Working for the Federal Government
Alumni Panel
Monday, November 5, 2012
5:30 – 7:30 pm
Feinstone Hall (E2030)
Program
Welcome……………………………………Paul Hutchinson, MS
Assistant Director, Career Services
Discussion…………………………………..Panelists

Panelists

Susannah Cafardi, MPH 2010
Susannah Cafardi is a Social Science Research Analyst in the Rapid-Cycle Evaluation Group at the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovations, CMS. In this role, Ms. Cafardi focuses on designing and implementing evaluation strategies to assess the impact of the Innovation Center’s programs and demonstrations. In addition, she has three years of experience addressing health disparities and serving the elderly and underprivileged as a clinical social worker in the acute care setting. She is a licensed clinical social worker (LCSW), and hold a Masters of Public Health (MPH) degree from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Jaya Ghildiyal, MPH 2010
Jaya Ghildiyal currently works in the Division of Financial Policy and Analysis at the Office of Health Reform. Her work centers on developing regulatory policy to define how health insurance issuers will set premiums and pool risk in 2014 and beyond. Prior to joining the Office of Health Reform, Ms. Ghildiyal held another position at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, where she worked on Medicare Part C policy issues, including Special Needs Plan policy, quality standards for Medicare Advantage plans, and benefits coordination for dual eligible (Medicare & Medicaid) managed care enrollees. Her private sector experience includes lobbying on behalf of health care clients at the Washington, D.C. law/lobbying firm K&L Gates, and working as a research analyst at the Lewin Group, a health policy consulting firm. In addition to these full-time positions, Ms. Ghildiyal served as an intern in the U.S. Senate, and has also volunteered for numerous political and health-related causes, most recently as a healthy eating counselor in low-income DC neighborhoods. She is a double alumna of Johns Hopkins — graduating with a Master of Public Health in Health Policy and Management (2010) and a Bachelor of Arts in Public Health and International Relations (2006).

Jackie Lavigne, PhD 2000
Dr. Lavigne received her bachelor’s degree from Colby College in Waterville, ME. She then earned a Ph.D. in molecular toxicology and an M.P.H with a concentration in epidemiology and biostatistics from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in Baltimore, MD. She completed her postdoctoral training in the National Cancer Institute (NCI)’s Cancer Prevention Fellowship Program (CPFP), conducting research on the role of insulin-like growth factors in diet-related cancer. Subsequently, she joined NCI’s Center for Cancer Research as a Scientific Program Specialist, became Associate Director of CPFP in 2006, and has served as the Chief of the Office of Education in the NCI’s Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics since 2008. In this role, she oversees the division’s fellowship training program, which was recently awarded the inaugural Alexander D. Langmuir Award for Training Program Excellence and Innovation by the North American Congress of Epidemiology. She is experienced in mentoring, coaching, and training junior scientists and received the NCI’s Outstanding Mentor Award in 2008.

John Michael O’Brien is Director of the Division of Partner Engagement at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and leads the team responsible for helping external stakeholders best use the programs and services offered under Medicare, Medicaid, the Children’s Health Insurance Program, and the Affordable Care Act. He joined the Partner Relations Group from the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation, where he launched Million Hearts, a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services initiative with the explicit goal of preventing a million heart attacks and strokes by 2017, and the HHS Partnership for Patients, a public-private partnership to reduce hospital-acquired conditions by 40% by 2013, and improve care transitions such that readmissions are reduced by 20% by 2013. Prior to joining CMS, Dr. O’Brien was a Professor of Clinical and Administrative Sciences at the College of Notre Dame School of Pharmacy, a Health Policy Fellow in the United States Senate, and a Senior Policy Director and Spokesperson for the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA). He began his career as a medical science liaison at Sankyo Pharma (now Daiichi Sankyo), and was soon promoted to Manager of Government Affairs before joining PhRMA. Dr. O’Brien is a graduate of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, where he conducted research and worked closely with state leaders and the Medicare Rx Education Network to support enrollment in Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage, and the Nova Southeastern University College of Pharmacy. He studied pharmacy and public policy at the University of Florida, and completed the American Medical Student Association Health Policy Fellowship, the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists Legislative Internship, and the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Executive Residency in Association Management.