
Editorial

From the Editors: Recognizing Excellence and Translating Health Services Research to Policy

HSR is pleased to announce two new features appearing in Volume 39 which are designed to promote the translation between policy and research and to recognize exemplary examples. We have established the John M. Eisenberg Article-of-the-Year in Health Services Research which is designed to recognize, among all articles published in the Journal during the prior year, an article which particularly represents excellent and original research within the broad policy-relevant research areas that Dr. Eisenberg had worked in or promoted during his tenure as Director of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. We have also established a series of policy roundtable reports, designed to select some of the most important panel discussions which help define the interface between research and policy, from among those held at the Annual Meetings of AcademyHealth during the prior year.

Recognizing Excellence: The 2004 Winner of the Eisenberg Article-of-the-Year

After John Eisenberg's untimely death, the field was shocked, but resolved to not let go of his memory or vision for translating research into policy. The Journal, acting in concert with AcademyHealth and our publisher, the Health Research and Educational Trust, wanted to help maintain this vision. We have chosen to establish the John M. Eisenberg Article-of-the-Year in Health Services Research, which will be awarded annually to the manuscript that best reflects the application of research to policy-relevant topics.

To select the Eisenberg Article-of-the-Year, the Co-Editors and Senior Associate Editors review all the manuscripts in the previous year's volume and nominate the manuscripts they individually feel warrant highlighting as the Eisenberg Article-of-the-Year. We then discuss our selections and the rationale for each and reach consensus.

We are pleased to announce the winner of the John M. Eisenberg Article-of-the-Year for Health Services Research for Volume 38. It is titled "Improving Care for Minorities: Can Quality Improvement Interventions Improve Care and Outcomes for Depressed Minorities? Results from a Randomized Clinical Trial" [HSR 38(April): 613-630, 2003]. Congratulations

to the authors: Jeanne Miranda, Naihua Duan, Cathy Sherbourne, Michael Schoenbaum, Isabel Lagomasino, Maga Jackson-Triche, and Kenneth B. Wells. This article is a beautiful blend of being a first-rate presentation, using rigorous methods to evaluate a quality improvement approach, and enhancing the policy-implications with a focus on mental health and under-represented minorities.

Promoting The Translation of Research to Policy: The Roundtable Reports

For the past several years, *Health Services Research* had published a special issue or special section in memory of Alice Hersh. That mechanism was designed to allow us to “fast track” manuscripts presented at the Annual Meeting of the AcademyHealth. Our goal was to get exciting new work out to the field in less than a year, often resorting to electronic-only publication to be able to keep this promise. With the reduction in our backlog, we are now able to schedule manuscripts for publication close to the time of acceptance and have opted to improve our regular review process to meet this timeliness goal for all our manuscripts.

In this issue we present a new feature that we hope will substitute a different goal than timeliness to honor Alice Hersh. In keeping with Alice’s passion for having exciting annual meetings that helped bring together the best of research and exploring its relevance to policy, we are presenting selected Roundtables from the meeting. Roundtables often include a mix of outstanding researchers and policy analysts, focusing on topics of great importance. Their informal, collective, and sometime controversial nature, however, makes it difficult to obtain manuscripts from presenters. Thus, we are grateful that AcademyHealth has offered the services of some senior staff to attend selected Policy Roundtable sessions, tape the proceedings, and prepare summaries.

In this issue, we initiate the publication of selected policy roundtable reports, based on the 2003 Annual Meeting of AcademyHealth, in memory of Alice Hersh. Christina Folz prepared the summary of the panel discussion organized by Sherry Glied on Translating Health Insurance Studies into Policy Proposals. Hollis Hope prepared the summary of the discussion on Working Conditions of the Nursing Workforce. In each case, the summaries were reviewed by the presenters and the Co-Editors. We look forward to hearing your comments on these new features.

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Co-Editors