From the National Program Office

We would like to share a brief update on our current fellows’ placements and other recent activities of the Health and Aging Policy Fellows program. Now in its 10th year, the program provides professionals in health and aging with financial support, career opportunities, and expanded networks to make a positive contribution to the development and implementation of health policies that affect older Americans. To get an in-depth view of the opportunities that our program has to offer, please read the special article “Leadership forAddressing Aging in America: The Health and Aging PolicyFellowship” which was published by the 2016-17 class of Health and Aging Policy Fellows in the October 2017 issues of the Journal of the American Medical Directors Association (JAMDA).

As a reminder, we are now accepting applications for our 2018-19 class of Health and Aging Policy Fellows (for details, please see flyer information on page two). Applications for the 2018-19 cycle are due April 16, 2018 and 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
Professor and Vice Chair, Department of Psychiatry and Co-Director, Irving Institute for Clinical and Translational Research, Columbia University
National Program Director, Health and Aging Policy Fellowship
Health and Aging Policy Fellows

Unique Opportunity for Professionals in Health and Aging
Health and Aging Policy Fellows Program 2018/19 - Call for Applications

About The Program

We invite physicians, nurses, social workers, psychologists, healthcare administrators, epidemiologists, economists, and other professionals (from junior to senior levels) with a strong commitment to health and aging issues to join the next class of Health and Aging Policy Fellows (2018-19). Candidates from underrepresented groups are strongly encouraged to apply.

The program aims to create a cadre of leaders to serve as change agents in health and aging policy. Fellows are placed in congressional, executive or other settings and work on key policy issues. The year-long fellowship offers a unique training and enrichment program that incorporates mentorship by senior national policy leaders, policy analysis and communication skills development, and professional networking opportunities to provide fellows with the experience and skills necessary to positively affect health care policy for older adults.

Application - Key Dates

Final information session via phone: March 26, 2018
Submission deadline: April 16, 2018
Submission deadline for VA Fellows: March 30, 2018
Notification of finalists to be interviewed: mid-May
Interviews and selection of fellows: mid-June

To learn more, please visit our website at www.healthandagingpolicy.org
and/or contact: Harold Pincus, MD (harold.pincus@nyspi.columbia.edu)
or Kathleen Pike, PhD (kmp2@cumc.columbia.edu)
Effective messaging  
Framing issues  
Influencing the conversation  
Effective use of social media

These were only some of the topics our fellows tackled during an interactive two-day workshop graciously hosted by our newest funding partner, West Health Policy Center. As in previous years, the workshop was organized by John Beilenson and Chris Gherst from Strategic Communications & Planning (SCP). Together with leading experts in the field (Bob Berenson/ Urban Institute, Sarah Dash/ Alliance for Health Policy, Carol Regan/ Community Catalyst, Kristin Blackwood/ Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer LLP and Marcus Escobedo/ The John A. Hartford Foundation) and some of our alumni fellows, they shared their knowledge and insight to help fellows take their communications skills to the next level and engage more effectively with key stakeholders to advance policies for older Americans in the US.

The first day of the workshop was capped by a reception and dinner which brought together fellows and their mentors, alumni of the program, colleagues from West Health, and friends of the fellowship. Highlights of the evening were thought-provoking and inspiring speeches by Norm Ornstein, a noted Washington political analyst at the American Enterprise Institute and Victor Dzau, President of the National Academy of Medicine (NAM). Drawing on some of his most recent publications, Norm Ornstein assessed the current state of Congress in general, and the threats to recent gains within the US health care system in particular. Victor Dzau emphasized prospects for optimism by pointing to new activities being undertaken by NAM to share resources among funders and work toward common goals in multiple areas including the creation of a joint initiative on longevity and aging, community, and data and technology.
Our current class of fellows is working on a diverse range of aging-related issues, not just in DC but nationwide. The continuation of the program is possible thanks to the generous support of The John A. Hartford Foundation, The Atlantic Philanthropies, The Veterans’ Administration and the Gary and Mary West Health Policy Center. As a sign of remarkable cohesion of the program, many of our current fellows are now being (co)-mentored by alumni HAP Fellows who have moved into senior positions to share their knowledge and expertise as they continue to influence policies for older Americans at the federal, state and community level.

Melissa Batchelor-Murphy, PhD, RN-BC, FNP-BC, is Assistant Professor of Nursing at Duke University School of Nursing and working with the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging in the office of the Chairman, Senator Susan Collings. Her placement mentor is Sarah Khasawinah, who also was a 2015-16 HAP Fellow, and co-mentor is Tara Cortes (2013-14 HAP Fellow and Executive Director and Professor, New York University College of Nursing).

Robert Burke, MD, is a Hospitalist and Investigator at Denver VA Medical Center and Assistant Professor of Medicine, University of Colorado. He is placed at the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), in the Federal Coordinated Health Care Office where he is focusing on ways of reducing hospitalizations of nursing home residents. His placement mentors are Lindsay Barnette (Director - Models Demonstrations, and Analysis Group) and Sharon Donovan (Director – Program Alignment Group) as well as external mentor Cheryl Phillips (President and CEO of the Special Needs Plan Alliance).

Carmen Castro, DrPH, MS, CHES, is working in Congressman Gene Green's Office (Texas's 29th congressional district) where she is supporting Congressman Green's staff to draft the House version of a bill - “Creating High-Quality Results and Outcomes Necessary to Improve Chronic Care Act of 2017” which enjoys bipartisan support. She is mentored by Sergio Espinosa (Legislative Director) as well as external mentors Anne Montgomery (Altarum Institute) and Kathy Sykes (formerly U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EPA).

Anne Fabiny, MD, is Associate Chief of Staff for Geriatrics, Palliative and Extended Care at San Francisco VA Health Care System and Professor of Medicine at the University of California, San Francisco. During her fellowship, she is working with multiple organizations, including the Veterans Health Administration, Health Plan of San Mateo, Mercy Housing, and the HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing. Her local mentor is Joshua Bamberger (Medical Director for Housing and Urban Health, San Francisco Department of Public Health).

Lori Frank, PhD, is Program Director, Evaluation and Analysis, Patient - Centered Outcomes Research Institute, PCORI. Her fellowship placement is with the National Institute on Aging, a division of the U.S. National Institutes of Health, where she is working on a range of science policy issues. John Haaga (Director of the Division of Behavioral and Social Research at NIA) is her placement mentor.

Adam Golden, MD, MBA, is Associate Chief of Staff for Geriatrics and Extended Care at the Orlando Veterans Affairs Medical Center and Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine, University of Central Florida College of Medicine. During his fellowship, he is placed with the Center for Evidence and Practice Improvement at the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), where he is looking at poor performance in stroke prevention efforts, and examining implementation science issues and implications in new payment models. His mentor at AHRQ is Arlene Bierman (2012-
Lynn Hallarman, MD, is Director of Palliative Medicine and Associate Professor at the Department of Medicine, Division Hematology/Oncology at Stony Brook University Hospital. She has a placement with the Senate Committee on Finance in Ranking Member Senator Wyden’s office. At her placement she is focusing on a diverse set of issues including nursing home deaths during last year’s hurricanes and the opioid crisis. Additional external mentors are Diane Meier (2009-10 HAP Fellow and Director of the Center to Advance Palliative Care at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai) as well as Robert Swiddler (chair of the legal committees of the Health Information eXchange of New York).

Aaron Leppin, MD, MSc, is an Implementation Scientist in the Late-Stage Translational Research Program at the Mayo Clinic and Assistant Professor at Mayo’s Division of Health Care Policy and Research. He is placed at the Minnesota Board on Aging, where he is mentored by Kari Benson (Executive Director of Minnesota Board on Aging) as well as external mentor Dawn Alley (2011-12 HAP Fellow and director of the Prevention and Population Health Group at the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation at CMS).

Terri Lewinson, PhD, is a John A. Hartford Geriatric Scholar and Associate Professor at the School of Social Work in the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, Georgia State University. She has a placement in the office of Congressman John Lewis, (Georgia’s 5th congressional district), as legislative fellow, where she is focusing on poverty issues. She receives support from her placement mentor Jamila Thompson (Legislative Director for Congressman Lewis) and external mentor Susan Jenkins (Director of the Office of Performance and Evaluation at Administration for Community Living/ U.S Department of Health and Human Services).

Ann M. O’Hare, MD, is a nephrologist and Health Services Researcher at the University of Washington and Professor at the Department of Medicine, University of Washington as well as Staff Physician at the VA Puget Sound Health Care System. She is placed at Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation at CMS working with the end-stage renal disease seamless care organization group. Her placement mentor is Tom Duvall, Operations Analyst in the Seamless Care Models Group at CMS.

Tiffany J. Riser, MSN, MPH, NP-C, is as a Registered Nurse Practitioner (RNP) at the VA Palo Alto Health Care System in the Home Based Primary Care Program. During her fellowship, she is placed with the Congressional Research Service and is being mentored by Kirsten Colello and Matt Berry (both at CRS).

Fei Sun, PhD, is an Associate Professor at the School of Social Work at Michigan State University. His placement is with the World Health Organization (WHO) and his focus is a WHO initiative to build dementia-friendly communities. His mentors at WHO are Tarun Dua and Katrin Seeher; he also receives support from external mentor Sarah Locke (Senior Vice President for Policy at the American Association of Retired Persons, AARP).
Upcoming Health and Aging Policy Fellows Events

2018 Aging in America Conference
http://www.asaging.org/general-info-aia
March 26-29, 2018
San Francisco
Please visit us at booth # 413 to connect with our fellows and learn more about the program!

American Geriatrics Society,
2018 Annual Scientific Meeting
https://meeting.americangeriatrics.org/
May 3-5, 2018
Orlando, Florida
Please visit us at booth # 310 to connect with our fellows and learn more about the program!

HAPF Spring Symposium 2018
Does “Successful Aging” Undermine Successful Policy?
Balancing Individual and Community Responsibilities.

WHEN: May 16th, 2018
WHERE: Palomar Hotel, 2121 P Street, NW, Washington DC

This event is a one-day Symposium with panels of leading policy experts discussing issues and challenges around “Successful Aging” and how views inform current health policy. The Symposium is organized by the current class of Health and Aging Policy Fellows (2017-18).