

## Division News

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## Mission Statement

The mission of the University of Minnesota Division of Health Services Research and Policy is to stimulate, coordinate, and conduct high-quality research focused on the organization, financing, and effectiveness of health services, and to provide a broad range of training programs for those interested in these issues.

Our purpose is to provide research-based information and educational programs that will enhance the provision of cost-effective health services to improve the quality of life.

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# Upcoming HSRP event

## Sixth Annual

## Minnesota Health Services Research Conference

Tuesday, February 26, 2002  
Four Points Hotel Minneapolis

### Keynote Speaker:

**Kenneth W. Kizer, M.D., M.P.H.**  
President and CEO  
The National Quality Forum  
Washington, D.C.

### Keynote Address:

“Pursuing Perfection and the Promise  
of Performance Improvement”

Additional information about the  
conference can be found at  
[www.hsr.umn.edu](http://www.hsr.umn.edu) or contact  
Ann Reilly at [areilly@umn.edu](mailto:areilly@umn.edu).

### Sponsoring Organizations

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota  
Center for Health Care Policy and  
Evaluation/UnitedHealth Group  
Fairview Health Services  
HealthPartners  
Mayo Clinic  
Minnesota Department of Health  
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DIVISION OF  
HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH AND POLICY  
*Division·News*

## *Rural Health Research Center*

# A Decade of Research on Rural Health Policy Issues

As its first decade of research on rural health policy issues draws to a close, the Rural Health Research Center (RHRC) in the Division of Health Services Research and Policy looks forward to continuing its policy-relevant research to help shape the delivery and financing of rural health services nationally.

Funded by the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy and The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation,

the RHRC's goals are to conduct quantitative and qualitative research on rural health issues that are important to health policy formation; to disseminate research results and provide technical assistance to local, state and federal health care policymakers; and to train future rural health services researchers.

Principal investigator Ira Moscovice has directed the RHRC since its inception in 1992. He

says, "Health policy in America continues to be based primarily on what works in urban areas. The need for policy-relevant research on rural health issues has never been greater."

RHRC has a core staff of three full time researchers: Michelle Casey, Walt Gregg, and Astrid Knott. Several HSRP faculty, including Lynn Blewett, Kathleen Call, Jeremy Holtzman, Beth Virnig, and Doug Wholey, currently collaborate with Moscovice and RHRC staff on specific RHRC projects.

The Research Center also provides opportunities for graduate students from the Division and related departments to work as research assistants with responsibilities for library research, assembling data files, and conducting preliminary analyses of data. Currently, Terry Hietpas, Jill Klingner, Cleopatra Laicer, and Eric Lewerenz are employed as graduate research assistants at the RHRC.



*Rural Health Research Center staff members are, from left, Walt Gregg, Cleopatra Laicer, Ira Moscovice (director), Astrid Knott, Michelle Casey, and Jill Klingner.*

*Continued on page 8*

## From the division head

As this issue goes to print, we are all still in shock over the tragic events in Washington, D.C. and New York City that occurred on September 11. As far as I know now, the loss of life did not touch any of our immediate families, but we all feel the sorrow and the confusion left in the wake of the disaster. It is a very sad time for the country.

Life goes on, however, at the Division of Health Services Research and Policy. This issue of *Division News* provides information on our many interesting new students in the three HSRP degree programs. Please take the time to review the descriptions of the students' backgrounds and interests. We're excited to have so many well-qualified and motivated students in our programs, and we look forward to a challenging year.

### New faculty members

One of our newest faculty members, Donna McAlpine, arrived in Minneapolis in August. Her training in medical sociology, and her interests in mental health and access issues, strengthen our offerings and add a new dimension to the faculty. As a Canadian native, Donna does not anticipate any problems with the Minnesota winter. Robert Town will join HSRP in January 2002 (see page 9).

### Educational excellence

As the faculty expands, we have committed to growing the teaching programs, particularly at the master's level.

Ira Moscovice, whose work in rural health care is profiled in this issue, has led a committee dedicated to refocusing the M.S. program in Health Services Research, Policy, and Administration. Along with Bryan Dowd and Doug Wholey, he has convened sessions with potential employers in the community and conducted a detailed survey among alumni, health services researchers, and health care professionals nationwide. We expect several important results of this work; one being an M.S. program focused on training health services researchers at the master's level. This program will meet the needs of students and health care institutions, and provide closer relations with regional institutions interested in sponsoring these students during their training. Final details of the new program will be available soon.

We continue to improve the Master's of Public Health (MPH) in Public Health Administration program to meet the needs of today's administrators. We are working with faculty in the Academic Health Center to develop a minor in public health informatics and expand programs in global health issues.

Under the leadership Kathleen Call, Bob Veninga, and Judy Garrard, we are working to develop a clearinghouse to provide faculty and student involvement in community research needs.

We will provide updates on these and other initiatives in future issues of *Division News*.

### Research and outreach

Our faculty continues to compete successfully for externally-funded research grants. Our Annual Report for the 2000-2001 academic year is in preparation and will be distributed soon. Faculty are also involved in translating their research into more practical settings. Bob and Rosalie Kane will be featured in the School of Public Health Roundtable on Aging (November 2, 2001); Bryan Dowd serves on the Board of the National Institute of Health Policy, a joint program of the University of St. Thomas and the Academic Health Center; and Lynn Blewett and Kathleen Call are volunteering support for the *Cover All Kids* Coalition (detailed information about the Coalition can be found on page 3).

We look forward to a productive and interesting academic year. As always, we invite our alumni, friends, and supporters to contact us with questions or comments.

—Susan Bartlett Foote, J.D.  
*Division head*

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# Notable HSRP faculty and student activities

## Faculty

■ **Lynn Blewett** and **Kathleen Thiede Call** welcomed sixteen participants from 10 states when the State Health Access Data Assistance Center (SHADAC) hosted a two-day workshop on State Health Insurance Surveys on August 2-3. This meeting of state-level survey experts was convened to discuss the need for and feasibility of a state-initiated effort to produce comparable health insurance coverage estimates across the states. HSRP faculty member Todd Rockwood presented at the workshop and facilitated discussion of measurement issues. SHADAC (Blewett, PI and Call, co-PI) is a three-year, \$4 million project sponsored by The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

■ **Bryan Dowd** and **Roger Feldman** were invited by President George W. Bush to be present when he announced his Medicare Drug Program at the White House on July 12. Dowd attended the event. He and Feldman are national experts on Medicare policy and have been advising the federal government on Medicare reform for the past 10 years.

■ **Roger Feldman**, **John Nyman**, and **Douglas Wholey** participated in the iHEA (International Health Economics Association) conference in York, England on July 23-25. They presented papers and participated in the conference along with 1,250 health economists from 62 different countries. HSRP alumni Matt

Maciejewski, Anne Sales, Katherine Harris, Jennifer Schultz, Tiffany Radcliff, Adam Atherly, Chuan-Fen Liu, and Paul McNamara also attended the event.

■ **Robert Kane** convened the fourth annual Conducting Health Outcomes Research course in Minneapolis on August 11-18. Nineteen health care administrators and researchers participated in workshops on the design and implementation of health outcomes research. The course was sponsored by the University of Minnesota Clinical Outcomes Research Center (CORC) (Robert Kane and Marc Swiontkowski, co-directors) and led by HSRP faculty.

## Students

■ **George Avery**, Ph.D. student, has two recent research reports posted on the CDC's Public Health Practice Program Office/Division of Laboratory Systems website. The reports are entitled "Patterns of Quality Assurance Activities in CLIA Waived Testing" and "Self-Reported Deficiencies in Arkansas County Health Unit Laboratories (1993-2000)."

■ **Rada Dagher**, Ph.D. student, and coauthors published "Oral Hygiene and Lifestyle Correlates Among New Undergraduate Students in Lebanon" in the July 2001 issue of the *Journal of American College Health*.

■ **Mary Forte**, Ph.D. student, has been designated a 2001 "HSM Rewards Provider" by Health

Services Management, Inc. in St. Paul. HSM administers chiropractic claims for contracts such as Preferred One and Select Care. This designation is earned by chiropractors who have distinguished themselves by achieving outstanding levels of patient care in the areas of patient treatment outcome, patient satisfaction, and patient communication and self-motivation.

■ **Ashwin Ravichandran**, M.P.H. student, and a coauthor published "Ultrasonic Nebulization System for Respiratory Drug Delivery" in *Pharmaceutical Development and Technology* 6(1):83-89, 2001.

■ **Yogindra Samant**, M.P.H. student, completed a field experience with the World Health Organization this summer in India. The project assessed the distribution of the Polio vaccine in a rural district of India, and the knowledge and practices of the vaccine handlers. Samant was project PI, and Sameer Nevile, also a PHA student, was co-investigator. HSRP faculty Lester Block and A. Marshall McBean were project advisors.

■ **Peter Veazie**, Ph.D. student, published "Using Computer Simulation to Investigate Disease Management" in *The Endocrinologist* 11(3):209-216, 2001. He also presented a poster session on "Treatment Strategies for the Management of Chronic Illness: Is Specialization Always Better?" at the Systems Dynamics Conference in Atlanta in July.

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## Recent faculty publications

Casey, M., K.T. Call, & J. Klingner. (2000). *The Influence of Rural Residence on the Use of Preventive Health Care Services*. Working Paper #34, prepared by the U of M Rural Health Research Center (RHRC), Division of Health Services Research and Policy.

Feldman, R., & D. Wholey. (2001). **Do HMOs Have Monopsony Power?** *International Journal of Health Care Finance and Economics* 1:7-22.

Foote, S.B., J. Levinson, & D. Mendelson. (June 2001). *Summit Report: Reimbursement for Clinical Information Technologies (CIT)*. Medical Technology Leadership Forum.

Grabowski, L.J.S., K.T. Call, & J.T. Mortimer. (2001). **Global and Economic Self-Efficacy in the Educational Attainment Process**. *Social Psychology Quarterly* 64(2):164-179.

Kane, R.A. (2001). **Long-Term Care and a Good Quality of Life: Bringing Them Closer Together**. *The Gerontologist* 41(3):293-304.

Kane, R.L., & R.A. Kane. (2001). **Emerging Issues in Chronic Care**. In R.H. Binstock, & L.K. George (eds.), *Handbook of Aging and the Social Sciences, Fifth Edition*. San Diego: Academic Press, pp. 406-425.

Kane, R.L., A. Weiner, P. Homyak, & B. Bershadsky. (2001). **The Minnesota Senior Health Options Program: An Early Effort at Integrating Care for the Dually Eligible**. *Journal of Gerontology: Medical Sciences* 56A(9):M559-M566.

Knott, A., & J. Christianson. (2001). *A Rural Government Role in Medicaid Managed Care: The Development of County-based Purchasing in Minnesota*. Working Paper #35, prepared by the RHRC.

Nyman, J.A., & R. Maude-Griffin (2001). **The Welfare Economics of Moral Hazard**. *International Journal of Health Care Finance and Economics* 1:23-42.

Radosevich, D.M., M.P. McGrail Jr., W.H. Lohman, R. Gorman, D. Parker, & M. Calasanz. (August 2001). **Relationship of Disability Prevention to Patient Health Status and Satisfaction With Primary Care Provider**. *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine* 43(8):706-712.

Stensland, J., I. Moscovice, & J. Christianson. (2000). *The Financial Viability of Rural Hospitals in a Post-BBA Environment*. Working Paper #33, prepared by the RHRC.

## New grants

PI: Lynn Blewett  
**Assessing State Data Sources to Monitor the Safety Net**.  
Health Systems Research, Inc./DHHS prime, 7/1/01-9/30/01

PI: Robert Kane  
**Patient Safety in Nursing Homes**.  
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, 10/1/01-3/31/03

PI: John Krlewski  
**The Effects of the Work Environment and Financial Incentives on the Quality of Care in Medical Group Practices**.  
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, 10/1/01-3/31/03

*PI: Principal investigator*

### Cover All Kids Coalition

# Collaborative effort to address uninsurance among Minnesota's children and adolescents

Minnesota consistently enjoys very low rates of uninsurance and is consistently ranked as one of the nation's healthiest states. Despite these good rankings, many people still remain uninsured. The *Cover All Kids* Coalition was formed to help address and make progress on this problem.

According to the most recent statewide survey (the 2001 Minnesota Health Access Survey, representing a collaborative effort between the Minnesota Department of Health and the Division of Health Services Research and Policy), approximately 64,000 children and adolescents age 18 and under were without insurance at the time of the survey.

### Who are these children?

Children and adolescents in Greater Minnesota and from racial/ethnic minorities are more likely to be uninsured than metro area and white children and adolescents. The survey shows that the vast majority (more than 80%) of uninsured children have parents who are employed but do not have access to insurance through their employer. Although children with insurance do not always receive all

recommended preventive care services, those without coverage often go without needed acute care services as well.

### Coalition sets goals to cover kids

*Cover All Kids* has two goals: that all children and adolescents obtain health insurance and that they get in for preventive services. The coalition, which launched its first campaign at the 2001 Minnesota State Fair, was founded on the premise that achieving the goals of expanding coverage and access to preventive care will take the combined efforts of public agencies and private organizations. Strategies underway to accomplish these goals are the public awareness effort led by Minnesota Viking Cris Carter, the simplification of government program eligibility and enrollment, and improving methods for enrolling children and adolescents at a broad array of community sites.

*Cover All Kids* is a public-private partnership of more than 80 organizations interested in promoting the health of Minnesota's youth (see box). *Cover All Kids* Steering Committee co-chairs are Dr. Blanton Bessinger, Minnesota Medical Association, Jim Koppel,

### Cover All Kids Coalition Members:

Gov. Jesse Ventura  
Minnesota Department of Health  
Minnesota Department of Human Services  
The Children's Defense Fund-Minnesota  
Academy of Pediatrics-Minnesota Chapter  
Minnesota Council of Health Plans  
Neighborhood Health Care Network  
Minnesota Community Action Association  
Minnesota Medical Association  
Minnesota Nurses Association  
Minnesota Hospital and Healthcare Partnership  
Minneapolis Healthy Learners Board  
Legal Services Advocacy Project  
Joint Religious Legislative Coalition  
Minnesota Public Health Association  
Congregations Concerned for Children  
Hennepin County  
Ramsey County  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners & Associates  
[and more](#)

Children's Defense Fund-Minnesota, and Michael Scandrett, Minnesota Council of Health Plans.

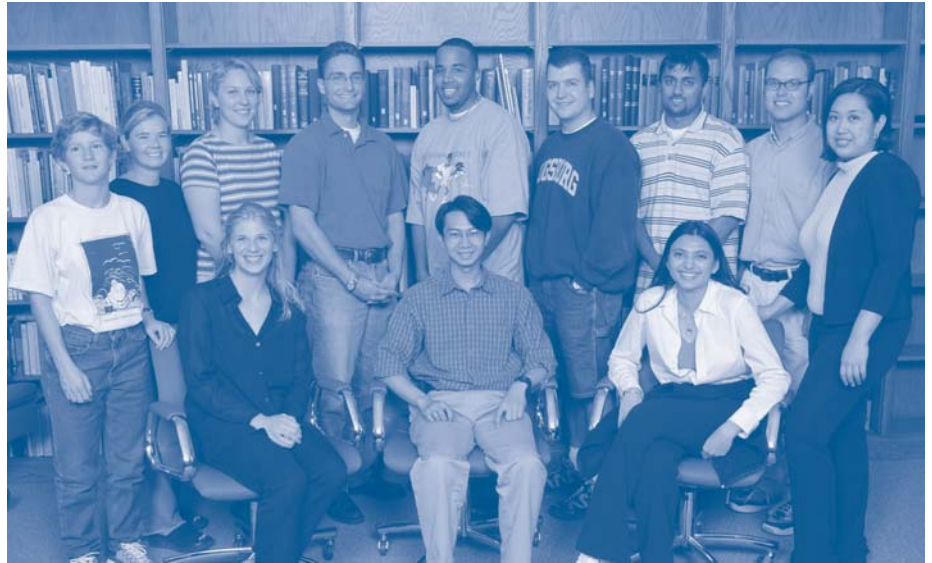
"Many working families are unaware that they qualify for public-supported health care coverage," said Jim Koppel. "We need to get the word out to Minnesota families that affordable health care coverage is available and regular checkups for kids are essential."

*Continued on page 9*

## New HSRP students

We are proud to introduce the 30 students who entered HSRP's three educational programs this fall. They come from varied educational and professional backgrounds and have diverse interests.

We are confident that our teaching programs will prepare them for challenging careers in health services research, policy analysis, and public health administration.



*New students in HSRP's M.P.H. in Public Health Administration program are, front row, from left: Michele Maiers, Aaron Kual, and Rachana Patel. Back row, from left: Kristina Jones, Sarah Kraling, Alison Pence, Jay Biber, Jared Swanegan, Chris Steffen, Ashwin Ravichandran, Jared Erdmann, and Nicole Maglinao. Not pictured: Jane Duncan, Molly Jacques, Cleopatra Laicer, Sheila Moroney, Christine Taddy, and Andrew Ward.*

### Master of Public Health in Public Health Administration

#### ■ Jay Biber

*Winnipeg, Canada*

D.M.D., University of Manitoba. He is concurrently enrolled in the School of Dentistry's M.S. and Certificate of Pediatric Dentistry program. His research includes assessing the impact of folic acid on the incidence of children born with a cleft lip and/or palate. Future plans are to return to Canada to address dental health issues among the indigenous population.

#### ■ Jane Duncan

*Edina, Minn.*

B.S., Economics, University of North Dakota. She worked in the business world for 20 years and is currently working part time for HealthPartners Research Foundation. Her goal is to

combine her business and analytical skills with her passion to provide healthcare and healthy living programs to community members.

#### ■ Jared Erdmann

*Minneapolis, Minn.*

B.A., International Relations, University of Minnesota. He served in the Peace Corps in Honduras. His passion for social service complements public health's goals of improving the health of populations. He would like to work for an international health organization.

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*Rural Health*  
*Continued from page 8*

Dissemination of the results of research to local, state, and federal policymakers who play key roles in the development of legislation and the administration of rural health programs is an important activity of Research Center staff. Since 1992, RHRC staff have made more than 150 presentations on rural health issues to groups that include several U.S. Senate and House

Committees, federal agencies, the Institute of Medicine, MedPAC, the National Governor's Association, the National Rural Health Advisory Committee, legislative and/or executive branches of government in multiple states, and the American Hospital Association.

More information may be found on the Web at [www.hsr.umn.edu/rhrc](http://www.hsr.umn.edu/rhrc).

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*Cover All Kids*  
*Continued from page 3*

### **HSRP representation strong**

Representing the University of Minnesota's School of Public Health in a voluntary capacity are HSRP faculty members Lynn Blewett (Evaluation, Assessment, and Research Workgroup member) and Kathleen Thiede Call (Steering Committee member; and Co-chair of the Evaluation, Assessment, and Research Workgroup). As one of seven coalition workgroups, the Evaluation, Assessment, and Research Workgroup is charged with monitoring progress of the coalition goals and assisting other workgroups with data needs.

As part of this effort, the workgroup has been instrumental in the coalition's efforts to add questions to the 2002 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) Child Supplement concerning access to insurance and use of preventive services.

"This is exciting," said Call. "The questions on the child supplement provide the only data available to monitor the relationship between insurance coverage (or lack of coverage) and use of preventive services over time for all Minnesota children." The BRFSS Child Supplement is fielded every two years. Currently, data on the use of preventive services are only available for enrollees in public programs or private fully-insured plans, which represents roughly 31% of Minnesota children under age 18 [Source: MDH Health Economics]. This survey will provide the only data on uninsured children and those covered by self-insured plans.

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## **Introducing new HSRP faculty member**

Robert J. Town will join the HSRP faculty in January. He received his Ph.D. in economics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1990. His dissertation was entitled "Three Essays in Industrial Organization."

Since 1996, Town has been an assistant professor in the Graduate School of Management at the University of California, Irvine. Previously, he was a staff economist at the U.S. Department of Justice, Antitrust Division.

He will add to HSRP's expertise in the areas of health economics, industrial organization, and applied econometrics. His recent publications focus on topics such as hospital competition in HMO networks, quality of care in hospitals, and mergers and acquisitions.



*New HSRP faculty member  
Robert Town.*

Town earned his M.S. and B.A., both in economics, from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the University of Washington, respectively.

## Research agenda

RHRC's research agenda focuses on three policy areas: rural health care financing, rural systems building, and outcomes and delivery of care in rural areas. The Center's agenda includes several projects in each policy area.

In the rural health care financing area, Knott, Gregg, and Lewerenz are completing a study of rural hospitals' access to capital, in consultation with Jeff Stensland, a former RHRC staff member. The study, which is funded by the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy, addresses a national concern that rural hospitals are having difficulty obtaining loans to update their aging buildings and equipment.

To analyze the adequacy of capital markets, RHRC is examining existing government loan programs, including USDA, FHA, and state programs, and private capital markets. "This is the first study that takes an integrated approach to examining federal, state, and private loan programs that attempt to meet the capital needs of rural hospitals," says Astrid Knott, co-project director.

In the rural systems development area, Moscovice and Casey are collaborating with HSRP faculty member Beth Virnig and research

fellow Sara Kind on a study of hospice care in rural areas.

The hospice study, which is funded by The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, has two parts. A quantitative analysis of Medicare data will examine rural-urban differences in hospice utilization and costs, and define geographic service areas for hospice services. The qualitative part of the study involves case studies of hospices serving rural areas. Michelle Casey, the project director, says that "the case studies will provide an in-depth perspective on hospices' challenges serving rural areas and 'best practices' that can serve as models for other rural communities."

In the outcomes and delivery of care area, Moscovice, Wholey, Holtzman, and Hietpas are completing a study of medical error and patient safety issues in rural hospitals. The purpose of the project is to assess the implications of the recent Institute of Medicine report, "To Err is Human: Building a Safer Health System," for rural hospitals. Strategies for monitoring and implementing systems to prevent medical errors in rural hospitals will be identified.

Ira Moscovice, project director, says that "the national focus on patient safety and medical errors has failed to acknowledge the

### Examples of Current and Recently Completed RHRC Projects:

- Rural Hospitals' Access to Capital
- Hospice Care in Rural Areas
- Preventing Errors in Rural Hospitals
- Access to Rural Emergency Medical Services
- Health Care System Response to a Growing Latino Population in Rural America
- Access, Service Use and Costs for Rural Residents with Chronic Illness
- Access to Pharmacy Services in Rural Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota
- The Financial Viability of Rural Hospitals in a Post-BBA Environment
- Medicare Minus Choice: The Impact of HMO Withdrawals on Rural Beneficiaries
- Multi-Center Tracking of the Rural Hospital Flexibility Program

special challenges of monitoring these issues in rural environments. In order to implement effective policies for improving patient safety and reducing medical errors in rural hospitals, a thorough understanding of the unique features (i.e., limited number of health professionals and other resources, limited number of patients) present in the rural environment is necessary."

### Dissemination of research

RHRC disseminates its research findings through a series of working papers, extensive publications in peer-reviewed journals, and presentations at state and national conferences, forums, and hearings.

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## New HSRP students

### ■ Molly Jacques

*Minneapolis, Minn.*

B.A., Communication, College of Saint Benedict. She works as a supervisor at Guidant Corporation, where she provides guidance to researchers studying post market surveillance data of implantable cardioverter defibrillators. She hopes to gain a broader understanding of the healthcare system and strengthen her managerial and leadership skills.

### ■ Kristina Jones

*Beloit, Wis.*

B.A., Political Science, St. Olaf College. She has interned at the American Academy of Pediatrics in Washington D.C., the Rock County Tobacco-Free Coalition, and Senator Russ Feingold's Office in Washington, D.C. She hopes to work in a policy position to help change the healthcare system so it better serves the needs of patients and physicians.

### ■ Sarah Kraling

*Minneapolis, Minn.*

B.A., Biology, College of Saint Benedict. She worked as a research associate for Parker Hughes Cancer Center in Roseville, Minn. She would like to work for an international health organization promoting health issues and developing policies, or work with the elderly.

### ■ Aaron Kual

*Koto Kinabalu, Malaysia*

B.A., Chemistry, Saint Mary's University. He is a nationally- and Minnesota-Registered Emergency Medical Technician and was involved with the Winona County American Red Cross. He served with the Lasallian Volunteers in Kansas City on the Migrant Farmworkers Project. He hopes to work in a national or international-level healthcare organization.

### ■ Cleopatra Laicer

*Morogro, Tanzania*

B.A., Biology, Concordia College. She worked as a lab assistant and phlebotomist at Abbott Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis. She hopes to learn more about organizing, developing, and managing public health policies. Future plans include attending medical school.

### ■ Nicole Maglinao

*Vallejo, Calif.*

B.A., Psychology, University of Hawaii, Manoa. She was employed at the Department of Health of the City and County of San Francisco. Her interest in public health began when she realized how public health is intertwined with everyone's well-being. Her goal is to become an administrator in a health-related organization.

### ■ Michele Maiers

*Edina, Minn.*

B.S., Human Biology, Northwestern Health Sciences University, and D.C., Northwestern College of Chiropractic. She worked as a research fellow at Northwestern Health Sciences University, managing several randomized clinical trials. She wants to improve her managerial and leadership skills and improve the integration of complementary and traditional medical disciplines in an accessible, quality healthcare system.

### ■ Sheila Moroney

*Mendota Heights, Minn.*

B.A., English, Boston University. She has worked as a freelance grant writer, health education consultant, and director of health education and associate director of development and public affairs at Dimock Community Health Center. She would like to hone her management and research skills and better understand the barriers to health care access.

### ■ Rachana Patel

*Minneapolis, Minn.*

B.S., Biochemistry, University of Minnesota. She has worked as a lab research assistant and volunteered at the Best Buddies Program, working with mentally disabled patients. Future plans include obtaining an M.D. degree and working in an underserved community.

### ■ Alison Pence

*Edina, Minn.*

B.A., Psychology, St. Olaf College. She worked as a family resource advocate for Southeast Way to Grow in Minneapolis. She would like to work in a clinic or healthcare setting designed to serve people who are not getting regular health care.

### ■ Ashwin Ravichandran

*Woodbury, Minn.*

B.S., Chemical Engineering, University of Minnesota. As an undergraduate, he worked in several service organizations and volunteered at Fairview University Hospital. He hopes to run a clinic as a physician in an underprivileged part of the world.

### ■ Christopher Steffen

*St. Paul, Minn.*

B.A., Biology, Augsburg College. He conducted neuroscience research on the effects of perinatal iron deficiencies and worked in a research lab studying cerebellar ataxia. Some of his public health interests are managed care, genetic epidemiology, access to healthcare, public policy, and infectious disease.

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## New HSRP students

### ■ Jared Swanegan

*Columbia, Mo.*

B.S., Biology, Truman University. He completed an internship with Senator Paula Carter in Missouri, was a Ronald E. McNair Scholar, and published in the *Harvard Undergraduate Review*. He wants to pursue a career in health policy, particularly in the field of health law.

### ■ Christine Taddy

*Lake Forest, Ill.*

B.A., Public Health and Child Psychology, University of Minnesota. She worked as a health associate for the Lake County Health Department and Community Health Center in Waukegan, Illinois and is currently employed at Park Nicollet Healthsource, managing a health promotion corporate contract. Her goal is to attain an upper management position in a health-based organization.

### ■ Andrew Ward

*Atlanta, Ga*

B.A., Mathematics, Luther College, and Ph.D., Philosophy, University of Kansas. He taught at numerous academic institutions including Georgia Institute of Technology and San Jose State University. He is interested in how public policy decisions are made within health services and would like to apply his years of studying political and ethical theory to real-life health care issues.

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## Ph.D. in Health Services Research, Policy & Administration

### ■ Caroline S. Carlin

*Edina, Minn.*

B.S., Mathematics, University of Nebraska. She worked for Target Corporation, most recently as the director of benefits. Her research interests include health plan choice and purchasing patterns, and competition among providers.

### ■ Rada Dagher

*Beirut, Lebanon*

B.S., Environmental Health, and M.P.H., American University of Beirut. She worked as a graduate assistant in various university departments. She is interested in access to care issues, especially for vulnerable populations.

### ■ Hassan Ghomrawi

*Beirut, Lebanon*

B.S., Biology, and M.P.H., American University of Beirut. He held several research positions and worked on various public health issues ranging from dental hygiene and obesity to the use of generic drugs and their economic impact. His major research interests are health economics and health sector reform.

### ■ Teresa Lewis

*Minneapolis, Minn.*

B.A., Macalester College, St. Paul. She worked for the West St. Paul school district to provide in-home therapy for an autistic student, which deepened a broad interest in quality of care, especially in the sociological and environmental problems of vulnerable populations.

### ■ Young-taek Park

*Seoul, Korea*

B.S., Health Administration, and M.P.H., Yonsei University, Korea. He was a member of the Rotarians, and worked as a hospital system analyst on the Medical Planning Team, Severance Hospital, and at the Korea Institute for Health and Social Affairs, a research institution working in the areas of health, medicine, social welfare, and related policy issues.

### ■ Holly Rodin

*Roseville, Minn.*

B.A., Labor Studies, Metropolitan State University. She will complete an M.P.P. degree from the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs (U of M) in December. She conducted a community organization of hospital and nursing home health care workers, and became the first political director at the

## New HSRP students

Service Employees International Union. She is interested in access, affordability and quality of healthcare, and workforce issues facing the healthcare industry.

### ■ Jye Wang

*Taichung, Taiwan*

B.S., Physical Therapy, National Taiwan University, and M.S., Physical Therapy, MGH Institute of Health Professions, Boston. He worked in several positions including director of the Rehabilitation Department, God's Help Hospital, Taiwan, and was a founding member of the Physical Therapist's Association of Taiwan. Research interests include health insurance, quality of care, and outcome measurement.

### ■ Tzy-Chyi (Amanda) Yu

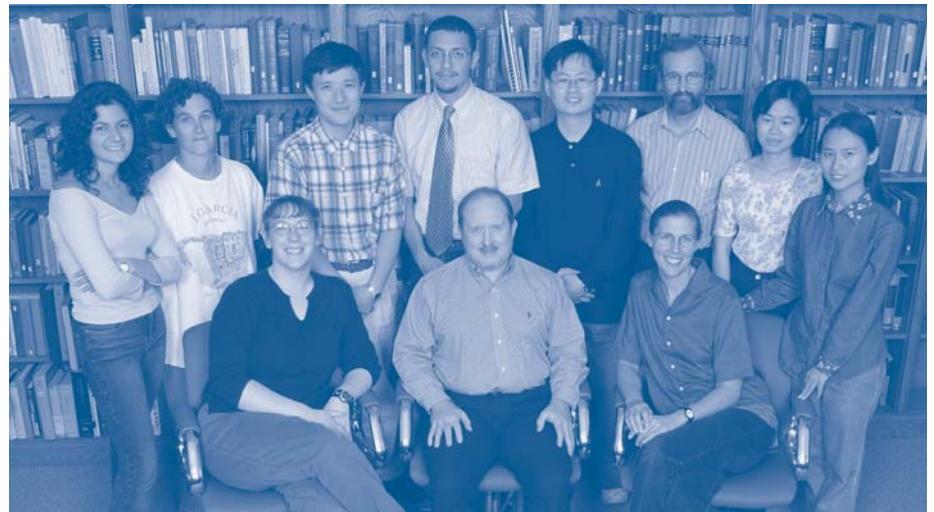
*Taipei, Taiwan*

B.S., Physical Therapy, National Taiwan University, and M.H.A., Saint Louis University. She worked as a coordinator for MHA-Taiwan, a special program offered by the Department of Health Administration for health-related professionals, and as an academic specialist and project leader. Her research interests are strategy, finance, outcomes, and health insurance.

### ■ Dongmei Zhang

*Yunman, People's Republic of China*

B.A., English Language and Literature, Wuhan University, People's Republic of China. Her work experience includes translating, developing training materials, and teaching. Research interests include quality of care, health care financing, cost-effectiveness analysis, and health policy issues, especially for disadvantaged populations.



*New students in HSRP's Ph.D. and M.S. programs are, front row, from left: Teresa Lewis, John Overton, and Caroline Carlin. Back row, from left: Rada Dagher, Holly Rodin, Jye Wang, Hassan Ghomrawi, Young-taek Park, John Schousboe, Tzy-Chyi (Amanda) Yu, and Dongmei Zhang. Not pictured: Brenda Paul.*

## Master of Science in Health Services Research, Policy & Administration

### ■ John W. Overton, Jr.

*Minnetonka, Minn.*

B.S., Biology and Electrical Engineering, Virginia Polytech University, and M.D., University of Virginia. He completed general and thoracic surgical residencies at Tufts University, and had a cardio-thoracic and vascular surgery private practice. Recently, he worked with the Institute for Healthcare Improvement. His interests include improving healthcare outcomes in cardiac surgical, thoracic, and trauma patients; improving safety of procedures; and eliminating errors in care delivery.

### ■ Brenda Paul

*St. Paul, Minn.*

B.A., Political Science, University of Minnesota. She worked as a

communications coordinator on a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation research project on end of life care in Minnesota. She is interested in health care issues, particularly improvement in end of life care.

### ■ John Schousboe

*Hopkins, Minn.*

B.S., Biochemistry, University of Illinois, and M.D., Rush University. He is in practice (rheumatology) at Park Nicollet Health Services, and currently serves as director of the Park Nicollet Osteoporosis Center. Interests include outcomes research, health care delivery, and cost-effectiveness in osteoporosis and arthritis.