HAPF Fellowship Q&A
Describe your HAPF fellowship placement(s):
I did a variety of things during my fellowship, and did not have one single placement. My focus was on issues surrounding unnecessary hospitalizations of older patients in Long Term Care Settings. I worked on these issues through participation in activities with the Administration on Aging, CMS, ASPE, and the Long Term Quality Alliance (LTQA). I participated in multiple care transition conferences, served on four Technical Expert Panels, and co-authored a major report for the LTQA. Greg Pawlson, then at NCQA, and Bob Berenson served as mentors, and I also had multiple meeting with senior staff at CMS.

What are some of the most important new skills/knowledge that you learned during your placement?
I learned a tremendous amount about how health policy is formulated through the initial orientation and educational session, and through meetings with mentors and serving on expert panels. I learned how difficult it is to develop new policy directions on quality of care in older people without risking unintended consequences, and how much work goes into developing quality measures. I also learned to frame and communicate my main policy messages clearly and succinctly.

How would you assess the impact you had at your fellowship placement?
I believe I was very helpful to the AoA in formulating their approach to care transitions, made important contributions to the expert panels I served on (one of which resulted in a major CMS initiative on reducing hospitalizations from nursing homes), and coauthored a LTQA white paper
on measuring preventable hospitalizations as well as a major CMS report and three related publications (citations below).


How has the HAPF Fellowship influenced your current work and career path?
I continue to be heavily involved in research and technical expert panels related to unnecessary hospitalization of older long-term care patients and on a Technical Expert Panel developing a quality measure on 30-day hospital readmissions from post-acute settings. As a result of the HAPF I was asked to serve on the CMS 5-Star Panel for nursing homes. The HAPF was critical in not only my appointment to these TEPs, but to my ability to contribute in a meaningful way to them. I continue to write about health policy related to care transitions (see citations below), and have successfully incorporated a session on health policy and quality of care into our inter-professional education program, which involves medical, nursing, and social workers.


Biography:

Joseph G. Ouslander, MD, is Professor of and Associate Dean for Geriatric Programs at the Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine, and Professor (Courtesy) at the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing of Florida Atlantic University (FAU) in Boca Raton Florida. He also serves as Professor of Medicine (Voluntary) in the Division of Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine of the Department of Medicine at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. Dr. Ouslander is an internationally recognized geriatrician. He is a graduate of Johns Hopkins University and the Case Western Reserve School of Medicine. He has served as a Professor at the UCLA School of Medicine, where he spent 15 years developing research, educational, and clinical programs. From 1996 - 2007 he served as the Director of Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia where he had responsibility for leading the clinical, teaching, and research programs in Geriatrics. He is a past President and Board Chair of the American Geriatrics Society, and serves as the Executive Editor of the most widely read journal in Geriatric Medicine, the Journal of the American Geriatrics Society. He has published over 200 original articles and book chapters and is a coauthor of two popular textbooks, Essentials of Clinical Geriatrics and Medical Care in the Nursing Home, and an editor of a major textbook in Geriatrics, Hazzard’s Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology. He has been a visiting professor at numerous universities in the US and throughout the world.