Dear Friends of the Health and Aging Policy Fellows Program:

The Health and Aging Policy Fellows Program is in its seventh year and we are delighted to update you on our current class of Health and Aging Policy Fellows.

Each year, we are thrilled by the quality of the Fellows, their placements and activities, and the work that they accomplish both during their fellowship year and beyond establishing a lasting legacy that improves the quality of life for older adults.

The 2014-15 Fellows have gelled as a strong collaborative group as they have progressed through our five week-long orientation with AcademyHealth and the American Political Science Association, obtained their placements and participated in our Communications Workshop (February 24-25, 2015).

We are now accepting applications for our 2015-2016 Class. Applications are due April 15, 2015.

We invite you to consider applying or to share this information with colleagues who might be interested in applying.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Harold Alan Pincus, MD
Director, Health and Aging Policy Fellows Program
2013-14 Health and Aging Policy Fellow Kate Clark and 2014-15 Health and Aging Policy Fellow Amanda Lehning were invited by Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy to provide a “Healthy Aging Agenda” for the office. This is an important component of the National Prevention Strategy that the office of the Surgeon General is leading.

Updates from the 2014-15 Health and Aging Policy Fellows

The Health and Aging Policy Fellows Program is in its seventh year! We have a great class of fellows this year working on a diverse range of aging-related issues around DC and the nation. The continuation of the program is possible thanks to the generous support of Atlantic Philanthropies and the John A. Hartford Foundation. We also are grateful for the dynamic partnerships that we have with the Veterans Administration and CMS.

Rachel Roiland, PhD, RN (residential fellow) is a Special Advanced Geriatric Fellow in the William S Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital’s Geriatric Research and Education Center (GRECC), and Associate Faculty at the University of Wisconsin Madison School of Nursing. She is placed at the VA office Geriatrics and Extended Care (GEC) where she is developing a proposal for a Transitional Care Program Office within the VA. She is also working on the development of performance measures for the Office of Geriatrics and Extended Care. Her placement mentors are Dr. Richard Allman (Chief Consultant GEC) and Dr. Kathryn Spanas (Director of Strategic Planning and Measurement, Patient Care Services) as well as external mentor Lynn Feinberg (senior strategic policy advisor for the AARP Public Policy Institute). Rachel’s fellowship is supported through a grant provided by the John A. Hartford Foundation’s National Hartford Centers of Gerontological Nursing Excellence.

Thomas Tsai, MD, MPH (residential fellow) is a research associate in the Department of Health Policy and Management at Harvard School of Public Health and a general surgery resident at Brigham and Women’s Hospital. He is placed at the office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE) where he is working on socio-economic disparities in Medicare payment programs and ACA marketplace outreach and enrollment. His mentors at ASPE are Arnold Epstein (Deputy Assistant Secretary and head of the Office of Health Policy) and Richard Frank (Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation).

Patricia Yu, PhD, LCSW (residential fellow) is a Research Associate at the Center for Aging & Work, Boston College and is working as a policy analyst for the White House Conference on Aging (WHCOA) during her fellowship. Her mentor is Executive Director Nora Super along external mentors Anne Montgomery (Altarum Institute Center for Elder Care and Advanced Illness) and Robyn Stone (Executive Director, LeadingAge Center for Applied Research and Senior Vice President of Research).

Heidi Allen MSW, PhD (non-residential fellow) is an assistant professor in the School of Social Work at Columbia University (CUSSW). She is also placed at ASPE where her fellowship project focuses on issues around the implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) as well as access and coverage for low-income families. Her mentors include Christie Peters (ASPE) as well as Katherine Baiker (Chair of the Department of Health Policy and Management at Harvard University) and Sherry Glied (Dean of NYU Wagner School of Public Service).
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Shirley Bondon, JD (non-residential fellow) is the Manager of the Office of Guardianship and Elder Services at the Washington State Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC). She has a placement at the Administration on Community Living (ACL) and is working on guardianship and elder abuse issues. She receives mentorship from Edwin Walker and Omar Valverde (both ACL) and external mentors Anne Montgomery and Joanne Lynn (both at Altarum Institute) as well as Adriana Perez (2011-12 HAP Fellow).

William Hung, MD, MPH (non-residential fellow) is Assistant Professor of Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. He is also a physician investigator at the Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Center (GRECC) at James J Peters VA Medical Center, Bronx, NY, and he currently serves as the acting Associate Director for Clinical at the GRECC. He is placed at the office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) where he is developing approaches to capture quality measures for elders with complex conditions through health information technology. His mentor at ONC is Kevin Larson (medical director of meaningful use) along external mentors Shari Ling (Deputy Chief Medical Officer at CMS) and Bob Kaplan (Chief Science Officer at AHRQ).

Amanda Lehning, PhD, MSS (non-residential fellow) is an assistant professor at the University of Maryland, School of Social Work. During her fellowship, she is focusing on implementing the National Prevention Strategy (effects of the built environment on health and well-being throughout the life course) at the Office of the Surgeon General (OSG). Her mentors include Melissa Brodowski (OSG) and Sarah Hunter (US Dep. of Housing and Urban Development) as well as external mentors Kathy Sykes (Senior Advisor, EPA Aging Initiative) and Lynda Anderson (CDC). Amanda’s fellowship is also supported by a gift to support healthy aging from Susan Lynch (HAPF alumnus) and family.

Jason M. Johanning, MD, MS (non-residential fellow) is Chief Surgical Consultant, VISN 23 Veterans Healthcare Administration and Professor of Vascular Surgery, University of Nebraska Medical Center. He is working with the VA Central Office and CMS where he is developing approaches to best honor preferences of advanced care patients in surgical settings. His mentor is Tom Edes of the Veterans Health Administration (VHA). Jason’s fellowship is supported by the Veterans Administration.

Lori Simon-Rusinowitz MPH, PhD (non-residential fellow) is an associate professor at the University of Maryland School of Public Health, Department of Health Services Administration and Interim Director of the Center on Aging. She is also placed at the Administration on Community Living (ACL) developing a framework to support “Communities for a Lifetime”. Her placement mentors are Bob Hornyak (Center for Policy, Planning and Evaluation at the US Administration on Aging), and Jennifer Ho (senior advisor to the Secretary for Housing and Services, US Department of Housing and Urban Development), and Suma Nair (Director, Office of Quality and Data, HRSA).

Rick Selvik, MPH, MSW (non-residential fellow) is a public health analyst in the Chicago Regional Office for the National Health Service Corps. He is working on the Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program to help develop a health care workforce that maximizes patient and family engagement and improves health outcomes for older adults by integrating geriatrics with primary care. His mentors are Joan Weiss (Senior Advisor, Bureau of Health Workforce), and Robyn Golden (former Heinz Policy Fellow and Director of Health and Aging, Rush University Medical Center, Chicago).

Victoria Walker MD, CMD (non-residential fellow) is the Chief Medical and Quality Officer for the Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society. She is placed with CMS to assess adverse events in long term care as well as frail elder and caregiver issues during her fellowship. Her mentors are Joanne Lynn and Anne Montgomery (both Altarum Institute) as well as Evan Schulman (Medicare-Medicaid Coordination Office, CMS).

Beverly Xaviera Watkins, PhD, MA (non-residential fellow) is an Associate Professor of Global Public Health at NYU. She is placed at the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) where she is assessing environmental health risk factors for older adults. She receives support from mentors Ken Olden (EPA) and John Haaga (NIA) as well as external mentor Kathy Sykes (Senior Advisor, EPA Aging Initiative).
Other Updates from the Health and Aging Policy Fellows Program 2014-15

• Atlantic Philanthropies has been the bedrock funding for the Health and Aging Policy Fellows Program since its inception in 2008 and we are extremely grateful to have received ongoing funding through 2018.

• Over the last few years we were able to deepen our collaboration with the John A. Hartford Foundation and we are very excited that John A. Hartford is partnering with Atlantic Philanthropies to expand and extend the fellowship program.

• In addition, the John A. Hartford Foundation is sponsoring a dedicated fellowship position for a PhD nurse each year through the National Hartford Centers of Gerontological Nursing Excellence.

• Also, as part of the extended collaboration with the John A. Hartford Foundation all of our past, current, and future Health and Aging Policy Fellows will be part of the new Hartford Change AGEnts Initiative.

• We have established an agreement with the Veterans Administration Medical Center to facilitate participation of VA staff in the Health and Aging Policy Fellows Program. Sponsored by the VA, this position expands the reach of the Fellowship to our US veterans in important ways.

• We have established an ongoing partnership with ASPE which is establishing federal trainee research positions similar to Post Doc type fellowships in academia. Individuals participating in this program would also be eligible to participate fully in our year-long Health and Aging Policy Fellows program. For further information, please visit http://aspe.hhs.gov

• For the upcoming 2015-16 Health and Aging Policy fellowship cycle we are expanding the program to include fellows interested in local/community policy as well as global aging policies, collaborating with agencies in other countries. By expanding in these two complementary directions, we aim to augment the impact of the program beyond its current reach.

• Of note, HAPF director, Harold Pincus, was awarded the 2015 Research Mentorship Award by the American Association of Chairs of Psychiatry and American Psychiatric Association for contributions to the career development of young investigators.

• We would like to congratulate Kara Abramson who has joined APSA as the new Director of Congressional Fellowship Programs and look forward to working with her for the fellowship's continued success.

• We are also delighted that Jeff Biggs who retired as Director of the Congressional Fellowship Programs at APSA on September 30, 2014 will be serving as a consultant to the Health and Aging Policy Fellows program and providing an important resource for our past and current fellows.
Unique Opportunity for Professionals in Health and Aging

Health and Aging Policy Fellows Program
Call for Applications

We invite candidates with a strong commitment to health and aging issues, leadership potential, and interest in aging-relevant policy work to join the next class of Health and Aging Policy Fellows (2015-16).

The Program
The Health and Aging Policy Fellows Program aims to create a cadre of leaders who will serve as change agents in health and aging policy to ultimately improve the health care of older adults. The year-long fellowship offers a rich and unique training and enrichment program that is focused on current policy issues, communication skills development, and professional networking opportunities to provide fellows with the experience and skills necessary to help affect policy.

Who Should Apply
The program has a broad interdisciplinary focus, and fellows have included physicians, nurses, social workers, psychologists, dieticians, healthcare administrators, epidemiologists, economists, and lawyers from academic and practice settings, spanning career stages from newly minted PhDs to senior professors and community leaders.

New
We are pleased to announce the launch of two new and innovative pilot programs:
1) Policy/Advocacy at the Community Level: We are seeking applications from candidates working in non-academic settings at the community or state level in the US who are actively engaged with their community around aging and health policy.
2) Global Health and Aging Policy: We are seeking applications from candidates with a strong interest in global health policy and the global shift in demographics and related policy implications.

Application – Key Dates
Submission deadline: April 15
Notification of finalists to be interviewed: mid-May
Interviews and selection of fellows: mid-June

For further information please visit our website at 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 (pincush@nyspi.columbia.edu) or Kathleen Pike, PhD, Associate Director (kmp2@columbia.edu)