

## HPM IN ACTION

- ❖ Visit the new website dedicated to the Affordable Care Act, <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/affordable-care-act/>, that includes a weekly video interview segment called “ACA *this week*.” Ben Sommers and John McDonough were recently featured.
- ❖ “There’s no way a Republican can run for president in 2016 without having a major health-care plan,” said Bob Blendon. Read why [here](#).
- ❖ Obamacare cures ‘job lock’: People won’t have to stay at jobs they hate in order to obtain health. Read the Column by Kathy Swartz and Theda Skocpol [here](#) on USA Today.
- ❖ Is Medicaid expansion beneficial for millions or a costly burden? Kate Baicker shares her [findings](#).
- ❖ Medicaid expansion is growing momentum. Ben Sommers’s helps makes sense of it all [here](#).
- ❖ Easy access to guns tied to higher risks of homicide, suicide. Preventive measures are advisable. Read the latest on [US News](#) with David Hemenway.
- ❖ 10 Questions with Lucian Leape on medical errors and patient safety. What’s the biggest barrier to practicing medicine today? Find out [here](#).

### HPM Comings and Goings Welcome

- ❖ Toni Addario, Faculty Assistant with Sue Goldie
- ❖ New instructors: Dee Dee Chen, Derek Feeley, & Kedar Mate,
- ❖ Visiting scientist: Isabelle Guerrero working with Nancy Kane

*Thank you to everyone who attended the HPM winter holiday celebration on January 10th! We had a wonderful time and hope you enjoyed it too!*



### Upcoming Events

- ❖ March 3: Research Seminar, John Quelch, Kresge 439, 12:30-1:30pm
- ❖ March 26: Research Seminar, Lenny Marcus and Barry Dorn, Kresge 439, 12:30-1:30pm
- ❖ April 16: Research Seminar, John McDonough, Kresge 439, 12:30-1:30pm

*The HSPH Initiative on Global Health Quality (HIGHQ), led by Professor Jha, is launching a monthly seminar series intended as a forum for young researchers and implementers (current graduate students, post-docs, fellows, etc.) to share their work & engage in discussions about measuring and delivering high quality health care around the globe. To learn more about HIGHQ visit our site: [HIGHQ.hsph.harvard.edu](http://HIGHQ.hsph.harvard.edu). If you would like to present or have any questions, please email Nandini: [nsarma@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:nsarma@hsph.harvard.edu)*

## **Student Spotlight - WinterSession, by Kevin Nguyen**

An interesting opportunity that many students in HPM look forward to each year is WinterSession, a special three-week mini-semester that allows both students and faculty the chance to more intensively and creatively approach different topics in public health. All full-time HPM students participate in one or more WinterSession activities. As in previous WinterSessions, HPM had students working and learning all over the world.

First year SM2 student Caitlin McMurtry was in Jordan: “My favorite part of the Middle East Field Study was the cohort. I valued the chance to learn with and from more than a dozen brilliant colleagues studying here at the HSPH as well as at the Harvard Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, Harvard Kennedy School, Harvard Graduate School of Design, and Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy at Tufts University, each of whom brought a different set of skills, experiences, and lenses to the course. Learning how to pool our expertise to work effectively as a team was a huge breakthrough, and the process helped me better understand my own strengths and opportunities for improvement.”

First year SM2 student Katherine Howe studied health reform in Chile: “The WinterSession course in beautiful Santiago, Chile has been my favorite part of the HSPH experience so far! This class broadened my understanding of health system reform and community medicine firsthand through Dr. Bossert's classes, guest lectures, and field visits to clinics. I'm grateful for this opportunity to study abroad and make new friendships with Chilean family medicine residents and HSPH students from other programs.”

Many HPM students opt to take HPM 245, Public Health Leadership Skills. The weeklong course is intended to develop students into the next generation of public health leaders, and is built around the theory of meta-leadership. First year SM2 student Katherine Heflin entered the class with some skepticism, wondering whether or not leadership can be taught. The course surpassed her expectations: “The class was pleasantly surprising. Though there were a lot of emotions, it was a lot more effective and moving than I expected. The course was shockingly compact and full of information. But the chance to go through the intense experience with other HPM students and our amazing TAs was an incredible experience. Who knew that HPM bonding could come in the form of constructive criticism, speeches, and tears? Well it did, and it was great.”

## **Faculty Spotlight – John McDonough, HPM-MOOC on US Health Policy!**

We recently had the pleasure to sit down for a conversation with Dr. John McDonough who is preparing to launch the first Health Policy and Management massive open online course (MOOC) titled “United States Health Policy.” Given the latest coverage on the Affordable Care Act, we decided that there was no better time to write about John’s course than now.

The creation of this MOOC stemmed from John’s heightened awareness of, “just how many people do not understand the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare)” and recognition that this was in large part due to a lack of understanding on the basics of the U.S. health care system. John has teamed up with 20 of the best U.S. health policy experts, 15 from right here in the HPM Department, to teach this course. Together they will discuss specific ways the Affordable Care Act will impact access, quality, and costs. It will also explore important issues that often get neglected, such as mental health, oral health, public health, and more. John hopes this course will enable everyone who participates to increase their knowledge and awareness about the future developments of the U.S. health care system and recognize what is at stake.

If you would like to register for the free online course or want additional information, click [here](#)