

HEALTH AND AGING POLICY FELLOWS NEWSLETTER

Winter 2011

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From The National Program Office

About the Program

The Health and Aging Policy Fellows Program was established in January 2008 with generous support from The Atlantic Philanthropies. The goal of the program is to provide professionals in health and aging with the experience and skills necessary to help affect policy and to create a cadre of leaders who will serve as change agents in health and aging policy that will ultimately improve the health of older adults.

Fellows are selected based on their commitment to health and aging issues, leadership potential, and interest in aging-relevant policies.

The program is multidisciplinary, and we purposefully try to cover the career span. The three classes of fellows have contained a broad spectrum of professionals including full professors with tenure and newly minted PhDs, physicians, social workers, nurses, dietitians, a geropsychologist, a former healthcare administrator with expertise in health IT/communications, an epidemiologist, and a lawyer.

To maximize flexibility for working professionals, the nine-to-12-month program allows fellows to select between two tracks: *Residential* or *Non-Residential*.

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"The Health and Aging Policy Fellows program has exceeded all expectations. The quality of the fellows is extraordinarily high. The experiences they have gained working on Capitol Hill, in government agencies or in their own institutions as non-residential fellows, has been very rich. And, the talents and insights the fellows have brought to the policy environment will surely leave a lasting and valuable impact. We are proud at The Atlantic Philanthropies

to be associated with this program."

Stephen McConnell, PhD
Aging Policy and Advocacy
The Atlantic Philanthropies

About the Program *(continued from page 1)*

Residential fellows work full-time in the policy environment of their choice. Policy training can be obtained by working as a legislative assistant, as professional staff in executive agencies, or with 'think tank' organizations.

Non-Residential fellows stay in their current positions while working on a specific policy project. The project involves short periods of travel throughout the year to relevant sites.

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.

Fellows can also apply for second-year funding to continue components of their fellowship experience/project. Upon completion of the program, fellows are expected to use their newly acquired skills to lead policy changes at local, state and national levels.



“Having the honor of being a non-residential fellow provided an unbelievable opportunity to achieve my goals of better understanding the interface between policy and practice, learning strategies to influence legislative decision-making processes, meeting and dialoguing with key individuals who served as invaluable resources, and working with a group of other Fellows who had common interests and concerns. My specific interests related to Medicare benefits, how decisions about these benefits are made, and how changes in benefit coverage might come about. The Fellowship allowed me to gain insights into these processes, not only by facilitating access to information and individuals but also by enhancing my own ability to look at the issue from the perspective of multiple stakeholders. I am more than thankful for the support of Atlantic Philanthropies in making this happen. However, I know this is only the beginning, a launching point for a more informed and broader career focus. I look forward to solidifying all the learning that has occurred over the next year while continuing to work on policies that will enhance the quality of life of older adults.”

Margaret I. Wallhagen, PhD, GNP-BC, AGSF, FAAN

2009-2011 Health and Aging Policy Fellow (non-residential)
University of California, San Francisco



“My fellowship experience was a career-changer. Working inside the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for a year illuminated for me many processes of the Medicare program that I did not understand – and didn’t know that I didn’t understand. Newly discovered opportunities to help transform health care for older persons were so compelling that, at the end of the fellowship, I stayed on in a full-time position as a “senior advisor” in CMS’s new Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMI).”

Chad Boulton, MD, MPH, MBA

2009-2010 Health and Aging Policy Fellow (residential)

Fellowship Placement: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

National Advisory Board and Mentors

The Health and Aging Policy Fellows National Advisory Board (NAB) consists of prominent leaders in government, academia, and the private sector who possess expertise and experience in health, aging, and policy issues. NAB members provide guidance for program direction, serve on the Selection Committee, and serve as mentors to fellows. The list of NAB members can be found

at http://www.healthandagingpolicy.org/about_advisory_board.html.

Each fellow is paired with one or more NAB members or another national expert(s) who serve as the fellow’s primary policy mentor, assisting them in linking with appropriate colleagues and policymakers (both inside and outside of government), and building related networks.

“As an advocate I have had many years experience communicating with lawmakers and training other nutrition and health professionals on federal and local public policy processes. The fellowship was the natural progressive next step in my career. As a fellow in both the executive and legislative branches, I have had the opportunity to sit “on the other side” of the table with advocates and work together with them in developing policies and regulations. The Health and Aging Policy Fellowship offered me a plethora of opportunities to deepen my understanding of the politics and process involved in creating public policy and to broaden my connections within the aging network and across disciplines. The connections I made through the American Political Science Association (APSA) affiliation were invaluable as well.”



Kelly D. Horton, MS, RD

2009-2011 Health and Aging Policy Fellow (residential)

Fellowship Placement: USDA, Food and Nutrition Services’ Office of Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships and Office of Congresswoman Louise M. Slaughter

The 2009-2010 Class of Health and Aging Policy Fellows

We received a great response to our second call for applications with a large number of applications from highly qualified individuals. A stellar class of fellows was chosen in June 2009, and the fellows began their fellowship year in October 2009.

The fellows participated in an extensive orientation program and the residential fellows began interviewing with potential placement offices in the fall of 2009 and by January 2010 all of the fellows had started work in their fellowship placements. With the passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act in March 2010, the fellows were in a unique position to observe how the health care reform would unfold and be implemented.

The 2009-2010 Health and Aging Policy Fellows have had the unique opportunity to be in the midst of historic health care reform efforts, which have served as an entrée to the policymaking process.



“The fellowship was vital to my learning how to influence state and federal health policy and connecting with key policy makers to advance geriatric care.”

Steven Counsell, MD

2009-2010 Health and Aging Policy Fellow
(non-residential)
Indiana University School of Medicine



“The policy fellowship has been transformative for me in a number of ways: it has helped me see a path connecting my work in research, teaching and patient care to policies that will permanently embed palliative care into the genome of American medicine; it has given me insight into the political realities in which policy change must occur; and it has allowed me to meet and get to know key leaders and thinkers who will help to guide our efforts long into the future.”

Diane Meier, MD, FACP

2009-2011 Health and Aging Policy Fellow (residential)
Fellowship Placement: US Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP)
and Office of the HHS Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE)

2009-2010 Fellowship Meetings

The 2009-2010 fellows began their fellowship year with the AcademyHealth Health Policy Orientation (October 26-28, 2009) and then with the Aging Policy Orientation (October 28-28, 2009), which was planned by the National Program Office. During the Aging Policy Orientation, a reception in honor of the fellows was attended by approximately 60 individuals from the Hill, Executive Branch agencies, academia, and non-governmental organizations (such as AARP, the National Council on Aging, the Gerontological Society of America, the Alzheimer's Association, the American Academy of Nursing, and the National Health Policy Forum).

During November 2009, the fellows attended an extensive policy orientation run by the American Political Science Association (APSA) Congressional Fellowship Program focusing on the legislative process and current congressional affairs.

In addition to the November orientation, the APSA Congressional Fellowship Program also organizes the Wilson Seminar Series. Fellows in Washington, DC attended the Wilson Seminar Series, held twice a month in the U.S. Capitol. The seminars feature briefings across a broad range of issues – defense, economics, and the electoral process – in addition to health care. Begun in collaboration with the Library of Congress' Office of Scholarly Programs, the seminars are designed to enlarge fellows' understanding of Congress beyond what they would be expected to learn in their office assignments.

The first workshop for the Health and Aging Policy Fellows was held on February 26-27, 2010 in Washington, DC. The workshop was on communications and run by John Beilenson and Chris Gherst from Strategic Communications and Planning. The John A. Hartford Foundation generously provided support for the workshop which included didactic training and experiential learning.



Nancy De Lew (CMS), Lori Gerhard (US Administration on Aging), fellows Steve Counsell and Chad Boulton, Lynn Feinberg (National Partnership for Women & Families) and fellow Kathleen Unroe participate on a panel about care coordination issues in health care reform at the second retreat.

The second workshop was held June 7, 2010 in Washington, DC. The workshop focused on current policy issues around the 2011 Older Americans Act reauthorization, care coordination and cross-cutting issues in health care reform and aging policy. The fellows took primary responsibility for organizing panel discussions that engaged major leaders in health policy, incorporated Atlantic programs, and demonstrated how the fellows have obtained a remarkable level of sophistication in a very short time.

In May, one of the fellows participated in the APSA Congressional Fellowship Program's Canadian Parliamentary Exchange. This longstanding exchange between the APSA Fellows and their parliamentary counterparts in Canada provides an intensive comparative study of Westminster versus US-model parliamentary systems. The one-week study tours, organized by fellows and the Canadian Parliamentary Interns respectively, allow participants to examine the relationship between the United States and Canada from an institutional perspective. Each year since 1973, the APSA Fellows have planned a comprehensive, weeklong introduction to the Congress for 10 Canadian Parliamentary Interns in Washington, DC. The Canadians in turn host a select group of APSA Fellows in Ottawa for one week. Participation in the exchange was highly selective.

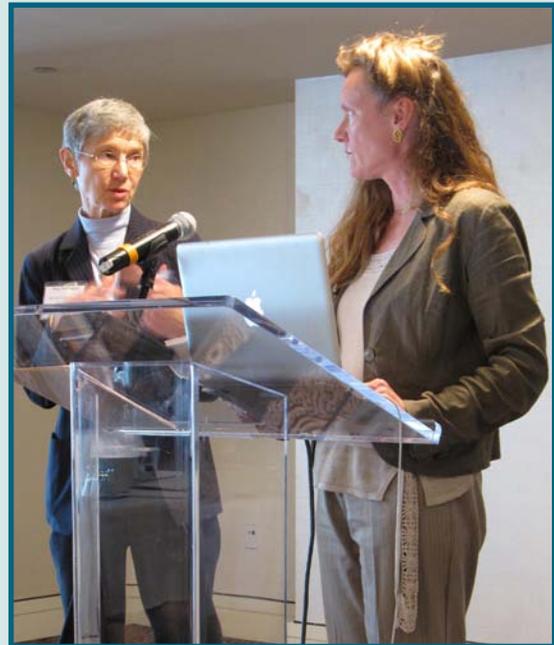
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2009-2010 Fellowship Meetings *(continued from page 5)*

In June, the fellows participated in a visit to the Maryland Statehouse in Annapolis, which was organized as a part of the APSA Congressional Fellowship Program. The visit offered the fellows the opportunity to compare one model of state government to the federal system. The day-long seminar featured a range of speakers from Maryland's legislative and administrative branches of government.

On September 14-15, 2010, the National Program Office hosted an Annual Leadership Retreat in Washington, DC, to summarize the work the fellows have done, share their experiences in policy settings, provide them with ongoing mentorship and advice, and celebrate an incredibly successful year. Retreat participants included: current fellows, alumni fellows, newly selected 2010-2011 fellows, National Advisory Board members, mentors, colleagues from placement sites and invited experts. The retreat served as a high-profile venue within which the current fellows presented their fellowship work.

In addition to these fellowship-sponsored meetings, fellows had the opportunity to participate in many other activities and meetings.



Fellow Meg Wallhagen and Anne Montgomery (US Senate Special Committee on Aging) discussing Dr. Wallhagen's fellowship work at the 2010 Annual Leadership Retreat.



"The Health and Aging Policy Fellowship provided me with a front-row seat to legislative politics, process and policy in the Second Session of the 111th Congress, culminating, for me, in the historic vote on the health care reform legislation in March 2010. I had the opportunity to learn from, and to contribute my Elder Law expertise to, the legislative branch and the non-profit aging advocacy sector. Everyone should be so lucky as to spend a year in Washington, D.C. to witness first-hand what makes America a great nation."

Kathleen Negri, JD

2009-2010 Health and Aging Policy Fellow (residential)

Fellowship Placement: US House Democratic Caucus and Aging Policy Organizations



“Participation as a non-residential fellow in the Health and Aging Policy Fellows program enabled me to have a tremendous experience both in Washington, DC, and to make my research at my home institution more policy relevant. I have spent this year learning about the process of implementation of major health care legislation through a placement at Health and Human Services. The opportunity to meet so many leaders and experts in aging policy has certainly been the most valuable part of this experience for me.”

Kathleen Tschantz Unroe, MD, MHA

2009-2011 Health and Aging Policy Fellow (non-residential)

Fellowship Placement: Office of the HHS Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE)

FELLOWS UPDATE



Gretchen E. Alkema, PhD, LCSW (2008-09 Heinz/HAPF) serves as Vice President of Policy and Communications for The SCAN Foundation.



Chad Boulton, MD, MPH, MBA (2009-2010) is serving as a full-time Senior Advisor for Geriatrics and Long-Term Care for the new Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation at (CMS).



Brian K. Hensel, PhD, MSPH (2008-2010) is Assistant Professor at the University of South Dakota Beacom School of Business.



Gregory Hinrichsen, PhD (2008-2009) is the Community Mental Health Consultant at the Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Mental Health Services.



Kelly Horton, MS, RD (2009-2011) is Research and Policy Specialist within the National Council on Aging's Center for Healthy Aging in Washington, DC and served as a grant reviewer for the US Department of Agriculture, Food and

Nutrition Service's Free Communities Program and School Garden Pilot Program.



Kathryn Kietzman, PhD, MSW (2008-2010) is a Research Scientist in the Center for Health Policy Research, University of California, Los Angeles School of Public Health.



Eileen M. Sullivan-Marx, PhD, CRNP, FAAN (2010-2011) is the recipient of the 2010 Pennsylvania State Nurses Association Advocacy-Legislative Award and has been promoted to Professor of Scholarly Practice at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing (as of July 2011).



Irene H. Yen, PhD, MPH (2010-2011 - supported by CDC) has been promoted to Associate Professor at the University of California, San Francisco (as of July 2011).



Judy Zerzan, MD, MPH (2008-2010) is Chief Medical Officer/Deputy Medicaid Director for the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Finance.

Introducing the 2010-2011 Class of Health and Aging Policy Fellows

For our third call for applications, we once again received a large number of applications from highly qualified candidates. The Selection Committee extensively reviewed each application using the selection criteria as the guide. Finalists for the 2010-2011 fellowship year were interviewed

in Washington, DC in June and the Selection Committee chose nine outstanding fellows who represent a diverse group in terms of disciplines and career stages. This stellar class of Health and Aging Policy Fellows began their fellowship year in October 2010.

Residential



Angelica P. Herrera, DrPH, MPH
Assistant Research Professor
University of California, Los Angeles



Lisa M. Troy, PhD
Scientist III, Jean Mayer Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging
Adjunct Assistant Professor, Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy
Tufts University



Mary E. Tinetti, MD
Gladys Phillips Crofoot Professor of Medicine and Public Health
Director of the Program on Aging and the Claude D. Pepper Center
Yale School of Medicine

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“My participation in the Health and Aging Policy Fellows program marked an important turning point in my career from an observer of patient safety policy to a participant in the field. My fellowship opened my eyes to the myriad ways that policy can be used to influence patient safety and helped me enhance my understanding of the complicated interrelationships of the many stakeholders in this world. I was able to complete a policy-relevant project and have had a fruitful part-time placement at the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. Finally, I made professional connections that will allow me to continue my involvement in patient safety policy even upon return to my home institution.”

Heidi Wald, MD, MSPH
2009-2011 Health and Aging Policy Fellow (non-residential)
Fellowship Placement: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)



“The fellowship made it possible for me to link research to policy and communicate this linkage with diverse groups. For example, I am completing a book, to be published early next year, analyzing the potential for the new health reform bill to diminish health disparities. Working with local advocates, I have advised the Kentucky Medicaid Cost Containment Commission on long term care policy. I have received invitations across the country to speak about the fellowship program and to encourage participation in policymaking by underrepresented groups.”

Toni Miles, MD, PhD

2008-2010 Health and Aging Policy Fellow
Health and Aging Policy Fellows Program National Advisory Board Member
Professor, Kent School of Social Work and Family & Geriatric Medicine,
University of Louisville

Non-Residential *(continued from page 8)*



XinQi Dong, MD, MPH

Associate Professor of Medicine
and Nursing
Rush University Medical Center



Joseph G. Ouslander, MD

Professor and Associate Dean for
Geriatric Programs
Charles E. Schmidt College of
Medicine, and Professor (Courtesy)
Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing
Florida Atlantic University



Bruce Leff, MD

Professor of Medicine, Johns Hopkins
University School of Medicine
Joint Appointment, Johns Hopkins
University Bloomberg School of
Public Health



**Eileen M. Sullivan-Marx, PhD,
CRNP, FAAN**

Associate Professor of Scholarly
Practice; Associate Dean for
Practice & Community Affairs
Shearer Endowed Term Chair for
Health Community Practice
University of Pennsylvania School
of Nursing



Lené Levy-Storms, PhD, MPH

Hartford Faculty Scholar/Lewis
Center Fellow; Associate Professor
of Social Welfare and Medicine/
Geriatrics
University of California, Los Angeles



Irene H. Yen, PhD, MPH

(Supported by the CDC)
Assistant Professor, Division of
General Internal Medicine
University of California, San
Francisco

Partnerships with the American Political Science Association Congressional Fellowship Program and Others

The Health and Aging Policy Fellows Program is delighted to partner with the American Political Science Association (APSA) Congressional Fellowship Program. Founded in 1953, the APSA Congressional Fellowship Program is the nation's oldest and most prestigious congressional fellowship. The Health and Aging Policy Fellows participate in all APSA Congressional Fellowship Program activities. Dr. Jeffrey Biggs directs the program with Veronica Jones, Program Associate.

We are also a partner with the John Heinz Senate Fellowship in Issues of the Aging. Our programs have combined to create the joint John Heinz/Health and Aging Policy Fellowship. Each year, one individual will be designated the John Heinz/Health and Aging Policy Fellow.



Brian W. Lindberg (Consumer Coalition for Quality Health Care) and 2008-2009 fellows Gretchen Alkema, Judy Zerzan, Kathryn G. Kietzman, Gregory A. Hinrichsen, Toni Miles, and Libbie Bragg on a panel presentation at the 2010 Gerontological Society of American Annual Scientific Meeting in New Orleans, LA.

We are equally delighted to announce our partnership with the Healthy Aging Program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). For the 2010-2011 fellowship year, the CDC is sponsoring a non-residential Health and Aging Policy Fellow and will continue to sponsor a fellow in 2011-2012.

We have also had strong collaborations with the John A. Hartford Foundation, the SCAN Foundation, the Practice Change Fellows Program, the Gerontological Society of American (GSA), AcademyHealth, AARP, the American Society on Aging (ASA), the National Council on Aging (NCOA), the American Geriatrics Society (AGS), as well as multiple Executive Branch agencies including: National Institute on Aging, National Institute of Nursing Research, Department of Veterans Affairs, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), US Department of Agriculture, Office of the HHS Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, US Department of Transportation, Health Resources and Services Administration, and Administration on Aging.

"The fellowship was a wonderful experience on many levels. The timing was extraordinary, as we were able to monitor the progress of the Health Care Reform legislation as it evolved over the year. The fellowship training allowed me to understand the nuances of this process in far greater detail than would have been possible otherwise. I was able to interpret and explain this process in real time to colleagues at my home institution to give them a better sense of how the legislative process works and how it influenced the ultimate legislation. The people we met and the contacts we made during the course of the year were great; the depth and breadth of their expertise and enthusiasm renewed my appreciation for everyone working to improve the health and lives of older individuals."



Richard Marottoli, MD, MPH

2009-2011 Health and Aging Policy Fellow (non-residential)
Fellowship Placement: US Department of Transportation



Bob Rosenblatt (Senior Fellow, National Academy of Social Insurance; Editorial Board Chair, *Aging Today*) conducting a mock media interview with fellow Heidi Wald at the communications workshop.

Other Items of Interest

We will be at the 2011 Aging in America Annual Conference of the American Society on Aging in San Francisco, CA, April 26-30, 2011. Please visit us in the Exhibit Hall at booth #711.

We will also be holding a John Heinz/Health and Aging Policy Fellows Program symposium on April 27th from 1:00-2:30 pm and also host a reception that day from 5:00 – 6:30 pm. More information will be coming soon on our website!

The Health and Aging Policy Fellows program is directed by Harold Alan Pincus, MD, Professor of Psychiatry at Columbia University and made possible by the generous support of [The Atlantic Philanthropies](#).

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The **A T L A N T I C** *Philanthropies*

The mission of The Atlantic Philanthropies is to bring about lasting changes in the lives of disadvantaged and vulnerable people. Through its Ageing Programme, The Atlantic Philanthropies aims to help transform how aging is viewed within society and improve the way older persons are treated by society. They focus on aging in Bermuda, Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland and the United States.

