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# Health Policy Forum Update

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The Department of Health Policy's 2004 Health Policy Forum series concludes December 8th with a presentation by Michael J. Pellini, MD, MBA, President and CEO of Malvern Pharmaceuticals. Dr. Pellini will address biotechnology trends in 2005.

Forum highlights from this past fall included a September presentation on Christiana Care Health System by President and CEO Robert J. Laskowski, MD.

Based in Wilmington, DE, Christiana Care is an integrated delivery system serving all of Delaware and neighboring areas of Pennsylvania, Maryland and New Jersey. It includes two hospitals, Christiana Hospital and Wilmington Hospital.

"Most integrated delivery systems are misnomers," Dr. Laskowski said. "They are integrated on paper but not in what they do." He addressed some of the challenges of operating a successful integrated health care system, including dealing with increasing organizational complexity, limited sources of profitability and increasing costs and competition.

Dr. Laskowski also described Christiana Care's role as an academic community health system. According to Dr. Laskowski, who is also a professor of medicine at Jefferson Medical College, Christiana Care has an enrollment of over 400 medical students and supports over 200 residents. It has been affiliated with Thomas Jefferson University since 1987. Christiana Care is currently the site of over 700 community-based clinical trials in over 30 areas of research and is home to the Center for Heart and Vascular Health.

In October, the Health Policy Forum featured speaker Stephen Foreman, JD, PhD, MPA, Director of the Pennsylvania Medical Society's Health Services Research Institute and Associate Professor, Robert Morris University, Pittsburgh. His presentation on "Health Services Research and Advocacy" explored the "ongoing dilemma" of whether health services research belongs in the advocacy arena.

According to Dr. Foreman, there is a fundamental dichotomy between science and advocacy, where science is based on "truth" and advocacy is based on bias. "Can you ever do ethical research if you know that only the useful portion of the results will be reported?" he asked.

However, said Dr. Foreman, if ethical researchers abandon the advocacy arena, the public debate will suffer as a result. Advocacy research provides valuable education, he noted, and it may be more relevant and timely than just pure science.

While there is no simple answer to the dilemma posed, Dr. Foreman believes that it is possible to reconcile advocacy with science's search for truth and sees a significant role for advocacy research in the public policy arena.

Below is the schedule of upcoming forums for January through June 2005. For more information, please contact Barbara Bozarth at 215-955-2822.

## The Health Policy Forum: Upcoming Speakers 2005

*We are pleased to announce our January through June 2005 schedule for the Health Policy Forum.*
*The Forum meets on the second Wednesday of each month from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. in Conference Room 218,Curtis Building, 1015 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA.*

*A light breakfast will be served.*

**January 12, 2005**
***Frederic Cohen, MD***
*President*
*Crownstone*
*Topic:* ***Secular and Recent Trends in Pharmaceutical Industry Innovation***

**February 9, 2005**
***James Cavan, MS***
*Executive Director*
*Business Development and Innovation*
*Drexel University College of Medicine*
*Topic:* ***Improving Research Through Regional Collaboration***

**March 9, 2005**
***Maulik Joshi, DrPH***
*President and CEO*
*Delmarva Foundation for Medical Care*
*Topic:* ***Measurement is from Mars, Improvement is from Venus and Culture is from Pluto***

**April 13, 2005**
***Barry Furrow, JD***
*Director, The Health Law Institute*
*Widener University School of Law*
*Topic:* ***Imposing Codman's End Result: An Argument for Federal Regulation of Patient Safety***

**May 11, 2005**
***Steven Lawrence***
*Director of Research*
*The Foundation Center*
*Topic:* ***Trends in Foundation Funding for Health Policy***

**June 8, 2005**
***Warren Todd, MBA***
*Executive Director*
*Disease Management Association of America*
*Topic:* ***Progress at the Disease Management Association of America***

**About the Author**

Miriam Reisman is the Managing Editor of the Health Policy Newsletter, Department of Health Policy, Thomas Jefferson University.