The Economics of Health Care 1999-00

Department of Economics

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The Economics of Health Care is the thirty-sixth annual Public Lecture-Seminar Series organized by the Department of Economics at Western Michigan University. This year the series focuses on the role of government, enterprises, and consumers in health care insurance and provision. This year’s series is directed by Huizhong Zhou, Associate Professor of Economics, with the assistance of Donald L. Alexander, Bassam Harik and Allan Hunt, and is co-sponsored by the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research. All Wednesday afternoon lectures, followed by a question and answer session and a reception, are open to the public. During his or her visit, each scholar will also present an academic seminar to faculty, graduate students and other interested practitioners. For further information, please contact Dr. Zhou at (616) 387-5550, or at (616) 387-5535.

Institute for Employment Research. All Wednesday afternoon lectures, followed by a question and answer session and a reception, are open to the public. During his or her visit, each scholar will also present an academic seminar to faculty, graduate students and other interested practitioners. For further information, please contact Dr. Zhou at (616) 387-5550, or at (616) 387-5535. The public lectures in this series also comprise part of a mini-course for academic credit, supervised by Dr. Zhou, and open to graduate and advanced undergraduate students enrolled at Western Michigan University.

Directions: From I-94, take U.S. 131 north to Exit 36A (Stadium Drive). Travel east on Stadium Drive to the fourth traffic light at Howard Street. Turn left onto Howard and take the second right to the WMU campus. Follow the signs to the Miller Auditorium parking ramp. Knauss Hall is the dark brick building opposite the Waldor Library clock tower.
Professor McLaughlin received her Ph.D. in economics from the University of Wisconsin. She is currently an associate professor in the School of Public Health at the University of Michigan. Since 1993 she has been the Director of The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's School in Health Policy at the University of Michigan. Prior to joining the faculty at the University of Michigan, she was an assistant professor of economics at Tufts University. Dr. McLaughlin currently serves on the editorial board of Health Services Research and Medical Care Research and Review. She is also on the University of Michigan Press Executive Committee.

Dr. McLaughlin has studied various health economics topics. She has published numerous articles on the impact of HMOs on market competition and health care costs, and as the determinants of small area variation in hospital utilization and costs. Her finding that HMOs did not result in market-wide competition or health care cost containment because of various institutional barriers was one reason why large corporations and state governments started changing the way they subsidize health care premiums.

Dr. McLaughlin's current research interests are the working uninsured, with particular emphasis on the small group health insurance market, and employer benefit choices. Her research on the small business health insurance market provided insight into how insurance industry enrollment procedures and the apparent absence of various public and private demonstration projects to reduce significantly the number of working uninsured altered their communities. Recent publications include: "Health Care Consumers: Choices and Constraints," Medical Care Research and Review; "Competition, Quality of Care and the Role of Consumers," The Milbank Quarterly; "The Demand for Health Insurance Coverage by Low-Income Workers: Can Federal Support Achieve Full Coverage?" Health Services Research; "Comment on: Worker Demand for Health Insurance in the Non-Group Market," Journal of Health Economics; and "Small Business Winners and Losers Under Health Care Reform," Health Affairs.

Catherine G. McLaughlin
Professor of Economics
University of Michigan

Wednesday
November 16, 2000
1:30 PM
3508 Knau ss Hall
WMU

Robert B. Helms
Resident Scholar
American Enterprise Institute

Dr. Robert B. Helms received his Ph.D. degree in economics from the University of California, Los Angeles. He is currently a resident scholar and director of Health Studies at the American Enterprise Institute. He has written and lectured extensively on health policy, health economics, and pharmaceutical issues. Dr. Helms currently participates in the Consensus Group, an informal task force that is developing market-oriented health reform concepts, and the National Academy of Social Insurance's study panel on Long-Term Medicaid Financing. From 1981 to 1989 Dr. Helms served as assistant secretary for planning and evaluation and deputy assistant secretary for health policy in the Department of Health and Human Services.

Dr. Helms is the editor of four AEI publications on health policy — American Health Policy: Critical Issues for Reform; Health Policy Reform: Competition and Controls; Competitive Strategies in the Pharmaceutical Industry; and Medicare in the 21st Century. Seeking Fair and Efficient Reform.


Two new books edited and co-authored by Dr. Helms are published in 1999: The Not-for-Profit Hospital and Health Care Productivity and Output.

Robert B. Helms
Resident Scholar
American Enterprise Institute

Wednesday
February 16, 2000
1:30 PM
3508 Knau ss Hall
WMU

David M. Cutler
Professor of Economics
Harvard University

Dr. David M. Cutler is John L. Loeb Professor of Economics at Harvard University, in the Economics Department and the Kennedy School of Government. Dr. Cutler is also Research Associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research. He received a B.A., summa cum laude, in Economics and a Ph.D. in Economics from MIT. He has received a Sloan Foundation Fellowship, a National Institute of Health First Award, and other awards. Dr. Cutler's research is concerned in health economics, including explanations for increasing health costs, the effects of managed care on medical practice and measuring the productivity of the medical sector. Dr. Cutler serves as Editor of Journal of Health Economics and Associate Editor of Journal of Public Economics.

During 1993, Dr. Cutler was on leave as Senior Staff Economist at the Council of Economic Advisers and Director of the National Economic Council in the Clinton Administration. Dr. Cutler's primary responsibilities were in helping to design the President's health reform plan.

Dr. Cutler has authored and co-authored numerous articles. Most recent journal articles on health economics include: for his work on the mission medical spending brought; and "Efficient Reform."

David M. Cutler
Professor of Economics
Harvard University

Wednesday
March 15, 2000
1:30 PM
3508 Knau ss Hall
WMU

Laurence C. Baker
Professor of Economics
Stanford University

Dr. Laurence Baker received his Ph.D. in Economics from Princeton University in 1994. He is currently Assistant Professor of Economics at Stanford University, and a Faculty Research Fellow of the National Bureau of Economic Research. Dr. Baker is also a Research Economist at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. In 1993, he briefly served as a consultant to the White House task force formulating President Clinton's health reform proposal.

Dr. Baker has studied the development of managed care and its impact on the health care system from many perspectives. He supervises research efforts to examine the effects of managed care on the development of technology and on overall health care costs, and projects to develop quantitative measures of the size and market power of managed care organizations. He also works with hospital and managed care plans on projects aimed at improving quality of care measurement and systems of care, particularly for new births. He was awarded the 1997 National Institute for Health Care Management Research award recognizing the best paper on health economics for his work on the relationship between managed care and fee-for-service health care expenditures.


Laurence C. Baker
Professor of Economics
Stanford University

Wednesday
April 5, 2000
1:30 PM
3508 Knau ss Hall
WMU

Dr. D. Cutler has a Ph.D. in Economics from University of Wisconsin in 1994. He is currently Assistant Professor of Economics at Stanford University, and a Faculty Research Fellow of the National Bureau of Economic Research. Dr. Baker is also a Research Economist at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. In 1993, he briefly served as a consultant to the White House task force formulating President Clinton's health reform proposal.

Dr. Baker has studied the development of managed care and its impact on the health care system from many perspectives. He supervises research efforts to examine the effects of managed care on the development of technology and on overall health care costs, and projects to develop quantitative measures of the size and market power of managed care organizations. He also works with hospital and managed care plans on projects aimed at improving quality of care measurement and systems of care, particularly for new births. He was awarded the 1997 National Institute for Health Care Management Research award recognizing the best paper on health economics for his work on the relationship between managed care and fee-for-service health care expenditures.