

# ***Health Policy Newsletter***

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**Volume 10, Number 2**

**May, 1997**

**Article 4**

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National Center for Medical Education  
Research and Policy at Jefferson

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**Suggested Citation:**

Veloski, JJ. National Center for Medical Education Research and Policy at Jefferson. Health Policy Newsletter 1997; 10(2): Article 4 Retrieved [date] from <http://jdc.jefferson.edu/hpn/vol10/iss2/4>.

## National Center for Medical Education Research and Policy at Jefferson

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In 1996, Jefferson was selected as one of three national Centers for Medical Education Research and Policy (CMERP) by the Department of Research and Planning, Bureau of Health Professions, Health Resources and Services Administration, USDHHS. Complementing work at two other CMERPs at the University of North Carolina and the University of Washington, Seattle, Jefferson's CMERP is staffed by researchers from Jefferson's own Center for Research in Medical Education and Health Care, the Greenfield Center for Research in the Department of Family Medicine, the Department of Health Policy, the Department of Continuing Medical Education and the Center for Collaborative Research. The Jefferson CMERP also includes formal linkages to educational and health services researchers in the Education Division of the American Medical Association and the Northeastern Ohio University College of Medicine.

Three Jefferson CMERP projects are currently supported by HRSA/USDHHS.

**Cost of Medical Education:** The immediate goal is to analyze the literature on undergraduate medical education costs over the past 30 years and identify various methodologies for estimating costs and faculty reimbursement. Activities to date have concentrated on the analysis of costs in ambulatory settings, but costs at the macro level are also being analyzed.

**Impact of Managed Care on Community-based Education:** This extends research that was published by CMERP staff in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* in late 1996.<sup>1</sup> That study documented that, although the medical school curriculum includes little explicit attention to topics related to managed care, medical students' clinical experiences include considerable indirect exposure to managed care and its effect on contemporary clinical practice. A national survey of medical schools will probe this issue more thoroughly in 1997, with special emphasis on medical education in IPA-type HMOs.

**Oral Manifestations of HIV/AIDS:** A core curriculum that can be used in medical student and house staff education was developed by an interdisciplinary team of physicians, dentists, and other professionals. Plans are underway to disseminate the results nationally.

In addition there are three studies that are closely-tied to the current activities of the CMERP but supported with funding from other sources.

**Longitudinal Career Tracking System for Medical Students in Pennsylvania supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation:** This collaboration among all the medical schools in the Commonwealth has yielded a database describing over 15,000 matriculants since 1982 using data from national sources such as the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), the American Medical Association (AMA), and the American Board of Medical Specialties. The careers of students are being tracked throughout graduate medical education into professional practice. The system will be used to evaluate the impact of initiatives to increase the number of generalist physicians and to conduct research of interest to the medical schools.

**An Analysis of the Demographic, Educational, and Economic Factors Involved in Recruiting and Retaining Physicians in Rural Areas of Pennsylvania supported by the Pennsylvania Blue Shield Institute:** This study is nearing completion and will help to advise policy-makers on the steps that can be taken to enhance health care in rural areas, especially in Pennsylvania.

**Study of Medical Education and Managed Care supported by the Division of Medicine, BHP/HRSA/USDHHS:** The CMERP staff have completed a national survey of the medical directors of group and staff model HMOs. Although earlier studies have reported that young physicians are not well-prepared for practice in managed care settings, the results of the survey will help to pinpoint some of their strengths and weaknesses.

Overall it is planned that the designation of this national center will serve as an integrating force to focus research efforts within Jefferson, and that it will serve as a catalyst for new studies supported by a variety of agencies and foundations. It will also provide researchers at Jefferson with easier access to certain resources in the federal government, AAMC and AMA.

For further details point your Web browser at  
<http://jeffline.tju.edu/CWIS/DEPT/CMERP/index.cfm>

## Reference

1. Veloski JJ, Barzansky B, Nash DB, Bastacky S, et al. Medical student education in managed care settings: Beyond HMOs. *JAMA* 1996;276: 667-671.

## About the Author

J. Jon Veloski is the Director of the Division of Research in Medical Education, Jefferson Medical College, Thomas Jefferson University.