PRECISION MEDICINE, OTHER KEY HEALTH ISSUES FOCI FOR INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HEALTH POLICY STATISTICS

Event facilitates sharing of quantitative methodological advances in health policy

ALEXANDRIA, VA, OCTOBER 5, 2015 – A range of major health care topics—including precision medicine and Big Data—will be the focus of presentations at this week's 11th annual International Conference on Health Policy Statistics (ICHPS 2015), organized by the Health Policy Statistics Section of the American Statistical Association (ASA).

Themed "Statistical Science at the Forefront of Health Policy Research," ICHPS 2015 will be held October 7–9 at the Providence (Rhode Island) Biltmore Hotel. The conference spurs interactions between methodologists and health-service researchers, health economists and health-policy analysts, during which they exchange and build on ideas that will be disseminated to the broader health-policy community.

The multidisciplinary nature of health services, policy and outcomes research and the significant reliance on generating evidence have created a major need for effective communication and dissemination of advances in quantitative methodology. Over the last 19 years, the ICHPS has played a vital role in the dissemination process of health policy and health services statistics. The biennial event provides a unique forum for discussing research needs and solutions to the methodological challenges in the design of studies and analysis of data for health-policy research.

Among the health-policy issues to be spotlighted during sessions at ICHPS 2015 are the following:

- Big Data Approaches for Health Policy
- Comparative Effectiveness Research
- Health Data Confidentiality—Past, Present and Future
- Improving Medical Decision-Making in the Era of Personalized Medicine
- Meta-Analysis and Evidence-Based Medicine
- Patient-Reported Outcomes: Measurement, Implementation and Interpretation
- Quality Performance Analyses
- Social Network Analysis with Applications to Medicine and Health Policy
- Statistics and Payment Reform: Toward Better Value in Health Care
- The Medical Expenditure Panel Survey: A National Data Resource to Inform Health Policy

In addition, the conference features a list of prominent speakers in the health-care field. The two keynote speakers are:

Gail R. Wilensky, an economist and senior fellow at international health foundation Project HOPE, will discuss efforts to enumerate the nation's uninsured in a talk titled "Counting the Uninsured: Old Challenges, New Complications." Wilensky directed Medicare and Medicaid programs and served in the White House as a senior adviser on health and welfare issues to President George H. W. Bush. She was the first chair of the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission. She is a trustee of the Combined Benefits Fund of the United Mine Workers of America and the National Opinion Research Center and is on the Board of Regents of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, U.S. Pharmacopeial Convention, and the board of directors of the Geisinger Health System Foundation.

Marc L. Berger, Pfizer Inc. vice president of real world data and analytics, will present a talk titled "A Changing World: New Data Sources, New Analytic Approaches and the Challenge for Informing Health Policy*."* Berger has held senior-level positions in industry, including executive vice president and senior scientist at OptumInsight; vice president of global health outcomes at Eli Lilly and Company; and vice president of outcomes research and management at Merck & Co., Inc. Currently, he is chair of the Innovative Technology Advocacy Committee of the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America.

Additionally, plenary speaker **Constantine A. Gatsonis** will present a talk titled "How Effective Is Diagnosis in Health Care? A Methodologic Perspective." At Brown University, Gatsonis is the Henry Ledyard Goddard University Professor, founding director of the Center for Statistical Sciences and founding chair of the department of biostatistics. He currently chairs the Committee on Applied and Theoretical Statistics of the National Academies and is a member of the Committee on National Statistics and the Committee to Evaluate the Department of Veterans Affairs Mental Health Services.

More information about ICHPS 2015, including the online program, is available on the conference website. Complimentary registration is provided to working members of the media.

About the American Statistical Association

The ASA is the world's largest community of statisticians and the second-oldest continuously operating professional society in the United States. Its members serve in industry, government and academia in more than 90 countries, advancing research and promoting sound statistical practice to inform public policy and improve human welfare. For additional information, visit the ASA website.

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For more information, to request an interview with an ICHPS 2015 organizer or speaker or for media registration:
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