Health Policy
NEWSLETTER

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FROM THE EDITOR

Jefferson School of Population Health—Part II: Making a World of Difference

December 1, 2008 was a Red Letter Day for Jefferson's new School of Population Health: The University Board of Trustees ratified the School's bylaws, appointed David B. Nash, MD, MBA as the Founding Dean, and approved two new Master of Science degree programs in Health Policy and Healthcare Quality and Safety. These new programs and the current Master of Public Health (MPH) constitute the School's inaugural academic offerings. With students slated to begin classes this September, these programs could not have come at a more crucial time: the cost of health care continues to rise, access is absent for many Americans, and troubling issues around quality and safety populate the daily headlines. Never has the preparation of leaders to guide healthcare and public health been more urgent.

The mission of Jefferson School of Population Health is to find solutions to the nation's healthcare ills and to produce the leaders and the research that will make this happen. In keeping with this challenge, the School has designed unique and pioneering educational programs to prepare leaders who will make a difference—*a world of difference*—in the future of American health and healthcare.

The School's **Master of Science in Health Policy (MS-HP)** prepares leaders to critically analyze the organization, financing, and delivery of health care; to rigorously apply analytic skills to plan, implement, and evaluate health policy; and to produce research evidence to support policy development and change. Graduates are ready to assume policy analysis and advocacy roles in healthcare provider organizations, integrated health care delivery systems, government offices, academic institutions, health services research firms and community-based or advocacy organizations. What differentiates this program from others of its kind is its emphasis on problem identification, modeling and policy solutions; its system approach; its treatment of health care as a business; and its access to a broad, nationwide network of health policy experts and practitioners who can work with students on a vast array of meaningful policy projects.

The MS-HP degree program and its Certificate option are open to practicing medical and healthcare professionals of all stripes; to healthcare administrators working in healthcare plans, management companies, and government agencies; to academics and HIT professionals and analysts; to recent college graduates with degrees in public policy, economics, political science or a healthcare field; and to students currently enrolled in a medical, nursing, law or pharmacy program who wish to earn an additional degree in health policy.

JSPH's **Master of Science in Healthcare Quality and Safety (MS-HQS)** represents a ground-breaking contribution to healthcare education. As the second program of its kind in the nation, the degree prepares healthcare professionals—providers, payers, purchasers, and policymakers —to be leaders and advocates in the design, implementation and dissemination of programs and policies that measurably improve healthcare quality and patient safety. The strength of the MS-HQS is its focus on organizational behavior and change and the advanced use of quality and safety tools and methods. Graduates serve as chief quality or safety officers, quality analysts, and program leaders for quality improvement in all venues of healthcare delivery.

The MS-HQS and the Certificate in Healthcare Quality and Safety are intended for physicians, nurses, pharmacists, and other healthcare professionals working in the full range of healthcare settings; for individuals working in payer settings, including managed care and other insurer positions, who have background or interest in quality and utilization, disease or case management; for risk managers, healthcare program administrators, and HIT specialists; and for individuals working in public health, government or regulatory positions at the local, state or federal level. The programs are also well suited to students currently enrolled in a medical, nursing, law or pharmacy program who wish to earn an additional degree in healthcare quality and safety.

JSPH's **Master of Public Health (MPH)** is a strong generalist program that stresses competencies in five public health areas—behavioral and social sciences, biostatistics, environmental health sciences, epidemiology, and public health policy and management. It prepares professionals to work in multiple venues within public health— state and local public health departments and health centers, non-governmental health organizations (NGOs), schools and universities, professional health agencies, health insurance companies, and businesses such as the pharmaceutical industry.

Graduates track disease outbreaks, conduct community health assessments, plan public health education programs, and develop public health policies. They also engage in public health research and work internationally in global health environments.

The MPH program is designed for both recent college graduates and working professionals. The Certificate in Public Health is an excellent option for practicing health professionals working in government, community health organizations, health insurance companies, the pharmaceutical industry, and academic institutions who wish to deepen their experience with public health practice. To encourage participation of medical, law and nursing students, JSPH also offers joint degree programs—MD/MPH, JD/MPH, MJ/MPH and MSN/MPH— in which all coursework can be completed in 12 months. ■

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For more information about the School's programs or to apply to one of them, contact JSPH at 215-503-5305 or visit us at www.jefferson.edu/population_health/. Together, we can make a world of difference in U.S. healthcare—and Jefferson can lead the way.