



# HEALTH AND AGING POLICY FELLOWS

## From the National Program Office

Dear Friends of the Health and Aging Policy Fellows Program,

We are delighted to provide you with some brief news on the Health and Aging Policy Fellows Program. The quality of the current class of fellows is extraordinarily high and they promise to make a lasting and valuable impact to the policy environment. All of the fellows were able to secure exciting placements on the Hill and with leading federal agencies and they will undoubtedly continue to forge meaningful interaction and collaboration to make an impact long after their fellowship.

**We are actively recruiting the next class of fellows (deadline for application is April 15<sup>th</sup>) and we invite you to share this brief news update with anyone who might be interested in applying.**

We are very pleased to have been able to expand our partnerships with various key agencies and organizations in the health and aging field such as John A. Hartford Foundation, Gerontological Society of America (GSA), CMS, CDC, Veterans Administration and others to further strengthen the impact of the program for years to come.

Please let me know if you have any questions about the program or the application process.

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## 2013-14 Health and Aging Policy Fellows - Call for Applications

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We are seeking dynamic, passionate individuals who are committed to addressing the critical health and aging policy issues that we face today. The program is designed to build a cadre of leaders whose contributions to policymaking will enhance the lives of older Americans for decades to come. In addition to policy experience and projects, all fellows receive a core training program that is focused on current policy issues, communication skills development, and professional networking opportunities.

As we are recruiting the next class of fellows, we want to specifically call your attention to *two new partnerships*:

One is with the Gerontological Society of America (GSA)/National Hartford Centers of Gerontological Nursing Excellence which will provide funding to support a non-residential health policy fellow placement for a gerontological nurse starting in 2013/14.

The second is with the US Veterans Administration (VA). VA employees interested in applying for the VA-track of the Health and Aging Policy Fellows Program should contact Deborah Ludke, MHA at 562.826.5323 or [Deborah.ludke@va.gov](mailto:Deborah.ludke@va.gov).

**Submission deadline:** April 15

**1st Round of Reviews:** mid-May

**Interviews & Selection:** mid-June

Fellows are selected based on their commitment to health and aging issues, leadership potential, and interest in aging-relevant policy work. The program has a multidisciplinary focus, and fellows have represented a broad spectrum of professionals from senior professors to newly minted PhDs, physicians, social workers, nurses, psychologists, dieticians, healthcare administrators, epidemiologists, economists, and lawyers. For further information on the Health and Aging Policy Fellows Program and how to apply, please visit our website at [www.healthandagingpolicy.org/](http://www.healthandagingpolicy.org/)

*If you have any further questions about the program or how to apply for the fellowship, please contact:*

*Harold Pincus, MD (Director) at [pincush@nyspi.columbia.edu](mailto:pincush@nyspi.columbia.edu) or*

*Kathleen Pike, PhD (Associate Director) at [kmp2@columbia.edu](mailto:kmp2@columbia.edu)*

## Health and Aging Policy Fellows (2012-13) - Placement Updates

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**Arlene S. Bierman, MD, MS**, OWHC Chair in Women's Health at the University of Toronto and the Li KaShing Knowledge Institute of St. Michael's Hospital is working in the HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary of Health where she is interfacing with the National Institute of Aging on implementation of the multiple chronic condition strategy and collaborating with the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation on evaluation of integrated care demonstration projects. She is also working in the office of Congressman Jim McDermott, ranking member of the House Ways and Means Health Subcommittee.

**Christine E. Bishop, PhD**, is Atran Professor of Labor Economics at Brandeis University. She is a residential fellow working at the office of the *The Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE)* where she focuses on issues related to long-term services and supports.

**Ken Brummel-Smith, MD**, is the Charlotte Edwards Maguire Professor and Chair Department of Geriatrics, Florida State University College of Medicine and a non-residential fellow assigned to the "Senate Special Committee on Aging." His primary policy interest is improving advance care planning and use of Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST) programs nationally and in Florida and also the National Alzheimer's plan. He has been assisting the "Senate Special Committee on Aging" with research and analysis of policies regarding improving advance care planning in dementia, ways to strengthen Medicare, and policies regarding medications in Medicare Part D.

**Joan K. Davitt, PhD**, is an Associate Professor & Hartford Geriatric Social Work Faculty Scholar at the University of Maryland School of Social Work. As a non-residential fellow, she has been working with the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare to identify strategies to sustain Medicare and Social Security, to promote continued access to these critical social protection programs, and to enhance benefits for the most vulnerable in our society.

**Maureen Henry, JD**, Executive Director of the Utah Commission on Aging since 2005 is a residential fellow working in Senator Mark Warner's (D-VA) office on a broad variety of issues including care planning, aging, and other health care issues.

**Brooke Hollister, PhD**, Assistant Professor of Sociology in the Institute for Health & Aging at the University of California, San Francisco is a residential fellow working with Wendell Primus, the Senior Policy Adviser on Budget and Health issues to Minority Leader of the US House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi.

**Rajean P. Moone, PhD**, is working with the Greater Twin Cities United Way focusing on the complex relationships between private philanthropy and public funding of health and aging

services. As such he is crafting a project with multiple partners including state units on aging, United Way Worldwide, and the Administration on Aging.

**Susan C. Lynch, JD, MPH, DrPH (Candidate)**, is a health care Trial Attorney with the United States Department of Justice. Her non-residential Fellow placement is with CMS in the Office of Clinical Standards and Quality, Survey and Certification Group. At CMS, Ms. Lynch is working on the CMS National Partnership to Improve Dementia Care and Reduce Antipsychotic Use in Nursing Homes and also on the National Alzheimer's Plan.

**Emily Nicklett, PhD, MSW**, is an Assistant Professor of Social Work at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. As a non-Residential Fellow, she is currently placed with the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the Healthy Aging Network with Dr. Lynda Anderson. Dr. Nicklett also receives ongoing mentorship from Kathy Sykes at the Environmental Protection Agency on Aging in Place and community approaches toward healthy Aging.

**Joan D. Penrod, MSW, MA, PhD**, is Associate Professor in the Department of Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine at Mount Sinai School of Medicine. Dr. Penrod is a residential fellow at CMS in the Center for Clinical Standards and Quality where she is focused on developing quality measures that apply to beneficiaries with multiple chronic conditions.

## Health and Aging Policy Fellows Program Workshops

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The first of the two workshops offered by the Health and Aging Policy Fellows program was held on February 1-2, 2013 in Washington, DC. As in previous years, the communication workshop was run by John Beilenson and Chris Gherst from Strategic Communications and Planning and included didactic training and experiential training blocs on how to effectively communicate with media, interest groups and others. The John A. Hartford Foundation generously provided support for this workshop.

The second workshop will be held June 9, 2013 in Washington, DC. The workshop will focus on current policy issues around the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, and cross-cutting issues in health care reform and aging policy. The fellows have primary responsibility for organizing panel discussions around these issues.

## American Society on Aging – 2013 Aging in America Conference – March 12-16<sup>th</sup>, 2013 - Chicago, Illinois

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Alumni of the Health and Aging Policy Fellows Program spoke about their fellowship experience and the impact the fellowship program had on their professional development and careers.

Fellows also discussed their work as part of the program and shared lessons learned, newly gained knowledge and insight into advocacy and involvement in the policy process.