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Research Fellowship Programs in the Department of Health Policy: An Update

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Research Fellowship Programs in the Department of Health Policy: An Update

In our last issue (Vol. 8, No. 3, September 1995), we introduced our four fellows, Dr. Solit, Dr. Phong, Mr. Fastenau and Mr. Nadipelli. In this issue we provide an update on their progress and describe some of their projects. The fellows are actively participating in the Health Policy Forum and as well as the newly initiated Journal Club meetings. These meetings provide an interactive milieu for understanding the latest trends in the U.S. healthcare system. While working on their respective research projects, the fellows are laying a strong foundation in the various principles and methodologies of pharmacoconomics, outcomes management and health services research in different settings of healthcare.

Since joining the team as the first surgical fellow in the Department of Health Policy, Richard Solit, MD, has completed a book chapter entitled "Academic Medical Centers in Managed Care," to be published in the third edition of *The Managed Health Care Handbook*. This textbook is referred to widely by the managed care industry. In addition, Dr. Solit was a speaker at the annual Transplant Policy Forum held this past October in Washington, DC. At this meeting, he presented details of an ongoing project with the Delaware Valley Transplant Program intended to evaluate the effects of process changes on the outcomes of renal transplantation. This presentation was further integrated with a discussion of the implications of practice variation and outcomes on the transplant community, an environment increasingly dominated by managed care.

The SmithKline Beecham Pharmacoconomics Fellow, Phong Duong, PharmD, has completed the inpatient data collection and analysis of Congestive Heart Failure Project. This project focuses on the usage of ACE inhibitors, total resource utilization and costs for hospitalized CHF patients, and variability in outpatient diagnosis and management of CHF. The CHF study findings were presented to physicians at Cardiology Grand Rounds and Family Medicine and Internal Medicine Grand Rounds (Nov. 30). His other responsibilities include working on the Pneumonia Project, which has retrospective and prospective phases. Phong was instrumental in recruiting for 1996-1998 Pharmacoconomics Fellow at the annual meeting of ASHP, Las Vegas, NV, in December 1995. His latest project involves the cost analysis for ovarian cancer in which he will be applying the principles and methodologies pertaining to cost of illness studies.

The Sandoz Pharmacoconomics Fellow, John Fastenau, MPH, RPh, is currently involved in benchmarking, cost of illness, and economic modeling projects at both Philadelphia College of Pharmacy & Science and the Department of Health Policy. He attended the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting held in San Diego, CA, in October 1995 to recruit for next year's pharmacoconomics fellow. In addition, he prepared two abstracts for posters at the Association of Colleges of Clinical Pharmacy, Monterey, CA, and a poster at American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, NV, in December 1995.

The Rhone-Poulenc Rorer Pharmacoconomics Fellow, Vijay Nadipelli, MS, has completed analysis of the COPD Project, which focuses on a methodology to predict mortality in end-stage COPD patients. The project involves the application of severity

assessment techniques, and health status measurement tools. He is currently working on assessing the economic impact of Fosphenytoin, a drug for seizure control, in the acute care setting, entailing the application of economic model development techniques. Other projects that Vijay is currently involved with are related to physician practice profiling in a rehabilitation hospital setting, and benchmarking the standard of practice in the management of acid-peptic disorders in long-term care facility residents. Phong, John and Vijay successfully completed the courses in which they were enrolled at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science and the University of Pennsylvania during the Fall Semester.

About the Author

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