

Director's Summary



Randy Cebul

It is a pleasure to highlight accomplishments of the CWRU-MetroHealth System *Center for Health Care Research and Policy* during 2009-10. Since last year's report, we have continued to strengthen our partnerships in multidisciplinary research and training in northeast Ohio, increasing our reach and community impact. We are expanding our applications in comparative effectiveness research, health information technology research for improving health care outcomes, and in health care policy at the state and national levels.

Research awards and proposals in the pipeline focus on expanding region-wide networks to evaluate and improve outcomes for chronic health conditions using our ambulatory and hospital-based electronic medical records. In addition, we are beginning to see the possibilities for care delivery and research that will result from real-time health information exchange across different health care systems. Health care reform initiatives at the federal and state levels, including "health homes" for vulnerable populations, Accountable Care Organizations, and attention to the social determinants of health, are aligning with longstanding interests and strengths of Center faculty.

This Executive Summary highlights selected health policy-relevant activities along with summaries of grants active in 2010 and awards during 2009-10. A detailed description of grants, publications, training and mentorship activities, and our scholarly and community service can be downloaded at <http://chrp.org/pdf/CenterProgressReport.pdf>.

Health Care Reform: A Time for Health Information Technology and Primary Care

The passage of HITECH and the Accountable Care Act (ACA) in 2010 focus on health care payment and delivery system reforms that use health information technology (HIT) to provide comprehensive and coordinated patient-centered care based in primary care settings. The Case Western Reserve HIT Regional Extension Center (REC) serves as the hub for services to accelerate adoption and "meaningful use" of electronic health records by primary care providers who serve vulnerable populations in urban and rural settings across a 5-county region. The NIH-funded Cleveland Translational and Science Collaborative (CTSC) complements the REC by providing research infrastructure to expand the knowledge base for improving health and health care in the region. Center faculty serve governance and other leadership roles in both the REC and CTSC, while the Center-based Better Health Greater Cleveland program uses HIT to serve as a real-world laboratory for studying and improving care delivery in northeast Ohio. Junior faculty in the Center serve additional leadership roles in region-wide health information technology, including evolving health information exchange across diverse health systems (Dr. Kaelber) and the creation of the Northern Ohio Trauma System ("NOTS") (Dr. Claridge).



Kenneth Thorpe

In 2009-10, *Better Health* and the Center brought numerous national experts to Greater Cleveland to shine a light on our regional efforts and to learn from them about other research and primary-care centered initiatives at the cutting edge of health care reform. We were especially pleased to sponsor our third Murphy Lectureship in Health Care Economics and Policy at the City Club of Cleveland in November, featuring Kenneth Thorpe, PhD, Professor and Chair of Health Policy at Emory University. Professor Thorpe, who participated in writing key sections of ACA, shared several provisions in the law designed to contain health care costs and improve health outcomes.

Other speakers, listed below, included methods experts, policy-makers and physician leaders in initiatives to improve and increase the value of health care delivery.

VISITING SPEAKERS 2009-10 - METHODS, PRIMARY CARE, AND POLICY		
Date	Name	Topic
January 27, 2009*	Carolyn M. Clancy, MD, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality	Health and health care equity: a federal perspective
February 13, 2009	Donald Redelmeier, MD University of Toronto	The risk of sudden death in running a marathon
Feb. 27, 2009	Edwin B. Hutchins, PhD The Healthier People Network, Inc.	The appraisal of health risks
June 25, 2009*	David Cutler, Ph.D. Harvard University	Health Reform: inside the beltway, in our communities
September 18, 2009	Richard J. Baron, MD, FACP Greenhouse Internists P.C.	The patient-centered medical home
November 10, 2009	Joel Howell, MD, PhD University of Michigan	Professing progress: bedazzled medicine and dangers of hubris
March 5, 2010	Eric B. Larson, MD, MPH, MACP Group Health of Puget Sound	Defining features of learning health care teams and systems
June, 29, 2010*	Wayne J. Riley, MD, MBA, MACP Meharry Medical College	Health Disparities: gaps in outcomes, affordability and access to care
June 30, 2010	Mark S. Roberts, MD, MPP University of Pittsburgh	Virtual clinical trials: biological insights through mechanistic mathematical models
October 1, 2010	R. James Dudl, MD Care Management Institute Kaiser Permanente	Meaningful Use of EMR to improve cardiovascular health
November 1, 2010*	Martín J. Sepúlveda, MD, FACP IBM Corporation	Transforming primary care to improve our business competitiveness
November 5, 2010	Kenneth E. Thorpe, PhD Emory University	Cost containment and health improvement in the era of health care reform
November 10, 2010*	Richard J. Baron, MD, FACP, Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation	EHR: Bringing the joy back to primary care

* Supported by Better Health Greater Cleveland

Selected Accomplishments In 2009-10

Grants active in 2010 with Center faculty as Principal or Co-principal Investigators totaled almost \$5.5 million to support our research and training programs. Counting additional awards in which Center faculty serve as collaborators, grant support in 2010 totaled over \$13 million (see <http://chrp.org/pdf/CenterProgressReport.pdf> for details). Work reflected in these grants is represented by 127 peer-reviewed publications during 2009-10 and an additional 36 book chapters, editorials, and technical reports. I am most pleased that 29 of these were published with students or post-doctoral trainees as co-authors, evidence of our faculty's commitment to advancing the scholarly careers of the next generation of researchers in health care delivery and policy.

External Support			
CENTER FACULTY AS PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR/CO-PI 2010			
	Direct Costs (DC)	Indirect Costs (IDC)	Total DC & IDC
Research	3,236,880	975,827	4,212,707
Education	1,152,967	131,130	1,284,097
Total	\$4,389,847	\$1,106,956	\$5,496,803

The table below highlights selected additional awards and special forms of recognition to Center faculty. It was difficult for me to choose among the faculty's many accomplishments during 2009-10 for this brief report, but the table illustrates both the breadth and excellence of my colleagues' talents. Among the physician investigators, I am especially pleased that five have been named among "Best Doctors in America", reflecting their dual talents and commitments to research and patient care. Two special teaching awards and an award for the best doctoral dissertation in labor economics at Princeton University also reflect the faculty's commitment to excellence in scholarship.

Selected Awards And Special Recognitions	
Best Doctors In America	Jennifer L. Bailit, MD, MPH (Maternal-Fetal Medicine) Alfred F. Connors, Jr., MD (Pulmonary and Critical Care) Neal V. Dawson, MD (General Internal Medicine) Irene L. Katzan, MD, MS (Neurology) Patrick K. Murray, MD, MS (Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation)
Best Teachers	Elizabeth D. McKinley, MD, MPH - CWRU, Kaiser-Permanente Award in Pre-clinical Teaching Thomas E. Love, PhD - CWRU Scholarship in Teaching
Top 10 Pediatric Articles • Awarded by <i>Contemporary Pediatrics</i>	Kaelber DC, Pickett F. Simple table to identify children and adolescents needing further evaluation of blood pressure. <i>Pediatrics</i> 2009; 123(6):e972-e974
Editor's Choice with Editorial	Bailit JL, et al. Maternal and neonatal outcomes by labor onset type and gestational age. <i>Am J Ob Gyn</i> 2010; 202: 245e.1-245.e12.
Albert Rees Prize for the Outstanding Princeton PhD in Labor Economics	Mark E. Votruba, PhD, MA

Comment

This is a tumultuous yet hopeful time for health care and research in health care delivery and policy. In the face of enormous competitive forces and continuing challenges to the region's economy, Center faculty continue to serve leadership roles in region-wide collaborations that serve as national models for other health care markets and multi-disciplinary research initiatives. In no small way, our ability to undertake these initiatives reflects the collaborative leadership in research of the CWRU School of Medicine and strong ongoing commitment of The MetroHealth System, which is widely recognized for its dedication to scholarship and improving the health of the public in Greater Cleveland. We are grateful for their support.



Randall D. Cebul, M.D.
December, 2010



Better Health Greater Cleveland Learning Collaborative