

POLICY-DIRECTED RESEARCH TO IMPROVE CARE FOR PERSONS WITH COMPLEX HEALTH NEEDS

Winter 2019

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

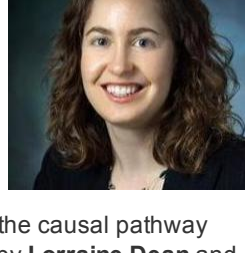
We are thrilled to spotlight one of our newest faculty members, **Emmanuel F. Drabo, PhD**, Assistant Professor of Health Policy and Management. Dr. Drabo is a health economist and recently completed a postdoctoral fellowship in Primary Care and Outcomes Research in the Basu Lab at Stanford University. He holds a doctoral degree from the University of Southern California. Dr. Drabo's research exploits economic evaluation and systems science methods to estimate the impact of major public health policy changes on morbidity and mortality from major chronic conditions in the United States—including cardiovascular and cerebrovascular diseases and dementias, as well as disparities in these outcomes.



RESEARCH FINDINGS

Do Medicare Advantage Rebates Reduce Enrollees' Out-of-Pocket Spending?

Study by **Lauren Nicholas** and **Shannon Wu** in *Medical Care Research and Review* examines whether Medicare Advantage plan savings are passed on to the consumer or retained by the plan. Results suggest enrollees do not recover the full value of additional payments, but may benefit from increased availability of supplemental benefits, increasing the value of the benefit package. [Read More.](#)

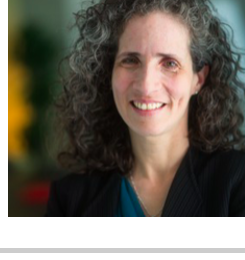


Using Credit Scores to Understand Predictors and Consequences of Disease

Credit scores may serve as proxies for social and economic factors that are on the causal pathway between individual psychobehavioral characteristics and health. Commentary by **Lorraine Dean** and **Lauren Nicholas** in *American Journal of Public Health* discusses how consumer credit may be used to advance public health research, but must be considered in the context of health equity to avoid reinforcing health disparities. [Read More.](#)

Evaluation of the Measuring and Improving Quality in Palliative Care Survey

A study by **Sydney Dy**, **Ritu Sharma**, **Kamini Kuchinad**, **Zi-Rou Liew**, **Nebras Abu Al Hamayel**, **Susan M. Hannum**, **Junya Zhu**, **Arif H. Kamal**, **Anne M. Walling**, **Karl A. Lorenz**, and **Sarina R. Isenberg** in the *Journal of Oncology Practice* evaluates the reliability, content validity and variation of a survey designed to assess facilitators and barriers to quality measurement and improvement in palliative care. The survey may be useful to palliative care programs seeking to target specific issues or areas of improvement before implementing a new initiative. [Read More.](#)



Racial Disparities in Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services

Study by **Chanee Fabius**, **Kali Thomas**, **Tingting Zhang**, **Jessica Ogarek**, and **Theresa Shireman** in *BMC Health Services Research* finds black Home & Community-Based Services recipients with Multiple Sclerosis are much less likely to use supportive services such as case management, equipment, technology, modifications, and nursing services. African-Americans are already disproportionately impacted by Multiple Sclerosis, and findings may reflect differing preferences for care or in access to care. [Read More.](#)

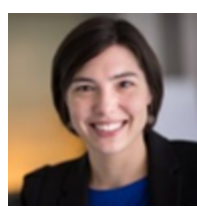


Examining Disparities in Assisted Living Settings

Study by **Chanee Fabius** and **Kali Thomas** in *Journal of the American Medical Directors Association* examined racial differences among a national cohort of assisted living residents and how the racial variation among assisted living Medicare Fee-For-Service beneficiaries compared to differences in community-dwelling and nursing home cohorts. Results suggest black beneficiaries were disproportionately represented in assisted living, were more often younger, disabled, and dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid compared to white residents. [Read More.](#)

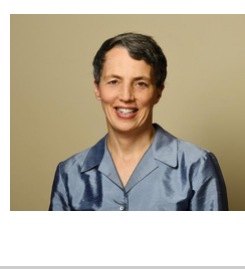
Access to Hearing Care Services Among Older Medicare Beneficiaries

Study by **Amber Willink**, **Nicholas S. Reed**, and **Frank R. Lin** in *Health Affairs* analyzed experiences of Medicare recipients aged sixty-five and older who utilized hearing aids to compare access across different demographics. The findings show that lower education and income levels of beneficiaries were associated with increased chances of having hearing impairments and decreased likelihood of using hearing aids and services. With the Over-the-Counter Hearing Aid Act of 2017, increased access to hearing aids may not correlate with improved hearing overall unless hearing care services are provided. [Read More.](#)



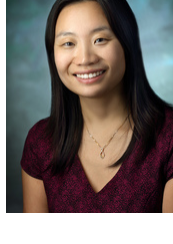
Effect of a Biobehavioral Environmental Approach on Disability among Low-Income Older Adults

Study by **Sarah Szanton**, **Qian-Li Xue**, **Bruce Leff**, **Jack Guralnik**, **Jennifer Wolff**, **Ibby Tanner**, **Cynthia Boyd**, **Roland Thorpe**, **David Bishai** and **Laura Gitlin** in *Journal of the American Medical Association Internal Medicine* demonstrates that CAPABLE, a home-based intervention, reduced disability by 30% compared to a control group also receiving home visits. This work was recently awarded a \$3 million grant from the Rita & Alex Hillman Foundation to scale the CAPABLE program beyond the 26 places in 12 States it is already operating. [Read More.](#)



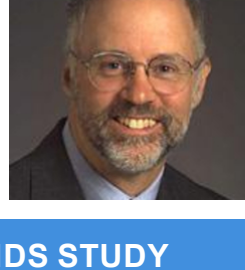
Older Adults' Preferences for Discussing Long-Term Life Expectancy

Study by **Nancy Schoenborn**, **Ellen Janssen**, **Cynthia Boyd**, **John Bridges**, **Antonio Wolff**, **Qian-Li Xue** & **Craig Pollack** in *Annals of Family Medicine* examined older adults' preferences for communicating long-term life expectancy in the primary care setting when patients may have less than 10 years to live but are not at the end of life. Findings indicate that most participants did not wish to discuss life expectancy when presented a hypothetical scenario, but were willing to discuss life expectancy as life expectancy became limited. [Read More.](#)



It's Still The Prices, Stupid: Why The US Spends So Much On Health Care

Article by **Gerard Anderson**, **Peter Hussey**, and **Varduhi Petrosyan** in *Health Affairs* revisits a 2003 coauthored article as a tribute to Uwe Reinhardt. Conclusions from most recent OECD data indicate that little has changed since 2003 and that comparatively higher prices drive disproportionate health care spending in US. [Read More.](#)



NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL HEALTH AND AGING TRENDS STUDY

Seven rounds of NHATS (2011-2017) and three waves of the National Study of Caregivers (2011, 2015, 2017) are available at www.nhats.org. The longitudinal NSOC III file with time use diaries will be released this Spring. Nearly 3,000 users have registered to access NHATS data, from which >150 peer-reviewed articles have been published, including these:

Does Caregiving Strain Increase as Patients with and without Dementia Approach the End of Life?

Family caregivers are critically important in dementia care. However, when demands exceed capacity, caregiving can impose role-related strain. A study led by **Judith Vick**, **Katherine Ornstein**, **Sarah Szanton**, **Sydney Dy** & **Jennifer Wolff** in *Journal of Pain and Symptom Management* using NHATS data finds that dementia caregivers report significantly higher strain than non-dementia caregivers, and this is even more pronounced for the caregiver near the end of the patient's life. [Read more.](#)



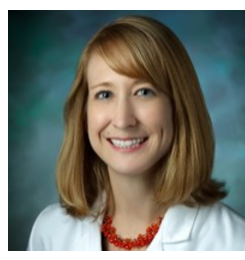
Care Arrangements of Older Adults: What They Prefer, What They Have, and Implications for Quality of Life

Study by **Judith Kasper**, **Jennifer Wolff** & **Maureen Skehan** in *The Gerontologist* using NHATS data examines individual preferences of older persons for long-term services and supports. Investigators found an even split in preferences between assisted living/continuing care retirement communities, care in own home with family help, and care in own home with paid help, but that these preferences were not always aligned with actual care arrangements. [Read More.](#)



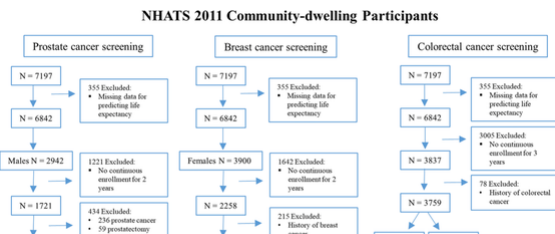
Factors Associated with Loss of Usual Source of Care Among Older Adults

An estimated 95% of older adults report having a usual source of medical care, which often bridge the gaps in care continuity. Study by **Stephanie Nothelle**, **Cynthia Boyd**, **Orla Sheehan** & **Jennifer Wolff** in *Annals of Family Medicine* finds losing access to a USC was associated with transportation barriers, moving residences, depressive symptoms, and lack of supplemental insurance. [Read More.](#)



Impact of Age, Health and Function on Cancer Screening in Older Adults

Study by **Nancy Schoenborn**, **Jin Huang**, **Orla Sheehan**, **Jennifer Wolff**, **David Roth** & **Cynthia Boyd** in *Journal of General Internal Medicine* examines cancer screening rates and whether certain population sub-groups among older adults are over or under screened. Findings suggest that the sub-group of younger adults with poor health are over-screened for cancer at higher rates than the sub-group who are older with the same predicted life expectancy. [Read More.](#)



NEWS & UPDATES

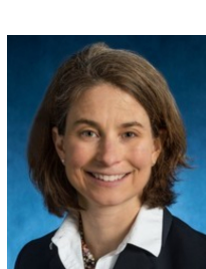
David Roth Appointed to Maryland Commission on Aging by Governor Hogan

David Roth, Director for the Center on Aging and Health, was appointed by Governor Larry Hogan as one of 13 members of the Maryland Commission on Aging. The commission reviews ongoing and future statewide programs and activities for seniors, and makes recommendations to the Secretary of the Department of Aging.



Jennifer Wolff appointed to NASEM Committee on Care Interventions for Individuals with Dementia and their Caregivers

The committee will take stock of the current state of knowledge and inform decision making about which care interventions for individuals with dementia and their caregivers are ready for dissemination and implementation on a broad scale.



SELECT RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Aboumatar H, Naqibuddin M, Chung S, Chaudhry H, Kim SW, Saunders J, Bone L, Gurses AP, Knowlton A, Pronovost P, Putcha N, Rand C, Roter D, Sylvester C, Thompson C, Wolff JL, Hibbard J, Wise RA. [Effect of a Program Combining Transitional Care and Long-term Self-management Support on Outcomes of Hospitalized Patients With Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease: A Randomized Clinical Trial.](#) JAMA. 2018 Dec 11;320(22):2335-2343. doi: 10.1001/jama.2018.17933.

Boyd CM, Leff B, Wolff JL, Roth DL, Sheehan OC. [Interactions Between Physicians and Skilled Home Health Care Agencies in Certification of Plans of Care.](#) Ann Intern Med. 2018 Nov 6;169(9):661-662. doi: 10.7326/L18-0466. No abstract available.

Granbom M, Perrin N, Szanton S, Cudjoe T, Gitlin LN. [Household Accessibility and Residential Relocation in Older Adults.](#) J Gerontol B Psychol Sci Soc Sci. 2018 Nov 2. doi: 10.1093/geronb/gby131. [Epub ahead of print]

Reeve E, Wolff JL, Skehan M, Bayliss EA, Hilmer SN, Boyd CM. [Assessment of Attitudes Toward Deprescribing in Older Medicare Beneficiaries in the United States.](#) JAMA Intern Med. 2018 Dec 1;178(12):1673-1680. doi: 10.1001/jamainternmed.2018.4720.

Riffin C, Van Ness PH, Wolff JL, Fried T. [Multifactorial Examination of Caregiver Burden in a National Sample of Family and Unpaid Caregivers.](#) J Am Geriatr Soc. 2018 Nov 19. doi: 10.1111/jgs.15664. [Epub ahead of print]

Wanigatunga AA, Gresham GK, Kuo PL, Martinez-Amezcuca P, Zipunnikov V, Dy SM, Simonsick EM, Ferrucci L, Schrack JA. [Contrasting characteristics of daily physical activity in older adults by cancer history.](#) Cancer. 2018 Dec 15;124(24):4692-4699. doi: 10.1002/cncr.31745. Epub 2018 Oct 1.

Wolff JL, Mulcahy J, Huang J, Roth DL, Covinsky K, Kasper JD. [Family Caregivers of Older Adults, 1999-2015: Trends in Characteristics, Circumstances, and Role-Related Appraisal.](#) Gerontologist. 2018 Nov 3;58(6):1021-1032. doi: 10.1093/geront/gnx093.

