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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-Series Series organized by the Department of Economics at Western Michigan University. This year the series focuses on the role of governments, 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 zhoud@wmich.edu, or the WMU Economics Department office at (616) 387-5555.

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 undergraduates are 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 Walden Library clock tower.

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Economics
1999-2000 Guest Lecture-Series Series
The Economics of Health Care
Public Lectures on Wednesdays
3:00 P.M., 3508 Knauss Hall
Reception Following

Fall Semester
Jonathan Gruber
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
September 15, 1999
Brigitte C. Madrian
University of Chicago
October 13, 1999
Catherine G. McLaughlin
University of Michigan
November 10, 1999

Winter Semester
Robert B. Helms
American Enterprise Institute
February 16, 2000
David M. Cutler
Harvard University
March 15, 2000
Laurence C. Baker
Stanford University
April 5, 2000

The Department of Economics and the College of Arts and Sciences gratefully acknowledge the co-sponsorship of this series by the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research, Kalamazoo, Michigan.

This series is directed by Huizhong Zhou, Associate Professor of Economics, with the assistance of Donald L. Alexander, Bassam Harik and Allan Hunt.

Government Financing of Care for Low Income Population

Wednesday
September 15, 1999
3:00 P.M.
3508 Knauss Hall
WMU

Jonathan Gruber
Professor of Economics
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Dr. Jonathan Gruber is a Professor of Economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he has taught since 1992. He is also the Director of the Program on Children at the National Bureau of Economic Research. He is co-editor of the Journal of Health Economics, and an Associate Editor of the Journal of Public Economics at Chicago and Faculty Senator of the Joint Center for Poverty Research.

Dr. Gruber received his B.S. in Economics from MIT, and his Ph.D. in Economics from Harvard. He has received an Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Fellowship, a FIRST award from the National Institute on Aiding, and the Kenneth Arrow Award for the Best Paper in Health Economics in 1994. He was one of 15 scientists nationwide to receive the Presidential Faculty Fellow Award from the National Science Foundation in 1997. During the 1997-98 academic year, Dr. Gruber was Deputy Assistant Secretary for Economic Policy at the Treasury Department.

Dr. Gruber's recent research interests include the economics of employer provided health insurance, the efficiency of our current system of delivering health care to the individual, the costs and benefits of providing social insurance for adverse events such as unemployment and disability, and the effect of the Social Security program on retirement behavior.


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Brigitte C. Madrian
Professor of Economics
University of Chicago

Dr. Brigitte C. Madrian received her Ph.D. in economics from Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She is currently Assistant Professor at University of Chicago Graduate School of Business. Faculty Research Fellow at National Bureau of Economic Research, Research Associate at Population Research Corporation, Research Associate of the Journal of Public Economics at Chicago and Fellow of the Joint Center for Poverty Research.

Brigitte Madrian has received many awards, including National Bureau of Economic Research Aging and Health Economics Fellowship and National Academy of Social Insurance Dissertation Prize (First Prize).

Professor Catherine G. 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 on the determinants of small area variation in hospital utilization and costs. Her finding that HMOs do 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 plans.

Dr. McLaughlin's current research interests are the working units, 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 insurance industry operating procedures and the apparent failure of various public and private demonstration projects to reduce significantly the number of workers uninsured in 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 Reforms 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.