional research training grant, and Eric Roberts received a K01 training grant from the AHRQ. More research details on page 9.

As always, we remain thankful for our alumni and the ongoing contributions that they make to the department. We welcome Robert Curry (MPH '79), CEO of Emanate Health, as the current executive in residence for the MHA program. We applaud Meghan Boehm (MPH '18) who was named to the *Pittsburgh Business Times* "30 under 30" this year (details on page 10). Mark Sevco (MHA/MBA '91) was named the new president and CEO of UPMC Children's Hospital (page 11), and he continues to participate as an adjunct professor and member of our National Advisory Committee. Finally, the alumni association hosted another tremendous Dawn Gideon Lecture and webcast in what has become a signature event for the HPM department and our alumni.

As always – please keep in touch. Let us know what you are doing, and what we can share with your colleagues.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Mark S. Roberts".

**Mark S. Roberts, MD, MPP**

Professor and Chair, Health Policy and Management  
Director, Public Health Dynamics Lab

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## PITT MHA RISES IN THE 2019 *U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT* RANKINGS

The University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health (Pitt Public Health) is pleased to announce that in the recent 2019 edition of the *U.S. News and World Report* rankings, Pitt's MHA program rose from 29th to the 17th program in health care management in the nation. This was a tremendous leap and positions our MHA program as the highest-ranking program in Pennsylvania.

This move places Pitt's MHA program ahead of comparable prestigious programs at institutions such as New York University, Georgetown University, and Boston University. Additionally, this jump now ranks Pitt's MHA program ahead of those of other Pennsylvania universities, such as Penn State and Temple.

The *U.S. News and World Report* rankings are based on the results of peer assessment surveys sent to program directors and senior faculty members of graduate programs in the field of health care management. To be eligible for the health care management rankings, programs must be accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Management Education (CAHME).

This high national ranking will attract many high caliber students and faculty to the program, serving to strengthen the program in the future. This wonderful achievement will be sure to impress applicants, alumni, and stakeholders alike.

The MHA program at Pitt has undergone several changes over the last several years, including hiring new faculty and bolstering the professionalism of the Department's students through a new course that allows career exploration and development. Many new changes have been ushered in by Kevin Broom, PhD, MBA, and for that, we would like to extend a special thank you. Broom joined our faculty in 2017 as the director of the MHA and MHA/MBA programs. He additionally serves as the vice chair for education, and so provides oversight for ongoing academic programs within the department as a whole. His expertise and guidance have shaped the department, and in particular the MHA and MHA/MBA programs, into what they are today.

It is only through the collective efforts of our faculty, students, and staff that we have been able to make such great strides in the national rankings. The drive and passion that resides within our program are key reasons for its success. The Department of Health Policy and Management would like to extend our enormous gratitude to our alumni for their continued support. Over the last several years, the Department strove to reinvigorate the curriculum, strengthen our alumni network, and improve our relationships with the health care industry. We appreciate the connections and assistance provided by our extended network of alumni and look forward to growing alongside our network.

## WES ROHRER RETIRES, RECEIVES EMERITUS DESIGNATION

After 43 years at the University of Pittsburgh, Wes Rohrer, MBA, PhD, is transitioning from active faculty to Emeritus.

Rohrer began his career at the University of Pittsburgh following the completion of his MBA from the Pitt Graduate School of Business in 1976. Before even starting his search for a position in corporate human resources, he was asked to serve as the program coordinator of the EMBA program. He remarks that following this, he worked with Associate Dean for Administration Bill Smith as the school's business manager. During his first day on the job, he was told that he'd be teaching a course that day in labor relations and human resources in health care. "I learned to teach on the job!" he reminisces.

Throughout his career, he taught 20 graduate and five undergraduate courses on wide-ranging topics. He is not only a prolific teacher but a popular one; he was awarded the 2017 James L. Craig Excellence in Teaching Award from the Graduate School of Public Health students. He describes this honor "as one of the most treasured awards that I have received" and looks back on this moment with fondness as one of the high points of his prolific career.

**"...the ties that should bind us together as members of a global community are far more profound than our differences."**

Between 2011 and 2013, Rohrer took a leave of absence from the University to act as the Associate Dean for Administration and Policy and as the Chair of the Department of Health Systems and Quality Management at the College of Public Health and Health Informatics (CPH&HI) at the King Saud bin Abdulaziz University for Health Sciences in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. He describes this time as a "...cultural immersion experience that affected me deeply, in part by recognizing that the ties that should bind us together as members of a global community are far more profound than our differences." In this position, he was instrumental in developing a new curriculum and educational policies for the university and was a key player in strategic planning for the new College of Public Health. He was offered a full-time position following his tenure, but instead elected to return to Pittsburgh to resume his faculty role within Pitt Public Health's Department of Health Policy and Management.

Prior to starting his career at Pitt, Rohrer was already



Mark Roberts and Wes Rohrer



Ed Ricci and Wes Rohrer



Wes Rohrer



Wes Rohrer and brother



Wes Rohrer and Janet Rohrer

acquainted to the academic world at Pitt. His father, Wesley M. Rohrer Jr., was a faculty member in the School of Engineering. His mother was also part of the Pitt community, earning her master's degree in education while Rohrer was in high school. He has fond memories of spending time in Oakland throughout all stages of his life and considers the area a "second home."

Outside of academia, Rohrer lives a full and varied life. He has written poetry for decades and had one piece published. He plans to self-publish a collection of his work during his retirement. Additionally, he chairs the board of Off the Floor Pittsburgh, a nonprofit agency that distributes donated furniture to families in housing crises. He is also a board member of CLASS, an organization that provides services to people with disabilities. Rohrer is an active layperson in his faith community and notes that he recently completed a Master of Religion degree in Church History and Anglican Theology from Trinity School for Ministry. He is a

## DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES

runner as well, though he quips that he may have to transition to long-distance biking soon—out of respect for his knees.

Rohrer comments that his favorite part of his job has been teaching and mentoring young adult graduate students and watching their careers progress. He will miss the engagement of his students, the chance to recruit students face to face, and the challenging and fun moments that come with teaching. He hopes to be remembered by his students having made a positive difference in their lives by encouraging and challenging them and giving them new perspectives.

While he found his time with the University as incredibly fulfilling,

especially when working with students, Rohrer is looking forward to retirement. He will continue to be involved with the University and will be teaching a course in the Fall 2019 term. However, he is eager to step back from some of the anxiety of deadlines, reports, and preparation for classes. He plans to explore the luxury of time with himself and his wife, Janet.

Mark Roberts, chair in the Department of Health Policy and Management, perhaps gave the most fitting salute: “Let’s not completely say goodbye—he’ll still have his office for at least a year... I will miss the insanely loud pounding on the keyboard, however.”

# THANK YOU, WES ROHRER!

### Taru Gupta (MPH '17)

“As my professor, you restored my faith not only in the education system but in the goodness of humanity. I fondly remember your passion and drive for students’ success. Thank you for your many contributions towards the betterment of the future generations and society.”

### Amy Ngoc Diem Tran (MHA '19)

“I celebrate the retirement of a legend today—a mentor, a leader, and a man of faith. Thank you for your endless dedication and commitment to your students, academia, and the community.”

### Ray Van Cleve (HPM '19)

The man, the myth, the legend. Thank you for all your many years of service Dr. Rohrer!

## INTRODUCING DONOHUE-SABIK DUO TO LEAD DOCTORAL AND MS PROGRAMS

Julie Donohue is a professor and vice chair for research in the Department of Health Policy and Management, director of the Medicaid Research Center, and now will co-direct HPM’s PhD and MS programs alongside Lindsay Sabik. Donohue conducts research on insurance coverage, financing, and delivery of health care with a focus on use of prescription drugs and behavioral health services. Donohue received her PhD in health policy from Harvard University and completed a post-doctoral fellowship in pharmaceutical policy research at Harvard Medical School.

In addition to her new role as co-director of HPM’s PhD and MS programs, Sabik is an associate professor in HPM. Sabik is also a member of the UPMC Hillman Cancer Center Biobehavioral Oncology Program and director of the Workgroup on Cancer Health Services Research within the Pitt Health Policy Institute. Sabik is a health economist and health services researcher investigating the impact of state and federal policies on healthcare access, utilization, and health outcomes, with a particular interest in cancer care for underserved patient groups. Sabik received her PhD in health policy, with a focus in health economics, from Harvard University.



Julie Donohue



Lindsay Sabik

### A. EVERETTE JAMES APPOINTED INTERIM DEAN OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH



We are pleased to announce that Everette James, JD, MBA is stepping into the position of interim dean of the Graduate School of Public Health effective July 1, 2019. James succeeds our long-standing dean, Donald S. Burke.

Eleanor Feingold will serve as the executive associate dean of Pitt Public Health. Feingold is a professor in the Department of Biostatistics and is concurrently serving as the interim chair of the Department of Human Genetics. We are confident that the school will continue to grow and thrive under their expert guidance. The University will launch a national search for a permanent dean starting Fall 2019.

James is the M. Allen Pond Professor of Health Policy and Management and serves as the director of the University of Pittsburgh's Health Policy Institute. In addition, he acts as the associate vice chancellor for health policy and planning for the Schools of the Health Sciences. His prolific nine-year career at the University of Pittsburgh is marked with many significant administrative, teaching, research, and service accomplishments. Under his guidance, the Health Policy Institute has become a national thought-leader on research-based policymaking. He established the Pitt Comparative Effectiveness Research Center, which has contributed to more than \$80 million in interdisciplinary health services research funding across the Schools of the Health Sciences and UPMC. He was instrumental in the creation of the Pitt Medicaid Research Center in conjunction with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, which provides research support

to programs that serve our most vulnerable populations within health care. He served as the principal investigator for over \$12 million in foundation, federal, and state grants to conduct and apply research to generate informed public health policy. He chaired and served on many statewide boards and commissions including the Pennsylvania Health Policy Board, the Pennsylvania Drug, Device and Cosmetic Board, the Health Research Advisory Committee, and the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council. His works have been published in such prestigious journals as *The New England Journal of Medicine*, *JAMA*, and *Forbes*. He has authored over 50 articles on health law and policy.

Before joining Pitt, James had a distinguished career in health care law and government. James received his undergraduate degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Following this, he received his JD from the Illinois Institute of Technology Chicago-Kent College of Law and went on to earn an MBA from the Stuart School of Business. Before assuming his current role at Pitt Public Health, he served as the 25th Pennsylvania Secretary of Health, a role in which he oversaw the regulation of all the hospitals, nursing homes, and managed care plans in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Prior to serving as Secretary of Health, he acted as Senior Advisor for Health and Pensions to the governor of Pennsylvania. In this role, he implemented lifesaving policies, such as the state's first Clean Indoor Air Act and the Healthcare-Associated Infection Prevention Law. He additionally drafted and implemented regulations to expand health professional's scope of practice, as well as regulations for new nutrition and physical activity standards for Pennsylvania school children.

He served in the federal government as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Service Industries and Finance in the U.S. Department of Commerce. He additionally was a partner in the Washington, D.C. law firm of Le Boeuf, Lamb, Green, and MacRae, a practice centered on insurance and healthcare corporate and regulatory matters.

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### HPM WELCOMES ASSISTANT PROFESSOR BONNIE JIN

We are pleased to announce that Bonnie Jin joined the Department of Health Policy and Management as an assistant professor in the tenure stream this past August 2019. Jin will focus on health care management research and teaching.

Jin comes from the Health Policy and Management Department in the School of Public Health at Yale University where she received her PhD in May 2019.

"I chose Pitt due to the collaborative and congenial environment here and am looking forward to joining such a lively community of scholars," said Jin.

Please join us in welcoming Jin to HPM and reach out to her via email [BJIN@pitt.edu](mailto:BJIN@pitt.edu).



# DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES



Greetings to all of our great alumni from back here at Pitt! Since we published our last newsletter, we have had several exciting things happen with our academic programs. Some of the accomplishments are detailed in this newsletter, and due to the timing, others will be detailed in our next edition. For now, I will cover the highlights.

First, we are very excited about the improved national ranking for our Master of Health Administration (MHA) program. In the latest *U.S. News and World Report* rankings of graduate programs in healthcare management, we jumped from #29 in the country to #17. We moved ahead of other high-quality programs at New York University, Southern Cal, Georgetown, Medical University of South Carolina, and the University of Florida. In the region, we also moved past Penn State University and Temple, thereby placing Pitt as the highest-ranked program within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. A lot of work went into helping improve our rankings, and those efforts will certainly continue as we move toward the next round of rankings which are tentatively slated for release in the Spring of 2022.

Our MHA and MPH students have been out front and center representing Pitt in case competitions against the other top universities from around the U.S. and Canada.

These competitions serve as developmental opportunities for our students where they can test their emerging competencies in a fast-paced, high-stress environment in front of many established health industry professionals. Over the past two semesters, Pitt students competed in a total of five case competitions. Our teams represented Pitt proudly by advancing to the semifinal rounds in all five competitions, while taking home one 1st-place and two 2nd-place finishes.

We also had great success in the fall fellowship market. Eight of our graduating students earned administrative fellowships with outstanding health organizations from across the country. They will spread the Pitt brand from coast to coast (New York, Virginia, and California), throughout the Midwest (Illinois, Ohio, and Michigan), and even locally here in Pittsburgh (two with UPMC). Details of each of the future fellows are posted on our website. The students' success venturing out into the job market reflects well on their efforts while here at Pitt, and we certainly look forward to seeing them accomplish great things as Pitt HPM alumni.

Since this issue is jam packed with news, I will keep my comments brief. I look forward to hopefully crossing paths with you in the future. H2P!

## **Kevin Broom**

Associate Professor  
Vice Chair for Education  
Director, MHA and MHA/MBA Programs

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## **EXECUTIVE IN RESIDENCE 2019-2020: ROBERT CURRY (MPH '79)**

The Department of Health Policy and Management welcomes Robert Curry (MPH '79), president and chief executive officer (CEO) of Emanate Health, as the executive in residence for the academic year 2019-2020. Curry joined Emanate Health after serving in the same capacity for five years at O'Connor Hospital in San Jose, California. Prior to joining O'Connor Hospital, Curry served as CEO of Thunderbird Medical Center, a 640-bed Banner Health System hospital in Phoenix, Arizona, for 13 years. In conjunction, he also served as CEO of Maryvale Samaritan Medical Center, a 340-bed community hospital and affiliate within the Banner Health System. Curry also has held executive positions with hospital systems in Youngstown, Ohio and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Curry was recognized by the *Los Angeles Business Journal* as one of the 500 most influential community and business leaders reshaping Los Angeles County in 2019. He serves as the board chair for Private Essential Access Community Hospitals (PEACH)—a network of private, core safety net hospitals in California that care for a disproportionate share of low-income, medically vulnerable patients. Curry is currently a Fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE). He serves on the board of directors and executive committee for the California Hospital Association. Curry previously served as a member on the board of the American Hospital Association, Region 9.



## RESEARCH AND FACULTY NEWS

The primary goal of the Department of Health Policy and Management is to improve public health through the planning, design, management, and evaluation of public and private health care payers and delivery systems. The core disciplines represented within the Department include health economics, health care policy, law, ethics, decision sciences, and organizational studies applied to health care systems. HPM faculty are national experts on Medicare and Medicaid policy, pharmaceutical policy, aging and long-term care, health economics, and evaluative and decision sciences. Faculty in the department are engaged in interdisciplinary research, scholarship, and publication addressing a range of problems relevant to health economics and policy, health services delivery and financing, outcome measurement, patient safety, and decision analysis. The Department has funded research projects totaling more than \$10 million. HPM has 22 full-time faculty members and more than 70 students currently enrolled in various degree programs within the Department.

### MARIAN JARLESKI RECEIVES JOHN D. THOMPSON PRIZE FOR YOUNG INVESTIGATORS

The Department of Health Policy and Management would like to congratulate Marian Jarleski for being named the recipient of the 2019 John D. Thompson Prize for Young Investigators! Jarleski was presented with this award at the AUPHA Annual Meeting in New Orleans in June. This award recognizes young faculty who have received their PhD within the past six years for their contributions to the research literature in the field of health services. Emphasis is placed on the significance of the investigator's research, the theoretical grounding of their work, their overall productivity, their status as an intellectual leader, the quality of the journals they have published in, and their contribution to education within the field.

During her acceptance speech, Jarleski spoke about some of the motivations that brought her to focus her research on mothers with substance use disorders who are currently on Medicaid. The theme of the evening, resilience, is defined as a person's ability to cope with acute and chronic stressors. She stated that resilience is a factor that has been recognized in the treatment of substance use disorder, and within her research, she seeks to improve accessibility and quality of care for pregnant women in order to reduce some of these stressors.

**“Because in this country, we ask poor women to shoulder the burden of a lot of chronic stressors.”**

She thanked Mark Roberts, the department chair, Julie Donohue, leader of the Medicaid Research Center, Everette James, director of the Health Policy Institute, and her mentor Lisa Bodnar, vice chair of research within the epidemiology department.

Jarleski has established a focus on obstetrics health services research within the department. She has been widely published in both clinical and health services research literature and is currently PI on a NIDA-funded R01 that is investigating how to



improve access to and quality of treatment for pregnant women with opioid use disorder. She continues this work in the University of Pittsburgh's Medicaid Research Center, where she specializes on pre- and post-partum care, with an emphasis on mothers with substance abuse disorders.

Jarleski received her undergraduate degree at Otterbein College, then went on to pursue an MPH at the Yale School of Public Health and a PhD at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. In addition to her prolific academic career, she has additional experience in policy work as a legislative analyst and staff writer.



## IN THE NEWS

For a complete listing of all faculty news coverage, please visit the department's website.

<https://www.publichealth.pitt.edu/hpm/news>

## COLEMAN DRAKE TALKS TELEMEDICINE

Recent centralization in the health care system has led to the closure of many rural hospitals, with the nexus of many hospital systems and research centers remaining and consolidating within more urban environments. Rural areas not only lack hospital access, they often lack access to primary care physicians. Only 10% of US physicians practice within rural communities, while these communities make up 25% of the American population. This leaves many rural populations medically vulnerable.

In a recently published article in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*, Coleman Drake, assistant professor in HPM, and his co-authors sought to determine whether telemedicine could increase access to care in rural counties where it is hardest to reach a physician by car. They found that the most rural counties have disproportionately low rates of broadband penetration, meaning that broadband infrastructure is insufficient to increase access to care in the areas where there are no nearby providers. The study found that 62.4 percent of the most rural counties with adequate access to primary care physicians also had access to broadband. However, only 38.6 percent of the most rural counties with inadequate access to primary care physicians had broadband access. This indicates that the counties that would most benefit from telemedicine lack the broadband infrastructure necessary to enable patients to use telemedicine. Drake suggests that this has large health implications for rural areas, and that policymakers should consider spreading broadband access into these areas, "particularly given that rural Americans are becoming increasingly older and sicker relative to their urban counterparts."

This study, published by Coleman Drake, PhD, Yuehan Zhang, ScM, Krisda Chaiyachati, MD, MPH, and Daniel Polsky, PhD, attracted a great deal of attention. Drake, lead author of the study, was interviewed by Pittsburgh's NPR news station, 90.5 WESA, on June 3, 2019. "Expanding broadband infrastructure may have the potential to improve the health of rural Americans by increasing access to telemedicine," stated Drake in the course of the interview. "These are patients that could really benefit from improved access to health care. That's good for their health...and also cost savings," stated Drake.

The study was also covered by *Reuters* and S&P Global. Drake met with the Federal Communications Commission, discussing the implications of the study for the FCC's proposed Connected Care Pilot program.

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

1. Coleman Drake, Yuehan Zhang, Krisda Chaiyachati, Daniel Polsky. "The Limitations of Poor Broadband Internet Access for Telemedicine Use in Rural America: An Observational Study." *Annals of Internal Medicine*. 2019: appi-ps.
2. Coleman Drake. "What Are Consumers Willing to Pay for a Broad Network Health Plan?: Evidence from Covered California." *Journal of Health Economics*. 2019 May 1; 65: 63-77.
3. Jean M. Abraham, Anne Royalty, Coleman Drake. "Plan Choice and Affordability in the Individual and Small Group Markets: Policy and Performance – Past and Present." *Health Affairs*. 2019 Apr 1; 38 (4): 675-683.
4. Kahn JM, Davis BS, Yabes JG, Chang CH, Chong DH, Hershey TB, Martsolf GR, Angus DC. Association between State-Mandated Protocolized Sepsis Care and In-Hospital Mortality Among Adults with Sepsis. *JAMA*. 2019;322(3):240-250. doi:10.1001/jama.2019.9021
5. Hershey TB. Collaborating with Sovereign Tribal Nations to Legally Prepare for Public Health Emergencies. *J Law Med and Ethics*. 2019;47(S2): 55-58. 2019 doi: 10.1177/1073110519857318
6. Roberts ET, Mellor J, McInerney M, Sabik LM. (2019) "State Variation in the Characteristics of Medicare-Medicaid Dual Enrollees: Implications for Risk Adjustment." (In press at Health Services Research).
7. Roberts ET, Welsh J, Donohue JM, and Sabik LM (2019). "Association of State Policies with Medicaid Disenrollment among Low-Income Medicare Beneficiaries." *Health Affairs* 38(7): 1153-1162

## GRANTS RECEIVED

Eric Roberts (PI). Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Career Development Award 1K01 HS26727-01. "Financial assistance for low-income Medicare beneficiaries: Using natural experiments to assess effects on care and health outcomes" Project dates: March 2019-March 2023.

## AWARD WINNERS

### Coleman Drake

Drake was invited to join the Institute for Clinical Research Education (ICRE) KL2 Scholar's Program as part of their K12 award from the NIH. This program provides individualized, competency-based training in rigorous research methodologies to junior faculty interested in designing and conducting high-quality translational research.

### Eric Roberts

Roberts was awarded best abstract at the AcademyHealth 2019 Annual Research Meeting for his paper "Association of State Policies with Medicaid Disenrollment among Low-Income Medicare Beneficiaries." This paper was recently published in *Health Affairs*.

## MEGHAN BOEHM (MPH '18) MAKES "30 UNDER 30" LIST

Alumna Meghan Boehm made the *Pittsburgh Business Times* and Leadership Pittsburgh's "30 Under 30" list, announced in August 2019. Recipients were selected for their successful efforts to grow a business or nonprofit and for their contributions to the community and civic organizations. In order to be nominated for this award, an individual must be under 30 years old, be a resident of western Pennsylvania, be employed in the region, and have a proven track record of playing a significant role in the growth, scope or impact of the organization or region.

Boehm was nominated for this award for her role as the Associate Director in Parent Engagement and Development at Carnegie Mellon University (CMU), a role that she recently assumed but has rapidly acclimated to. "I am so honored to receive this award and to be recognized as a young leader in the Pittsburgh community," she says. "I have to credit my father for teaching me the value of leadership. He always taught me to not be a follower—be a leader—and I think I really took that to heart."

Boehm attended the Community College of Allegheny County for two years before transferring to the University of Pittsburgh to receive her BS in psychology and a Certificate in Gender and Women's Studies. She continued her education at Pitt Public Health, pursuing an MPH in Health Policy and Management while working within the Medical & Health Sciences Foundation at the University of Pittsburgh. "I chose the University of Pittsburgh to pursue my MPH considering I had such a great experience as a Pitt undergrad student. My degree is helping me to achieve my goals as I am working hard to apply the leadership skills I was taught at Pitt to my career and volunteer roles." Boehm graduated with honors in April 2018, and recently assumed her challenging but rewarding role at CMU, a job which has her traveling around the country on a near weekly basis to meet with prospective CMU families. Before stepping into this role, she was a senior development associate with the UPMC Hillman Cancer Center.

In addition to her job at CMU, she volunteers with The Pittsburgh Promise, an organization that provides college scholarships



to Pittsburgh high school students. "Once my time freed up a little, I knew I had to use it in a meaningful way," she said. She also currently holds the position of fundraising co-chair on the Executive Committee of Promise Legacy, the alumni group of The Pittsburgh Promise. Additionally, she serves as a mentor for Strong Women, Strong Girls. "I'm on a mission to help students recognize their abilities and to push themselves to succeed," she said. "Support systems are vital in student success—especially for those students who may not have anyone rooting for them in their friend group or family life." This persistence to make an impact in her community is why she is now being recognized as a recipient of the 2019 "30 Under 30" award.

In true form, Boehm offered sound advice to current and incoming students: "Utilize your resources! Meet with professors, network with students, pass out all of those business cards, and don't be afraid to ask questions or advocate for what you need."

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## HEALTH POLICY AND MANAGEMENT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (HPMAA) UPDATE

A new HPMAA board has transitioned into their respective leadership positions, and they are excited to actively engage with HPM as it strives to improve. "I look forward to celebrating HPM's continued success as we build on this positive momentum," said past-president Richards.

In the next issue of the newsletter, you will hear from the new HPMAA officers, who will highlight some important aspects of a new and improved strategic plan and let you know how you can get involved as an alumni of the program.

### New HPMAA BOARD

Natalie Bulger (MHA '12), president

Alyshia Ravida (MHA '10), vice president

Taru Gupta (MHA '17), secretary

Karl Gibson (MHA '19), treasurer

Amy Richards (MHA/MBA '02), past-president

## MARK SEVCO (MHA/MBA '91) NAMED NEW PRESIDENT OF UPMC CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

The Department of Health Policy and Management is delighted to announce the appointment of alumnus Mark Sevco (MHA/MBA '91) to the position of president of UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, where he has been serving as interim president since January of 2019. Before this appointment, he was the chief operating officer of UPMC Pinnacle, a multi-hospital system in Harrisburg, where he oversaw operations for eight hospitals and their facilities as well as the administrative operations.

Sevco has served UPMC in various capacities for more than 25 years. Prior to his role at UPMC Pinnacle, he was president of UPMC East and UPMC McKeesport, responsible for business development, strategic planning, physician relations and administrative operations. He played an active role in UPMC's mergers and integrations both locally and on an international scale. He traveled to China and Dubai to assist with UPMC's international growth. Locally, he acts as executive director of the UPMC Administrative Fellowship Program.



Sevco has been a member of the Pitt community for many years now. He received his BS in applied mathematics in 1989 from the University of Pittsburgh, followed by an MHA/MBA in 1991. Today, he is an adjunct professor in the Department of Health Policy and Management.

"It's a privilege to now lead one of the nation's finest children's hospitals and work with so many talented clinicians and staff who passionately work every day to provide the ultimate patient experience for every child and family," said Sevco.

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## IN MEMORIAM: ROBERT CHABON (MPH '79)

Robert Chabon (MPH '79) was a well-known doctor, lawyer, and advocate for Medicare. Chabon was born in Brooklyn to Irene and Irving Chabon. He attended George Washington University for his undergraduate education and went on to attend Georgetown University Medical School to obtain his MD. Following his graduation, he specialized in pediatrics. He then served in the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service. In 1976, he obtained his law degree from the University of Maryland Law School and, with this education, established himself as an expert witness in cases of pediatric malpractice. Chabon moved from Maryland to Pittsburgh in the late 1970s, where he held positions at Mercy Hospital and the Duquesne University Law School. In 1979, he earned a master's degree in public health from the University of Pittsburgh.

Chabon held several chief medical officer positions, a role which took him to Atlanta, Northern Virginia, and Missouri. Finally, Robert Chabon and his wife, Shelly, retired to Portland following their time in Kansas City, Missouri.

Dr. Robert Chabon, MD, JD, MPH, died on March 22, 2019, at the age of 80 in Portland, Oregon following a two-year battle with liver and kidney failure. Throughout his life, he was known as an advocate for his patients and a man driven to fix what he viewed as the frustratingly broken American medical system.

Chabon is survived by his wife Rochelle (Shelly) (SHRS alumna) and his sons Michael, Stephen, Andrew, and Daniel, as well as seven grandchildren. Dr. Shelly Chabon is currently the vice provost for academic personnel and leadership development at Portland State University. Michael Chabon ('84 A&S) is a Pulitzer Prize-winning author, known for writing "The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay," "Wonder Boys: A Novel," and "Mysteries of Pittsburgh." Stephen Chabon resides in Oakland, California, while Andrew and Daniel Chabon both reside in Portland, Oregon.

## HPM CELEBRATES DAWN GIDEON LECTURE AND WEBCAST IN HONOR OF NAMESAKE

2019 marks the fifth anniversary of the Dawn Gideon Lecture series. This event, hosted annually by the Department of Health Policy and Management in conjunction with the HPM Alumni Association, is one of the most anticipated departmental events of the year. These lectures are attended by alumni, students, faculty, and members of the local health industry alike, as well as many others who can view the lecture via webcast. This event has been generously funded by the Dawn Gideon Foundation, founded in 2015 in memory of Dawn Gideon, an HPM alumna (MHA '83) dedicated to working with healthcare providers to find creative avenues for success.

Dawn Gideon began her career with Forbes Health System, becoming president of the Wilkesburg Hospital and later Forbes' chief executive officer. Forbes later merged with the Allegheny Health, Education, and Research Foundation—which, through a series of acquisitions and mergers, is now known as Allegheny Health Network. Gideon returned to Allegheny Health Network as a chief operating officer after dedicating years to saving cash-distressed hospitals through Transition Management Group, a consulting firm she founded. Gideon was recognized by such entities as the *Harvard Business Review*, which continues to use some of her early work as a case study for health care.

The first Dawn Gideon Lecture in 2015 was a collaboration between the Graduate School of Public Health and the Katz Graduate School of Business. It featured speakers Donald S. Burke, MD, dean of the Graduate School of Public Health, and Arjang Assad, the Henry E. Haller Jr. Dean of Katz. Since then, the program has grown and shapeshifted, always taking note of the pressing issues in the industry and the feedback from lecture attendees.

In addition to the Gideon Lecture, the Foundation provides scholarships for graduate students, offers organizational internships, and sponsors educational forums. The Dawn Gideon Scholarship supports women in healthcare leadership and strives for better female representation within what has historically been a male-dominated field. Scholarship recipients are listed on page 16.

This event owes its continued success to Dawn Gideon's husband, Kevin Altomari, and the rest of the Dawn Gideon Foundation, and the department would like to thank them for their generous support.

The fifth annual Dawn Gideon Lecture was held on November 11, 2019, from 12–2:30 p.m. at the University Club on the University of Pittsburgh campus. The topic for the 2019 event was: “Reading the Sign Posts: How Healthcare Organizations are Using Social Determinants of Health to Address Health Disparities.”

### **Moderator**

Ebbin Dotson, PhD

*Assistant Professor of Health Management and Policy, University of Michigan*

Dotson conducts research on health disparities, primarily on how developing leaders who reflect their diverse communities could serve to more adequately confront health disparities within those communities.

### **Panelists**

Thuy Bui, MD

*Associate Professor of Medicine; Director, Social Medicine Fellows Program, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine*

Bui's clinical and research interests deal with training and interventions to address social determinants of health, including care for those who are homeless, recent immigrants, refugees, and the uninsured.

Melinda B. Buntin, PhD

*Chair, Department of Health Policy, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine*

Buntin's research addresses insurance benefit design, health insurance markets, provider payment, and the elderly healthcare needs. Buntin previously worked for the Congressional Budget Office and RAND. She also served on the Institute of Medicine's Committee on Accounting for Socioeconomic Status in Medicare Payment Programs.

Maureen Hydok, RN, MBA

*Senior Director, Huron Consulting Group*

Hydok leads Huron's Social Determinants of Health (SDoH) project team. As the SDoH leader, Hydok guides clinical transformation projects that cover the care continuum for academic medical centers, integrated delivery networks, and community hospitals.



Contributors:

**Marian Jarlenski**

Assistant Professor, Health Policy and Management

**Eric Roberts**

Assistant Professor, Health Policy and Management

## NEWSLETTER SPOTLIGHT: PAYMENT REFORM

Increasingly, there has been a focus on payment reform within both the healthcare and the research communities. Medicare and Medicaid reform are long-standing research concentrations within Pitt Public Health. Marian Jarlenski and Eric Roberts both conduct research in this area but tackle the issue from very different angles.

Roberts' work focuses on healthcare provision within low-income populations. One section of this broad work takes a particular interest in alternative payment models and the financial implications these models may have for providers primarily serving patients within financially and socially disadvantaged demographics. Another interest of Roberts' is how healthcare disparities and social risk factors can impact healthcare costs within low-income populations. He evaluates policies that attempt to improve the efficiency of publicly financed health insurance programs such as Medicare and

Medicaid. Through this, he aims to enhance the benefit that patients receive by improving coordination across health and social service sectors. A portion of this research is through the Medicaid Research Center.

Jarlenski's research, on the other hand, addresses how health policies may affect the health and wellbeing of women and children. She leads research on pregnant populations within the Medicaid Outcomes Distributed Research Network. This consortium works to provide evidence on how to improve healthcare delivery to Medicaid-enrolled individuals with opioid use disorders. In addition to this, she is currently collaborating with the Pennsylvania Medicaid Program to positively impact quality and outcomes of maternal-fetal healthcare.

"There is growing recognition that there is...a critical need to integrate health and social services to address the social determinants of health in disadvantaged populations," explains Roberts. He plans to address this need through investigating how access to permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless and disabled individuals affects their Medicaid spending and use. This look into how stable housing can result in long-term Medicaid savings can, in turn, provide a case for increasing Medicaid's investment into housing.

Dual eligibility is another avenue of interest for Roberts. Medicare and Medicaid are administered separately and, for Medicaid particularly, each state has specific and distinct rules dictating eligibility, coverage of certain costs, and continuing enrollment. These inconsistencies can lead to a great deal of confusion, which can result in gaps in coverage. Roberts' research in part aims to understand how these differences across regions and between programs affect dual enrollee's access to care, and then to recommend solutions for overall improvement of the function of these two programs together in order to better serve more vulnerable populations.

Jarlenski is working to translate current research on the ongoing opioid epidemic into practical interventions to help pregnant and parenting women with opioid use disorder (OUD). While there have been various successful clinical trials on treatment options, she is bringing these trials into the real world and conducting research to inform improvements to accessibility and overall quality of these treatments for those individuals that would most benefit from them. One current project is investigating the most efficacious geographic distribution of OUD treatment providers in order to maximize accessibility of care. Another study is surveying women to gain insight into their experiences with OUD treatment, namely on

the cost of treatment and the quality of the care that they received. She remarks, "My perspective is that we need to combine research approaches that both use evidence to inform policy decisions, but also to design and conduct system-level interventions. We are in the field of health policy because we understand the importance of system-level change to make a meaningful change on population health."

There is a need for a greater understanding of the development of substance use disorders over time, as well as a need for more data about longer term disease and treatment outcomes during pregnancy. HPM is currently working on translating the research underway to directly affect practice. There are many investigators within the school, all working on different approaches to reduce the morbidity and mortality burden of substance use disorders. Some key contributors to this work include Alice Gao, PhD candidate, Leah Klocke, project manager, Dylan Nagy, analyst, and Joo Yeon Kim, analyst.

In the future, Roberts is looking forward to leading studies that focus on coordination of care for dual-eligible individuals. He feels that there's increasing interest in eliminating the financial "silos" that these programs tend to operate within. There is general agreement that this financial separation contributes to low quality and ineffective care, which can be particularly worrying when one considers the vulnerable populations that tend to rely on these programs.

Jarlenski, when considering where the field is going, remarks that there is an increasing wealth of knowledge about how to safely and effectively treat OUD during pregnancy, but the healthcare system often fails to provide access to this treatment. Unfortunately, there is a great deal of stigma surrounding not only the disorder itself, but also the medications used to treat the disorder. In the future, she hopes to see a day when there is secure universal access to evidence-based reproductive healthcare.

# GRADUATE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

## DAWN GIDEON SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

### MARA MENK (MHA/MBA '22)

*Award Recipient 2019-2020*

Menk earned her undergraduate degree in biology from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in 2017. After college, she wanted to continue her education and go into health care, but she wasn't sure that she wanted to work in a hospital. In the joint MHA/MBA program, she will be able to leverage the MBA to work in different settings while still pursuing health care.

"I watched the live stream of last year's Dawn Gideon Lecture on my laptop while extracting RNA for an experiment that I was running. I remember being blown away by the incredibly relevant information that was being discussed about collaboration, consolidation, and competition. When I heard the news about the scholarship, I felt honored to be selected by an organization that was dedicated to exploring creative solutions to the problems facing modern health care. I am excited to get to know the diverse group of individuals within this organization and all the ways they are working to make health care better for the people who need it most. I hope to contribute to this mission in my own way."



### SCARLETT MINNIE (MHA/MBA '22)

*Award Recipient 2019-2020*

Scarlett Minnie studied supply chain and operations management at Miami University of Ohio, not far from her hometown of Cincinnati. She'd always found health care interesting and was exposed to the field growing up because both of her parents are physicians.

She's excited to jump in and meet new people working in and studying health care. "It's going to be really energizing to talk to people about what they are doing, what they are working on, the opportunities or challenges that they see in their jobs and in health care." Because of her undergraduate foundation and work experience in operations and project management, she plans to work in an operations role in a medical facility or hospital—ideally in the Pittsburgh area. Minnie enjoyed reading about Dawn Gideon's problem-solving skills and head-on approach to facing challenges. "She worked specifically with hospitals and health care organizations that were bankrupt or experiencing a lot of operational and financial distress. The fact that she went in there with a team and helped save those institutions and turn them around, I thought that was really inspirational."



### JORDAN MCBRIDE (MHA/MBA '21)

*Award Recipient 2019-2020, 2018-2019*

McBride was born in Pittsburgh but grew up in Atlanta, Georgia. She has a BS in nutrition science from the University of Georgia. After graduation, she wanted experience in direct patient care and sought certification as a medical assistant, gaining clinical work experience. Following her exposure to the healthcare system, she decided to pursue the joint MHA/MBA degree from Pitt Public Health and Pitt's Katz Business School to earn a business-focused health care degree.

Her interests lie in data analytics and strategy. While she hasn't yet picked a topic for her thesis, she's interested in risk adjustment and is thinking about a topic that would explore how risk adjustment impacts the health insurance sector financially and in terms of quality. She's currently working as an intern at Gateway Health in the risk adjustment department, focused on revenue optimization. "I enjoy that risk adjustment is challenging and there are many complex facets...There is always something new to learn and requirements to consider multiple stakeholders."



# GRADUATE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

## EMILY JOSEPH (MHA '20)

*Award Recipient 2018-2019*

Emily Joseph is originally from Columbus, Ohio and has a bachelor's degree in public affairs from Ohio State. After graduating, she worked in a variety of fields including social entrepreneurship, workforce development, and education policy. Prior to enrolling at HPM, she was employed at a health system in Rochester, New York.

Emily currently works in UPMC's Department of Medicine, where she enjoys working on the physician or provider side of medicine. "I think I would really be happy post-graduation staying in the physician-provider side of the organization, and then ultimately I'd just like to be in a position that has a lot of ability to influence how resources are used in health care. I think there are a lot of different opportunities to apply resource management and operations management in health care in ways that can more efficiently direct how we provide care to patients," says Joseph.



## ZOE KAUFMAN (MHA '19)

*Award Recipient 2017-2018*

Kaufman, a Connecticut native, recently moved to New York City to begin her career in health administration. She currently serves as a data analyst at New York Presbyterian Hospital. Immediately prior to the move, she received her Master of Health Administration from the University of Pittsburgh in 2019.

While at Pitt, she served as the HPM Alumni Relations Committee student representative and was active in the Health Policy and Management Association (HPMA) student group, where she served as the social chair. At the undergraduate level, she received magna cum laude honors for her Bachelor of Arts in history, with a minor in entrepreneurship, from the University of Connecticut. In the near future, she is eager to become involved in local organizations. Beyond academics, Zoe has a passion for traveling the world, reading, and playing golf.



## KRISTIN FREE (MHA '18)

*Award Recipient 2016-2017*

Free is a Pittsburgh native with a BPhil in rehabilitation science and a BS in psychology from Pitt. In planning a future beyond undergraduate education, she cited the MHA program as a strong draw alongside her desire to remain a Pitt student.

While a student, she also completed the global health certificate and gained experience working internationally. She traveled to Peru with a handful of other HPMA members to bring basic medical interventions into low-income areas.

Today, she works at Allegheny Health Network as a strategic analyst and really enjoys impacting different areas of the organization. "I tell stories with data," she said of her work. "We make quick, easy to interpret dashboards that allow people to quickly consume data without being overwhelmed, so that way leadership is making data-based decisions."





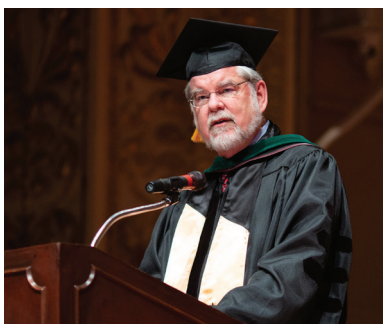
# RECENT GRADUATES

## GRADUATING CLASS OF 2019

We want to acknowledge and congratulate the graduates from the Health Policy and Management master's and doctoral degree programs included in the School's 68th Convocation. Our spring 2019 graduating class consisted of 1 JD/MPH, 9 MPH, 19 MHA, 2 MHA/MBA students. In addition, 1 student who completed their PhD program was hooded.



Left to right: Dean Donald S. Burke, Amy Tran (MHA '19), and Department Chair Mark Roberts



Department Chair Mark Roberts speaking at graduation in April 2019



Left to right: Professor Gerry Barron, David Moffa (MPH '19), Jennie Laeng (MPH '19), Molly Shiflet (MPH '19), and Professor Elizabeth Van Nostrand



Left to right: Dean Donald S. Burke, John Cordier Wright (MHA/MBA '19), and Department Chair Mark Roberts



Left to right: Dean Donald S. Burke, Melissa Kus (MHA '19), and Department Chair Mark Roberts

NAME	DEGREE
Megan Albert	MHA
Nicole Blake	MPH
John Cordier Wright	MHA/MBA
Michael Durofchalk	MHA
Iman Farid	MPH
Yei Gbaintor	MPH
James Gallagher	MHA
Karl Gibson	MHA
Riddhi Hegde	MHA
Kelsey Hooker	MHA
Zoe Kaufman	MHA
Molly Knapp	MHA
Latisha Koli	MHA
Melissa Kus	MHA
Jennie Laeng	MPH
Cassandra Leighton	PhD HSRP
Tony Liu	MHA (HSE)
Monica Menon	MHA
David Moffa	MPH
Abigail Monyei	MHA
Manasa Pallapolu	MHA
Catherine Riccelli	MHA/MBA (GLBHLT)
Evan Roman	MHA
Molly Shiflet	MPH
Kevin Stoner	MPH
Yun-Ting Sun	MPH
Amy Tran	MHA (HSE)
Brandon Trumbull	MHA
Stephanie Turnquist	MHA
Alix Ware	JD/MPH
Jennifer Zank	MHA
Jason Zheng	MPH

(HSE) is the Healthcare Systems Engineering Certificate.  
(GLBHLT) is the Global Health Certificate.

# RECENT GRADUATES

## POST-GRADUATE EMPLOYMENT

### MHA and MHA/MBA

STUDENT	DEGREE	ORGANIZATION	JOB TITLE	LOCATION
Megan Albert	MHA	Children's Hospital of Philadelphia	Business Operations Analyst	Philadelphia, PA
John Cordier	MHA/MBA	Epistemix	CEO	Pittsburgh, PA
Michael Durofchalk	MHA	UPMC Health PlanET	Product Owner	Pittsburgh, PA
Karl Gibson	MHA	UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital	Project Analyst	Pittsburgh, PA
Riddhi Hegde	MHA	Highmark Health	Decision Support Analyst, VITAL Innovation Team	Pittsburgh, PA
Kelsey Hooker	MHA	UPMC Community Medicine, Inc.	Decision Support Analyst	Pittsburgh, PA
Zoe Kaufman	MHA	New York Presbyterian Hospital	Data Analyst	New York City, NY
Molly Knapp	MHA	ProspHire	Business Technology Analyst	Pittsburgh, PA
Latisha Koli	MHA	UPMC Mercy Hospital	Project Coordinator	Pittsburgh, PA
Melissa Kus	MHA	UPMC Health Plan	Strategy Analyst	Pittsburgh, PA
Tony Liu	MHA	El Camino Health	Service Line Operations Specialist	San Jose, CA
Monica Menon	MHA	Vidant	Administrative Fellow	Greenville, NC
Abigail Monyei	MHA	Trinity Health	Administrative Fellow	Livonia, MI
Manasa Pallapolu	MHA	Children's National Health System	Patient Experience Coordinator	Washington, D.C.
Catherine Riccelli	MHA/MBA	Herspiegel Consulting	Senior Analyst	Philadelphia, PA
Evan Roman	MHA	Penn Medicine	Administrative Fellow	Philadelphia, PA
Amy Tran	MHA	Dahlem and Associates LLC	Consultant	Pittsburgh, PA
Brandon Trumbull	MHA	UPMC Lab Service	Project Manager	Pittsburgh, PA
Stephanie Turnquist	MHA	UPMC Health Plan	Strategy Analyst	Pittsburgh, PA

### MPH and JD/MPH

STUDENT	DEGREE	ORGANIZATION	JOB TITLE	LOCATION
Nikki Blake	MPH	LMI	Fellow	Tysons, VA
Kexin Chen	MPH	UPMC Decision Neuroscience and Psychopathology Lab	Database Coordinator	Pittsburgh, PA
Iman Farid	MPH	Maryland Department of Health	Health Policy Analyst, Division for the Board of Nursing	Baltimore, MD
Yei Gbaintor	MPH	New Jersey Hospital Association	Emergency Management Coordinator	Princeton, NJ
Jennie Laeng	MPH	Alzheimer's Association	Project Coordinator	Cleveland, OH
David Moffa	MPH	Health Care Service Corporation	Associate Divisional Strategy Consultant (Network Strategy Division)	Chicago, IL
Molly Shiflet	MPH	Vanderbilt University Medical Center	Regulatory Compliance Analyst	Nashville, TN
Jason Zheng	MPH	Mid-Atlantic Regional Public Health Training Center	Project Coordinator	Pittsburgh, PA

## NOELLE CORNELIO

Cornelio is a third-year PhD student in the Department of Health Policy and Management at the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health. Under the tutelage of Associate Professor Lindsay Sabik, Cornelio works as a graduate student researcher examining national and state policy changes that have affected the dual Medicare-Medicaid population. In fall 2019, she will also be a teaching assistant for Interim Dean Everette James and Professor Julie Donohue's Health Policy and Management in Public Health course.

Cornelio graduated as a Levine Scholar with a BS in biology and economics from the University of North Carolina in Charlotte. Prior to pursuing her PhD, she built economic models, helped perform meta-analyses, and conducted literature reviews at Pharmerit International, a health economics and outcomes research consulting company. She states, "I chose to pursue my PhD at Pitt Public Health's Department of Health Policy and Management because of the innovative and politically relevant research that the faculty publish."

At the most recent Dean's Day, she presented a collaborative research project that examined the changes to Medicaid asset limits over time, the impact of these limits to Medicaid

eligibility and enrollment, and how changes to policy would change the number of seniors eligible and enrolled in both Medicare and Medicaid. She recently published her manuscript, "Cost Effectiveness of Alemtuzumab in the Treatment of Relapsing Forms of Multiple Sclerosis in the United States" in *Value Health* this past February.



"There is a sense of community among the PhD students in the department, with the senior students serving as mentors for those in the process of determining their research goals," Cornelio says. "Dr. Lindsay Sabik and Dr. Eric Roberts are not only fantastic researchers and instructors, but also help prepare us for our future careers. They teach professional skills vital for beginning a career in research."

### Cornelio's published research includes:

- Chirikov V, Ma I, Joshi N, Patel D, Smith A, Giambone C, Cornelio N, Hashemi L. Cost-Effectiveness of Alemtuzumab in the Treatment of Relapsing Forms of Multiple Sclerosis in the United States. *Value Health*. 2019 Feb;22(2):168-176. doi: 10.1016/j.jval.2018.08.011.

## PRAVEEN KUMAR

Praveen Kumar is a third-year doctoral student in the Department of Health Policy and Management at the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health. With the guidance of Department Chair Mark Roberts and Professor of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology Lee Harrison, he is currently working as a graduate student researcher on an economic analysis of an infection prevention program. Prior to joining the department, he worked with Novartis as part of a health economic modeling team based in India. In this role, he built early cost-effectiveness and budget impact models. Kumar earned a degree in textile technology from the Indian Institute of Technology in Delhi, India.

He is a member of the Society for Medical Decision Making (SMDM) and attended the 39th Annual North American meeting in Pittsburgh. He is an ad hoc reviewer for the Society's peer-reviewed journal. Recently, his abstract has been accepted for presentation at the 41st Annual North American Meeting of the Society.

"I see modeling as a tool to communicate with policymakers, as it makes the trade-offs explicit when making choices. When I looked at the work being done at Department of

Health Policy and Management in the field of decision sciences and simulation modeling, it was clear to me that this is the place where I would want to be. On top of that, the opportunity to be mentored by Dr. Mark Roberts, an expert decision scientist, sealed the deal for me."



When asked about his career goals, Kumar states, "My career goal is to become a decision scientist engaged in cancer research. In the near future, I want to contribute to ongoing research in the cancer domain with a focus on assessing the economic value of screening and the impact of financial burden on cancer patients."

### Kumar's published research includes:

- Kumar P, Sundermann AJ, Martin EM, Snyder GM, Harrison LH, Roberts MS. Cost-Effectiveness and Budget Impact Analysis of Bacterial Whole Genome Sequencing Surveillance Compared to Standard of Care in Detecting Hospital Outbreaks. *Medical Decision Making*; In Press

# PRACTICAL LEARNING EXPERIENCES

All Health Policy and Management master's students must complete a practical learning experience, which amounts to at least 450 hours of work experience in the industry by the time the student graduates. Students gain experience in a plethora of fields, including but not limited to inpatient and outpatient operations, insurance, finance, startups, nonprofits, and local government. Students can either apply to locally or nationally competitive internships or apply to opportunities offered through HPM's matching process. The matching process offers two kinds of residency experiences: an approximately 1,000-hour extended residency (part-time during the second semester of the first year, full-time during the summer, and part-time during the second academic year) or a traditional summer residency, which takes place the summer between the student's first and second academic year. Overall, the practical learning experience acts as a foundation on which the student will build the rest of their career.

## MHA RESIDENCY PLACEMENTS | 2019-2020

STUDENT	ORGANIZATION	PRECEPTOR(S)	TYPE
Ilham Abdi	UPMC Departments of Otolaryngology and Plastic Surgery; Wound Care Service Line	Edward Harrison, Executive Administrator	Summer
Jennifer Andrews	Cancer Services, University of Chicago Medicine	Ellen Feinstein, Vice President, Cancer Services	Summer
Kaleb Behanna	Presbyterian SeniorCare Network	Amy Kowinsky, Executive Director	Summer
Elizabeth Born	UPMC Wolff Center	Lorraine Brock, Director of Digital Patient Engagement	Summer
Emily Joseph	UPMC Department of Medicine	Annmarie Lyons, Executive Administrator Nichole Radulovich, Interim Executive Administrator	Extended
Tiger Litam	Center for Organ Recovery and Education	Alex Rega, Professional Services Liaison Christie Ryan, Director of Professional Services and Regulatory Affairs	Summer
Sydney Pack	Butler Health System	Jason Sciarro, Chief Operating Officer Karen Allen, Chief Nursing Officer Elliot Smith, Chief Clinical Officer Tom Genevro, Chief Human Resources Officer	Summer
Ritu Pathak	Presbyterian SeniorCare Network	Lisa Malosh, Senior Director, Organizational Improvement	Summer
William Powell	Jewish Association on Aging	Mary Anne Foley, Chief Operating Officer	Summer
Megan Preti	Allegheny Health Network – Quality & Safety	Mo Jones-Slack, Vice President, Quality & Safety	Extended
Katherina Shabalov	UPMC Shadyside	Lou Baverso, Vice President, Operations	Extended
Lydia Tiguert	UPMC Innovation Center	Anthony DiGioia, Medical Director Stefanie Massari, Director	Extended
Maira Undavalli	UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital	Patty Genday, Executive Director of Women's Services	Extended
Michael Whalen	Children's Hospital of Philadelphia	April Taylor, Director, Peds Quality and Patient Safety	Summer
Zack Zambrano	Allegheny Health Network – West Penn Hospital	Ron Andro, Presidency and Chief Executive Officer	Summer

# PRACTICAL LEARNING EXPERIENCES



Morgan Benner (MPH '20) at the Summer Internship Closing Reception 2019



Kevin Stoner at (MPH '20) at Dean's Day 2019. Stoner claimed school-wide second place in the annual poster competition.



HPM students Lauren Gutterman (MHA '21) and Tiger Litam (MHA '20) (far back, left) at the Center for Health Equity Journal Club



Michaela Quinlan (JD/MPH '21) at Dean's Day 2019

## MHA/MBA RESIDENCY PLACEMENTS | 2019-2020

STUDENT	ORGANIZATION	PRECEPTOR(S)	TYPE
Arturo Amadeo	UPMC Mercy	Julie Hecker, Vice President, Operations	Summer
Erika Garrison	UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh	Nicholas Barcellona, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer	Extended
Malena Hirsch	UPMC Community Medicine, Inc.	Anna Voelker, Executive Administrator	Extended
Kia Kai	Allegheny Health Network – Executive Nursing	Claire Zangerle, Chief Nurse Executive Laura Griffin, Vice President, Nursing Operations & Strategy	Extended
Chris Lang	VA Healthcare-VISN 4	Jo Petro, Executive Assistant to the Network Director Kate Holsinger, Executive Assistant to the Chief Medical Officer	Extended
Jordan McBride	Gateway Health Plan	Beverly Gillot, Manager, Risk Revenue	Summer
Maharsi Naidu	UPMC Presbyterian	Tim Kagle, Vice President, Operations	Extended

## MPH PRACTICUM PLACEMENTS | 2019-2020

STUDENT	ORGANIZATION	PRECEPTOR(S)	TYPE
Morgan Benner	Allegheny County Health Department	Jamie Sokol, Public Health Administrator, Workforce Development and Training	Summer
Kiran Borkar	Sojourner House	Meghan Briggs, Director of Clinical Services	Summer
Mary Kate Duncan	UPMC Health Plan	John Lovelace, President, UPMC for You Patrick Tracy, Senior Director, Exchange Operations & Compliance, and CHIP	Extended
Jesse Helfer	Allegheny Health Network Research Institute	Kyle Bird, Director	Summer
James Huber	University of Pittsburgh Department of Emergency Medicine	Brian Suffoletto, Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine; Emergency Department Attending Physician	Summer
Heather Tomko	The Dane Foundation	Lowery Lockard, Chief Executive Officer and Founder	Spring

## JD/MPH PRACTICUM PLACEMENTS | 2019-2020

STUDENT	ORGANIZATION	PRECEPTOR(S)	TYPE
Krista Grobelny	Office of Counsel to the Inspector General, US Department of Health and Human Services	Kirk Sripinyo, Senior Counsel	Summer
Joseph Krajcsik	UPMC Corporate Legal Department	Rachel Clark, Associate Counsel	Spring
Sydney Lukus	Butler Health System	Jason Sciarro, Chief Operating Officer Karen Allen, Chief Nursing Officer Elliot Smith, Chief Clinical Officer Tom Genevro, Chief Human Resources Officer, Vice President Support Services	Summer

# INCOMING STUDENTS

## HPM WELCOMES INCOMING GRADUATE STUDENTS FOR 2019

### MHA AND MHA/MBA STUDENTS



**Back row, left to right:** Rhaj Gooden (MHA/MBA '22), Alex Bloom (MHA/MBA '22), Jacob Wiersch (MHA '21), Nolan Cianci (MHA '21), Peter Adams (MHA/MBA '21) **Middle row, left to right:** Dan Meehan (MHA '21), Justin Briskin (MHA '21), Joshua Lee (MHA '21), Erik Hames (MHA/MBA '22), Katherine Appell (MHA '21), Kimberly Finch (MHA '24) **Front row, left to right:** Mara Menk (MHA/MBA '22), Nnenna Uche (MHA/MBA '22), Lauren Gutterman (MHA '21), Catherine Potter (MHA '21) **Not pictured:** Scarlett Minnie (MHA/MBA '22), Christian Trent (MHA '21)

#### UNDERGRADUATE INSTITUTIONS:

University of Pittsburgh (8)	McGill University	University of Akron
University of Virginia (2)	Mercyhurst University	University of Bath
Alvernia College	Miami University	University of Connecticut
Boston University	Old Dominion University	University of Dayton
George Mason University	Penn State University	University of Maryland
Indiana University of Pennsylvania	Saint Lawrence University	West Virginia University

### MS AND PHD STUDENTS



**Left to right:** Jennie Duquette (MS '21), Youngmin Kwon (PhD '24), Alix Glynn (PhD '23)

# INCOMING STUDENTS

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UNDERGRADUATE MAJORS:				
Economics (4)	Agricultural, Environmental and Life Sciences	Chemistry	Health Science	Nutrition
Biology (2)	Anthropology	Communications	Health Sciences Administration	Pharmacy
Government (2)	Biomedical Engineering	Finance	Health Services	Political Science
Neuroscience (2)	Cell and Molecular Biology	Health Administration	International Business	Public Health
Psychology (2)	Cell Molecular Biology and Genetics	Health Administration and Policy	Nursing	Supply Chain and Operations Management

PROGRAM	# STUDENTS	# PA RESIDENTS	# FOREIGN CITIZENS	# GRADUATED FROM PA UNDERGRADUATE INSTITUTION	# FULL-TIME WORK EXPERIENCE	# FULL-TIME STUDENTS	# PART-TIME STUDENTS
MHA	10	7	0	7	6	9	1
MHA/MBA	7	1	1	2	6	6	1
MPH	6	6	0	2	4	5	1
MS	1	1	0	1	1	0	1
PhD	2	1	1	0	2	2	0
Totals	26	16	2	12	19	22	4

## MPH STUDENTS



**Left to right:** Brian Tomblin (MPH '21), Marsha Haley (MPH '23), Devin Strynkowski (MPH '21), Anna Patterson (MPH '21), Elizabeth Hassett (MPH '21), Madison Royer (MPH '21)



# University of Pittsburgh

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In our next newsletter, we'll recap the major themes from the 2019 Dawn Gideon Lecture – stay tuned! **From left to right:** Mark Roberts, Thuy Bui, Melinda Buntin, Ebbin Dotsin, Maureen Hydock, and Kevin Altomari