

eIHPS Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

January, 2006

WELCOME TO *e-IHPS* NEWSLETTER!

Welcome to the first issue of the bi-monthly *e-IHPS newsletter*. In an effort to increase communication and knowledge about each others' work and accomplishments, both personal and professional, we will include news and important events on the activities of IHPSers'. Based on your contributions, we'll also have updates on new grants, papers, and awards as well as suggestions for symposia, workshops, and/or trainings that may be beneficial to the IHPS community. We welcome submissions from faculty, researchers, and/administrators/staff.

We want this newsletter to be fun as well as informative, so we welcome your comments and suggestions as to what you would like to see in a newsletter. It's also likely that our format may change and evolve over time.

This first issue has a "logo contest" for the *e-IHPS*. Take a look at the three contenders so far, and cast your vote, or design one yourself. We will count the votes on the most popular and depending upon submitted proposals, give you all another chance for additional input.

In this issue: The Artist's Corner: A regular column featuring colleagues who balance their work as artists or in other roles outside of IHPS, while holding down full time positions here; an Awards and Publications section (Please remember to submit your recent publications or other "products" for future issues); and a story on the work of the California Health Benefits Review Program.

In addition, we have a section devoted to welcoming new colleagues to IHPS, as well as news of what former IHPS colleagues are up to now. Please join us in this effort. We welcome your ideas!

-Annie Larson & Claire Brindis

e-IHPS LOGO CONTEST!!!

Send your vote for a logo for the *e-IHPS* newsletter to annie.larson@ucsf.edu
(If you need more room for your design, submit on separate sheet)

#1

#2

#3

Or #4



Your design here!



Another delicious & hilarious white elephant party!
Photo by Pat Franks

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We Want you!

- Please send in material for Issue #2 by February 10, 2006
- Feedback on our "maiden voyage" issue? We want your input!
- Writers for e-IHPS columns
- We'd like to assemble a small IHPS team to explore how we can improve/enhance our IHPS website. Please contact: (annie.larson@ucsf.edu)

California Health Benefits Review Program UCSF Medical Effectiveness Team Gears Up for the 2006 California Legislative Session

IHPS faculty and staff who work on the California Health Benefits Review Program (CHBRP) are busily preparing for the 2006 session of the California State Legislature. CHBRP was established in 2002 by the University of California Office of the President (UCOP) to implement Assembly Bill 1996. This bill directs the University to conduct independent analyses of legislation to require health plans to cover particular treatments, screening or diagnostic tests, or preventive services. After a bill is introduced, but before it moves forward in the legislative session, the legislative author requests a CHBRP analysis to answer three questions:

- 1) What is the evidence that the drug, device, procedure, service, or screening or diagnostic intervention addressed in the legislation is effective in terms of specific health outcomes?;
- 2) What impact will coverage of a treatment, screening, or diagnostic intervention have on future coverage, utilization, and costs for individuals, employers, and insurers?;
- 3) What impact will coverage have on the health of the public in California?

A small analytic staff in the UCOP works with faculty Vice Chairs on Medical Effectiveness (UCSF), Cost (UCLA), and Public Health (UC Berkeley) and their teams; a faculty task force from University of California campuses and from Stanford University, Loma Linda University, and the University of Southern California; the California office of a national actuarial firm; and a National Advisory Committee to complete each analysis in a 60-day period. Funds for CHBRP come from annual fees charged to health plans regulated by the California Department of Managed Health Care and the California Department of Insurance.

Over the past three years, CHBRP faculty and staff have established methods for developing CHBRP analyses, conducted pilot analyses, and issued reports to the Legislature on 22 bills, often working simultaneously on multiple reports to meet legislative deadlines. The reports provide a detailed review and analysis of evidence from the peer-reviewed medical and scientific literature. They do not include recommendations to the Legislature. The most recent reports concern coverage for chiropractic services and tobacco cessation services. Earlier CHBRP reports dealt with osteoporosis screening, childhood asthma management, lymphedema treatment, transplantation and HIV infection, hospital stays for mastectomy and axillary node dissection, new drugs for early Alzheimer's disease, and mental health benefits. All of the analyses, as well as information about CHBRP are posted on the website: <http://www.chbrp.org>.

The CHBRP UCSF Medical Effectiveness team at IHPS assesses the literature on the effectiveness of the treatment, screening, and diagnostic services addressed in the proposed mandates. A hierarchy of scientific evidence is used to weigh findings from individual studies. The hierarchy consists of, in priority order: 1. meta-analyses, 2. systematic reviews, 3. evidence-based guidelines, 4. individual randomized controlled trials, 5. observational studies, 6. case-control studies, and 7. clinical/practice guidelines based on consensus or opinion, rather than on evidence. The team also uses a method of "grading" evidence based on that used by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. For example, a "favorable" grade means that study findings are uniformly favorable for a particular health outcome, and many or all are statistically significant.

Ed Yelin is the current CHBRP faculty task force Vice Chair for Medical Effectiveness. Hal Luft is the founding Vice Chair and senior faculty advisor. Wade Aubry is the team's clinician advisor and evidence-based medicine expert, and Pat Franks is team coordinator, working both internally and externally with UCOP CHBRP staff and others on the CHBRP analyses. Janet Coffman joined the team in October 2005 as senior research analyst. The team has also identified students and freelancers who can assist during CHBRP's "high season", which typically runs from January through June, when as many as ten bills may be analyzed.

Feedback on the usefulness and quality of CHBRP analyses has been uniformly positive from the Governor's office policy staff, Senate and Assembly members and staff on both sides of the aisle, the Department of Insurance, the Department of Managed Health Care, and the California Association of Health Plans. Further information about CHBRP can be obtained from the website or by contacting Janet Coffman at Janet.Coffman@ucsf.edu

IHPS NEWS

UCSF-Coro Leadership Collaborative

This Spring, Lisa Bero, Dan Dohan, and former IHPS Fellow, Jack Resneck, will participate in the UCSF-Coro Leadership Collaborative. This program seeks to improve and support faculty leadership campus-wide at UCSF through an intensive training program. As mentioned in an editorial in the San Francisco Chronicle <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2005/11/25/>, a specific goal of the program is to increase the number of women in leadership positions at UCSF.

IHPS Strategic Plan

Did you know that IHPS completed a strategic plan for 2005-2010? If you have not had a chance to review the strategic plan in its entirety, contact Eunice Chee (eunice.chee@ucsf.edu). One component of the strategic plan is to work towards a greater sense of community among faculty, researchers, staff, and administrators. E-IHPS is one such outcome (and a fun one we hope!). Other outcomes include:

- ◆ Monthly "Grand Rounds" lunch/seminars have proven to be very successful. Annette Gardner has done an outstanding job coordinating these sessions. She recently handed over the reins to Arlyss Anderson Rothman. We look forward to another year of topical interest in health policy and related fields and great food!
- ◆ Jon Showstack's ongoing administrative system's group. Jon invites anyone who is interested to attend these meetings and provide feedback, or ideas (Jon.Showstack@ucsf.edu).
- ◆ Hal Luft and Dan Dohan are in the investigative stages of creating an IHPS degree program in Health Policy.
- ◆ Creating stronger links to clinical departments (in this regard, Michael Cabana joins IHPS. See next page).
- ◆ Stay tuned for additional efforts to implement IHPS' Strategic Plan

And.... Thank you Phyllis or our fabulous new refrigerator! Let's try to keep it clean gang....



*Eunice Chee
Photo by Pat
Franks*

UCSF COMINGS AND GOINGS

During her sabbatical, Helene wrote several policy analyses, including an analysis of ethical issues in the conduct of clinical drug trials in developing countries, innovative strategies to distribute essential medicines to developing countries, especially those lacking adequate public health infrastructures. She also gave several major addresses about the genesis, mission, business model and accomplishments of One World Health, including the keynote address at a national global health mapping conference sponsored by the Institute for the Future. Helene co-authored an article on the company in the July/August issue of *Health Affairs*, "Oxymoron No More: The Potential of Nonprofit Drug Companies to Deliver on the Promise of Medicines for the Developing World." This article can be found at the above website. We are very proud of Helene and welcome her back! Although Helene's heart is still with IHPS, she has physically moved to Laurel Heights Suite 420, 6-2964.

New folks at IHPS: From the University of Michigan: **Michael Cabana**, MD, MPH, Associate Professor of Pediatrics has joined the faculty at UCSF and is the new Director of the Division of General Pediatrics. Michael's work is with PACE, the Physician Asthma Care Education project. He is P.I. on the Enhancing Pediatric Asthma Management Study, and the Trial of Infant Probiotic Supplementation Study. Michael has two children, Alexandra and Abigail, who are both enjoying California. In 2002, Michael was a single game champion on the television game show *Jeopardy!*

We also welcome: Emma Boyce, (Guydish); Longserl Chun, (Guydish); Janet Coffman, (Yelin-CHBRP); Rebecca Dorman, (Brindis-CAFA); Luciana Garcia, (CHART); Leah Gonzales, (Cabana); Cammy Leung, (IHPS Core Financial Analyst); Michelle McKean (Cabana); Michelle Rait (Cabana); Monica Smith and Bianca Wilson (Fellows).

News of former IHPS Colleagues:

"Coming Out" in Hardback: "What I learned in medical school: Personal stories of young doctors" Edited by Kevin M. Takakuwa, **Nick Rubashkin**, and Karen E. Herzig, Berkeley, University of California Press 2004. A compilation of experiences of homophobia in medical schools, Former IHPS research assistant and UCSF OB/GYN Resident, Nick Rubashkin, has given voice to the trials and tribulations of becoming a doctor. (SF Chronicle Magazine, November 13, 2005.)

AWARDS AND PUBLICATIONS

Publications:

- ◆ Oliver TR, Lee PR, **Lipton HL**. A political history of medicare and prescription drug coverage. *Milbank Quarterly* 2005;82(2):283-354.
- ◆ Duke KS, Raube K, **Lipton HL**. Patient-assistance programs: assessment of and use by safety-net clinics. *American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy* 2005;62:726-31.
- ◆ Stebbins MR, Kaufman DJ, **Lipton HL**. The PRICE clinic for low-income elderly: a managed care model for implementing pharmacist-directed services. *Journal of Managed Care Pharmacy* 2005; 11(4):333-41.

2005 Awards

- ◆ Claire Brindis: Federal Maternal & Child Health Bureau, Director's Award: In Recognition of Contributions Made to the Health of Infants, Mothers, Children, Adolescents & Children with Special Needs

ARTISTS' CORNER

January's featured artist: Ernestine Florence

Ernestine Florence, IHPS Fellowship Coordinator, has been singing semi-professionally for over 20 years. She had been singing along with a pianist in a city sponsored program, connecting performers with convalescent hospitals. Singing material favored by that particular audience, she performed mainly jazz & blues standards from the 1920's, 30's and 40's.

Loving the work, she decided to broaden her horizons, and took a big leap. In 1982 she rented a space (The "Off Plaza") and invited her friends. (were some of you there?) Her piano accompanist pulled together a guitar player and drummer. The gig was a success, and she continued to perform over the years. She loves the blues, and most recently she sang in a club in San Jose, taking a stab at songs by B.B. King and Jimmy Rushing, although, as she put it, "I don't think I can really sing the blues."

Ern comes from a musical family, particularly on her father's side, whose uncles performed throughout the south on the "Chitlin' Circuit."

"I don't think I can really sing the blues...." Dr. Ern

As a young teenager, she remembers leading her local church choir, in the standard: "What a friend we have in Jesus." Since then, her tastes have expanded to include the blues, but she also loves jazz, and country and western.

Favorite vocalists are Sarah Vaughn, Brook Benton, B.B. King, Johnny Cash, Loretta Lynn and Conway Twitty.

In 2003, she decided to take a break from working on her bachelor's in music from San Francisco State University. She plans to return to school after she retires from UCSF to complete her degree.

In this current stage in her life, Ms. Florence is inspired to return to her early love of music of a more spiritual nature.

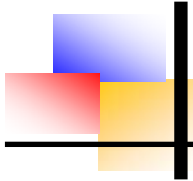
So how does "Dr. Florence" reconcile working full time while doing her "real work?". In her words: "I just try to focus the best I can and try to figure out a way to do both, and do them justice, while trying to remain sane."

We can relate.



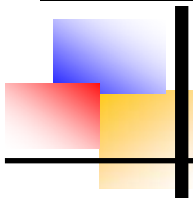
Photo by Pat Franks

- ♣ Health Policy Seminars Mondays 12-1:30 PM
- ◆ IHPS Grand Rounds Monthly at Noon
Room 263



January 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 Martin Luther King Jr. (UC Holiday)	17	18	19	20	21
22	23 ♣ 12: Patricia McDaniel; ♣ 12:45: Richard Barnes	24	25	26 ◆ Grand Rounds: Dana Hughes/ CHI's & Child Health Care Insurance Expansions	27	28
29	30 ♣ 12: Jennifer Yu; ♣ 12:45 John Maa	31				



February 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6 ♣ 12: Mike Nagamine ♣ 12:45: Marty Otanez	7	8	9	10 <i>Newsletter submissions in by this date!</i>	11
12	13 ♣ 12: Clare Stacey ♣ 12:45: Karen Rappaport	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				