

# ***Health Policy Newsletter***

---

**Volume 16 Number 4**

**December, 2003**

**Article 3**

---

## Two Scholars' Experience in the Dean's Summer Research Program

**Peter Fleischut\***  
**Scott Haas\***

\* Thomas Jefferson University

Copyright ©2003 by the authors. *Health Policy Newsletter* is a quarterly publication of Thomas Jefferson University, Jefferson Medical College and the Office of Health Policy and Clinical Outcomes, 1015 Walnut Street, Suite 115, Philadelphia, PA 19107.

**Suggested Citation:**

Fleischut P, Haas S. Two scholars' experience in the Dean's Summer Research Program. *Health Policy Newsletter* 2003; 16(4): Article 3. Retrieved [date] from <http://jdc.jefferson.edu/hpn/vol16/iss4/3>.

## Two Scholars' Experience in the Dean's Summer Research Program

---

In the spring of 2003, we were among five students at Jefferson Medical College to be awarded scholarships in the Dean's Summer Research Program in General Medicine. Funded by the Office of the Dean, the program provides medical students the opportunity to experience and develop skills in research. Scholarship students receive a stipend and may choose from a variety of research areas in which to work for 10 weeks over the summer vacation period. We chose to conduct projects in the Office of Health Policy and Clinical Outcomes under the guidance of Dr. David Nash. What started as a basic mission to answer a research question became an invaluable experience gaining unique insight into the world of health policy.

Scott spent his summer researching the teaching of bioterrorism preparedness in medical school. He reviewed and evaluated surveys given to first-year medical students who participated in a citywide disaster drill. His findings have played a key role in the process of integrating such an exercise into the curriculum at Jefferson.

Concurrently, I studied antibiotic use for treatment of acute respiratory tract infections for adults in outpatient settings. This study was based on the Medical Quality Improvement Consortium (MQIC) Database, a collection of de-identified outpatient medical records for over 815,000 active patients nationwide. The findings from the study will have a significant impact on future research by validating the ease and accuracy of using the MQIC Database. The results from both our projects have been submitted for publication.

Additional projects on which we worked included a pilot study tracking students in the Jefferson-Widener MD/MBA program, a review of medical school technology transfer offices, an American Board of Internal Medicine study on the effect of feedback on physician performance, and a paper on the current status of the Medicare drug benefit reform.

We also attended various meetings including a bioterrorism seminar with the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, the Pennsylvania Healthcare Cost Containment Council, the Jefferson Industry Advisory Council, Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee meetings, and management updates. Additionally, we attended more than two classes per day on topics ranging from pharmacoeconomics to global health outcomes.

Together, these opportunities gave us a tremendous amount of hands-on exposure to current issues in health policy. This experience has solidified our drive to become leaders in the medical field by showing us how hard work and dedication can have an impact on policy. Jefferson Medical College is one of a few schools nationwide that provides students the opportunity to step outside the traditional realm of basic science research and explore critical policy issues of which every medical student needs to be aware.

For more information on the Dean's Summer Research Program in General Medicine and other research opportunities available to medical students, contact Karen Novielli, MD, Assistant Dean for Faculty Affairs, Associate Professor of Family

Peter Fleischut & Scott Haas: Two Scholars' Experiences in the Dean's Summer Research Program

Medicine, at [karen.novielli@jefferson.edu](mailto:karen.novielli@jefferson.edu), or visit  
<http://jeffline.jefferson.edu/Researchers/>.

### **About the Authors**

Peter Fleischut and Scott Haas are members of the Class of 2006 at Jefferson Medical College, Thomas Jefferson University.