

CHERISH

Center for Health Economics of Treatment Interventions for Substance Use Disorder, HCV, and HIV



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Newsletter - September 2016

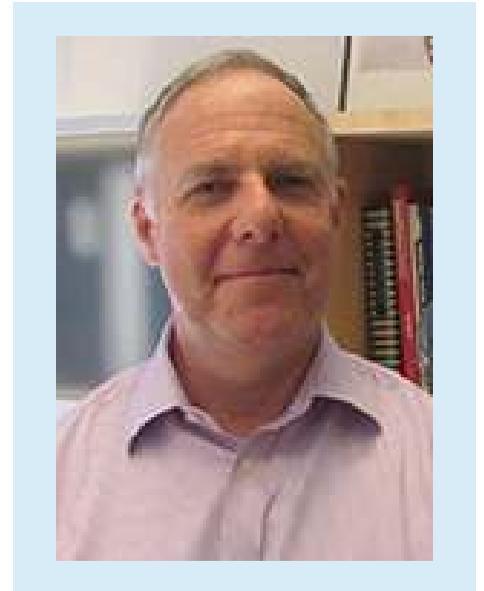
Letter from the Director

It is my privilege to serve as the Director of the Center for Health Economics of Treatment Interventions for Substance Use Disorders, HCV, and HIV (CHERISH). CHERISH is a multi-institutional Center of Excellence, funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse. The Center is a collaboration among Weill Cornell Medicine, Boston Medical Center, the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. The Center develops and disseminates health economic research on healthcare utilization, health outcomes, and health-related behaviors that informs substance use disorder treatment policy and HCV and HIV care of substance users.

To increase the impact of this research, the Center supports researchers in addressing the needs of policy makers, healthcare system providers, and payers through initiatives such as its methodology consultation service and pilot grant program that are described in this newsletter. Our Center fulfills a critical need for economic analysis to inform these decision makers, who have a heightened awareness of the need for effective treatments due to the current opioid epidemic in the United States.

Thank you,

Bruce R. Schackman, PhD, MBA



Congratulations Corner

- ▶ Dissemination and Policy Core Director, **Zachary Meisel, MD, MPH, MSHP** received a \$2.1 million Award from PCORI for a comparative effectiveness study of opioid risk communication strategies.
- ▶ HCV and HIV Core Co-Director **Jeffrey Samet, MD, MA, MPH** will receive the John P. McGovern Award at the Association for Medical Education and Research in Substance Abuse (AMERSA) conference. He will present the John P. McGovern Award plenary, "*From the Shadows to the Spotlight – Improving Care for Patients with Substance Use – Education, Research and Clinical Innovations.*"

In This Newsletter

- ▶ Highlights of our first year
- ▶ Our methodology consultation service and a consultation success story
- ▶ Our pilot grant recipients and their research
- ▶ Two issue briefs about the health economic implications of substance use disorders
- ▶ Information on where you can find our investigators at upcoming conferences
- ▶ How to contact us and keep up with us on social media for the latest CHERISH news

Methodology Consultations

The CHERISH methodology consultation service is available to researchers in the substance use disorder treatment, HIV and HCV fields nationally. Consultation requests are made through the CHERISH website and, if a match with a consultant occurs, consultations are provided without cost for a maximum of approximately 6 hours of consultant time.

Since its launch in December of 2015, CHERISH consultants have completed eight consultations (about one per month). Several of the studies focus on HCV and/or HIV testing, linkage to care and treatment in the substance use disorder setting. Six of the eight consultation requests provided an opportunity for the CHERISH consultant to give input on planning a study for a grant application. CHERISH consultants were able to provide valuable guidance on the research aims, the methods and the data needed to examine the research questions. In some cases, CHERISH consultants were asked to help respond to comments from reviewers for previously reviewed grant applications. Consultants were also very helpful in developing appropriate language for NIH grants to align with the NIH priorities for health economic research.

Additional consultation topics included implementation of the economic aspects of a previously funded career development award and methodological advice on responding to reviewer comments on a manuscript. In the next year, we hope to expand the scope of the methodology consultation service and identify more areas where our expertise may add value to studies related to health economics of treatment for substance use and HCV and HIV care of substance users.

We have health economic evaluation expertise in:

- Budget impact and costing
- Cost-effectiveness
- Cost-benefit
- Quality of life
- Qualitative data collection
- Statistical analysis / econometrics

We can help with:

- Planning a study
- Analyzing existing data
- Preparing a grant application, manuscript, presentation, or report

To learn more about CHERISH services for researchers, please visit:

www.cherishresearch.org/services



Alysse Wurcel, MD, MS

Dr. Alysse Wurcel is an infectious disease specialist and faculty member at Tufts University School of Medicine with a focus in HIV and HCV infection. While developing an application for an NIH funded Center for AIDS Research (CFAR) Pilot Project grant, her mentor and CHERISH HCV and HIV Core Director Dr. Benjamin Linas referred her to the CHERISH Methodology Consultation Service. Dr. Wurcel's CFAR Pilot Project grant proposed to examine the costs of hospitalizations for inmates with HCV and compare those costs to the costs for inmates without HCV. She also proposed to examine the costs of hospitalizations for inmates who are co-infected with HIV compared to inmates who are infected with HCV alone.

Through her consultation with the CHERISH Methodology Core, Dr. Wurcel learned how to frame her ideas in health economics language. With the benefit of this consultation, Dr. Wurcel successfully received the CFAR Pilot Project grant. She and Dr. Linas have hired a research analyst and have begun working with these data. They have already found new research questions and Dr. Wurcel hopes the next steps for this research will include successful K level grant funding and a partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Corrections to strategize on how to get more inmates treated for HCV.

Pilot Grants

Year 1 Grantees



Karen Lasser, MD, MPH

Dr. Lasser's pilot grant proposes to **evaluate economic and health outcomes for a primary care-based HCV treatment program in a patient-centered medical home**. The treatment model is based on the chronic care model including a multidisciplinary team with a physician, nurse, social worker, pharmacy technician and pharmacist. The team works together to provide evaluation for the patient, HCV education, social support, adherence support, medication teaching visits, and prior authorization to facilitate patient progress through the treatment cascade. To evaluate program success, Dr. Lasser and colleagues plan to measure and report HCV treatment program services utilization, health outcomes achieved (including SVR) and conduct a budget impact analysis to address the scale-up and sustainability of program implementation. Dr. Lasser is an Associate Professor of Medicine at the Boston University School of Medicine. Dr. Lasser's areas of research include quality of care, health disparities, health policy, smoking cessation, and practices in primary care to reduce prescription drug abuse.

Yuhua Bao, PhD



Dr. Bao's pilot grant will **examine the impact of Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) implementation on opioid prescribing in ambulatory care settings using National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NAMCS) and the Medicaid Drug Utilization Data (MDUD)**. Dr. Bao and colleagues will examine trends in prescribing opiates in ambulatory settings across states pre-/post-implementation of PDMPs. The investigators will also examine the budget impact of PDMP policies on Medicaid spending for buprenorphine and naltrexone treatments as an indicator of change in medication-assisted treatment for opioid dependence. Dr. Bao is an Associate Professor of Healthcare Policy & Research at Weill Cornell Medicine. Trained as a health economist, she specializes in quantitative health services research and has recently initiated health economic research in the field of substance use.

Year 2 Grantees



Kit Delgado, MD, MS

Dr. Delgado's pilot grant will **assess physician-level variability in opioid drug prescribing practices for six specific diagnoses across multiple specialties**. Dr. Delgado will use the Optum Clinformatics™ DataMart national private insurance claims database to estimate excess prescription opioids prescribed by state and nationally, and calculate the resulting excess cost to the health system. Dr. Delgado is an Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine and Epidemiology at the University of Pennsylvania, where he is also a Senior Fellow at the Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics. His research focuses on clinical and policy interventions in emergency care and trauma systems to improve injury outcomes.

Michael Pesko, PhD



Using econometric techniques, Dr. Pesko will **examine data from the National Center for Health Statistics to explore the impact of e-cigarette and marijuana policies on cigarette use and birth outcomes**. The study will provide evidence of whether e-cigarettes, marijuana, and cigarettes have differential risks to pregnant women. Dr. Pesko is an Assistant Professor of Healthcare Policy & Research at Weill Cornell Medicine. Trained as a health economist, Dr. Pesko's research focuses on evaluating health policy changes and their effect on health outcomes.

To learn more about CHERISH pilot grants, joining our mailing list at:

www.cherishresearch.org/contact

Dissemination & Policy Issue Briefs

Over the past year the Dissemination and Policy Core at University of Pennsylvania Leonard Davis Institute has created and disseminated two issue briefs detailing the health economic implications of substance use disorders. These briefs can be found on the CHERISH website (www.cherishresearch.org/resources).



Show Me the Money: Economic Evaluations of Opioid Use Disorder Interventions

This Issue Brief summarizes a new systematic review of economic evaluations of treatments for substance use disorders. The review reveals strong evidence that methadone maintenance therapy is an economically advantageous form of treatment; the economic evidence for buprenorphine and naltrexone treatments is more limited.

Primary Care: On the Front Lines of the Opioid Epidemic

This Issue Brief discusses the role of primary care teams in identifying illicit drug use disorders in their patients, the continuum of treatments that they can offer, and opportunities for successful collaboration and integration with specialists. The authors find opportunities exist for increased patient screening and delivering medication-assisted treatment as well as established models for collaboration and integration of opioid treatments.

Find Us

Our CHERISH network continues to travel around the country to discuss economic analysis research methods and their application to substance use, hepatitis C, and HIV treatment interventions. In this newsletter we review previous and future presentations from CHERISH investigators. Please join us if we're presenting in your neighborhood!

Third Meeting on Patient Reported Outcomes and Person Centered Care in Mental Health



September 23 - 25, 2016 Washington, D.C.

Brandon Aden, MD, MPH & Bruce Schackman, PhD, MBA

- Poster presentation: A comparison of Joint State Utility Estimators Using Standard Gambles for Substance Use Disorder States

Brandon Aden, MD, MPH, Bruce Schackman, PhD, MBA & Kathryn McCollister, PhD

- Symposium: Measuring the Value of Addiction Health Services: Economic Consequences, Quality of Life, and Cost-Effectiveness

Dan Polsky, PhD & Sean Murphy, PhD

- Oral presentation: Economic Evaluations of Opioid Use Disorder Interventions

Jeffrey Samet, MD, MPH, MA

- Plenary: Co-Occurring Substance Use & Infectious Disease



October 13 - 15, 2016 Seattle, WA



November 3 - 5, 2016 Washington,

Jeffrey Samet, MD, MPH, MA

- John P. McGovern Award Plenary: From the Shadows to the Spotlight - Improving Care for Patients with Substance Use - Education, Research and Clinical Innovations

Benjamin Linas, MD, MPH

- Oral presentation: Cost-Effectiveness of HCV Treatment Among Liver Transplantation Candidates
- Poster presentation: Cost-Effectiveness of an HCV Screening and Treatment Linkage Intervention in US Methadone Maintenance Treatment (MMT) Programs



November 11 - 15, 2016 Boston, MA