March 14, 2012

M. Kate Bundorf, Associate Professor of Health Research and Policy, Stanford School of Medicine

“The Role of Private Health Insurance in Medicare”

M. Kate Bundorf did her undergraduate work at the University of Michigan, received an MBA and MPH from the University of California at Berkeley, and earned her Ph.D. from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. She came to Stanford University in 1999 and is in the Department of Health Research and Policy.

Bundorf’s honors include Fulbright Scholar at Fudan University School of Public Health in the People’s Republic of China where she had the opportunity to give lectures at numerous Chinese universities. She is a research fellow at the National Bureau of Economic Research. Bundorf has also been the principal investigator in a large number of grants and contracts dealing with health insurance and health plan choice.

Bundorf published over a wide number of issues pertaining to health insurance, including senior health care, infertility, obesity, and health care costs and quality. Her current research interests include the determinants and effects of individual and purchaser choices, the interaction of public and private systems of health insurance, incentives for insurers to improve health care quality, and the effects of regulation in health insurance markets.

April 11, 2012

Anne Crumlish, FSA, MAAA, Aon Hewitt Health and Benefits

“Health Care Reform Legislation... The Employer’s Perspective”

Anne Crumlish is a principal and health care actuary in Aon Hewitt’s health care and benefits practice and is based in Atlanta, Ga. She manages a wide variety of consulting engagements related to broad health and welfare benefits with a focus on the strategy, design and financial management of benefit programs.

Crumlish is a key member of Aon Hewitt’s national health care reform team, serving as a health care reform expert on compliance, financial and strategic issues for numerous clients across the country. Crumlish is a regular speaker on the subject of health care reform and its impact on employers, insurers, health care providers and the community. Crumlish has over 10 years’ experience in the health and welfare consulting industry.

Crumlish has a B.A. in Mathematics from Colby College, Maine, and an M.S. in Mathematics from the University of Texas. She is a fellow of the Society of Actuaries and a member of the American Academy of Actuaries. Crumlish also serves on the corporate advisory council of the International Association of Black Actuaries.

The Sichel Series is directed by Professor Donald Meyer, and is cosponsored by the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research, College of Arts and Sciences, and the Medical Humanities Workgroup of WMU.

It is named for longtime WMU economics professor, Dr. Werner Sichel, who retired in 2004.

For more information
Please contact Dr. Meyer at (269)-387-5531 or email donald.meyer@wmich.edu

The Economics of Health

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College of Arts & Sciences
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(269) 387-5535
October 19, 2011
David Meltzer, M.D., Ph.D., Departments of Medicine and Economics and Harris School, University of Chicago

"Economic Reasons for the Growth of Hospitalists in the United States and Implications for Improved Models of Care for High Risk Patients"

David O. Meltzer is Chief of the Section of Hospital Medicine, Director of the Center for Health and the Social Sciences, and Chair of the Committee of Clinical and Translational Science at the University of Chicago, where he is an Associate Professor in the Department of Medicine, Department of Economics, and the Harris School of Public Policy Studies.

Dr. Meltzer received his MD and PhD in Economics from the University of Chicago and completed his residency in internal medicine at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston. Meltzer is the recipient of numerous awards, is a research associate of the National Bureau of Economic Research, and serves as a health economics advisor for the Congressional Budget Office.

Dr. Meltzer’s research explores problems in health economics and public policy with a focus on the theoretical foundations of medical cost-effectiveness analysis and the cost and quality of hospital care. Meltzer is completing a randomized trial comparing the use of doctors who specialize in inpatient care (“hospitalists”) with traditional physicians in six academic medical centers and is Director of the AHRQ-funded Hospital Medicine and Economics Center for Education and Research in Therapeutics (CERT) at the University of Chicago.

November 9, 2011
Charles Phelps, Professor and Provost Emeritus, University of Rochester

"Our Own Worst Enemies: How We and Our Government Created, Extended and Exacerbated the Healthcare Cost Mess"

Charles Phelps received his B.A. in Mathematics from Pomona College, Calif., in 1965, and an MBA in Hospital Administration (’68) and Ph.D. in Business Economics (’73) from the University of Chicago. After beginning his research career at the RAND Corporation in 1971, Phelps moved on to the University of Rochester in 1984, with appointments in the Departments of Economics and Political Science.

Phelps made significant contributions to the University of Rochester as a teacher and scholar and served in several key leadership capacities. In 1994, Phelps was appointed as provost of the University of Rochester, a position he held until in August 2007. He then became a university professor and provost emeritus, his current position.

Phelps published numerous peer-reviewed articles covering the fields of health economics, health policy, medical decision analysis, cost-effectiveness analysis of various medical interventions, and other related topics. He also wrote a leading textbook in the field, Health Economics (Addison Wesley), now in its fourth edition, and Eight Questions You Should Ask About Our Health Care System (Even if the Answers Make you Sick), Hoover Institution Press, 2010.

November 30, 2011
John Goddeeris, Professor of Economics, Michigan State University

"Payment Reform and Bending the Cost Curve"

John Goddeeris joined the faculty at Michigan State University in 1979. He served as director of Graduate Programs in the MSU Department of Economics (1988-92) and chair (1996-01), and as associate dean of the College of Social Science (2006-10). Goddeeris earned his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Wisconsin in 1980.

A specialist in the economics of health care and public economics, Goddeeris published widely on health care finance, technological change in health care and health program evaluation, as well as on environmental taxation and taxation anesthesia, among other areas of research. He has been co-investigator on a number of projects funded by the National Institute of Health and other federal agencies. Much of his current research focuses on understanding disparities in infant mortality across racial and ethnic groups.

Godeeris has been a visiting scholar at the Congressional Budget Office and consultant to a number of public and private organizations. He has taught all lecture-level courses in health economics at MSU in almost every year since 1980.

February 1, 2012
Edward Norton, Professor of Economics and Health Management and Policy, University of Michigan

"The Future of Long-Term Care in America"

Edward C. Norton joined the faculty at the University of Michigan in 2008 as professor the Departments of Health Management and Economics. Norton taught at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and at Harvard Medical School. He earned his Ph.D. in economics from MIT.

He is the director of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Scholars in Health Policy Research at the University of Michigan. In 2003, UNC at Chapel Hill awarded Norton the Phillip and Ruth Hettleman Prize for Artistic and Scholarly Achievement by Young Faculty.

Norton’s research interests span a wide range of topics in health economics and applied econometrics. He is known for his work on nursing home quality of care, long-term care insurance, and how informal care affects formal care and transfers of money between generations. Recently his research has covered diverse subjects including the economic consequences of obesity, prescription drug insurance, health care report cards, and the use of biomarkers in social science research.

Travel Directions
From I-96, take U.S. 131 north to Exit 36A (Stadium Drive). Travel east on Stadium Drive to the fourth traffic light at Howard St. Turn left onto Howard and take the second right to the WMU campus. Follow the signs to the Miller Auditorium parking ramp. Brown Hall is located to the east of the fountain and between Miller Auditorium and Sprau Tower. Dunbar Hall is located just north of Sprau Tower.