

UC Berkeley

The synergy Newsletter

Title

synergy, Fall 2004

Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/9v27c2x5>

Author

Center for Health Research

Publication Date

2004-10-01



synergy

Center for Health Research, University of California, Berkeley

Notes from the Chair

The past six months have been an unusually busy and productive time for the faculty affiliated with the Center. Since June 2004, the total amount of externally funded research awards has more than doubled to approximately \$11 million. The research projects managed by CHR address all three of the Center's foci: the social and behavior determinants of health; the impact of markets, organizations, and professions on access, cost, quality, and outcomes of health care; and the causes and consequences of innovation in health technology.

The following examples of recently funded projects illustrate the diverse and international nature of the research being carried out by CHR researchers: *Experimental Evidence on Child Health and Long-run Outcomes in Kenya* (Edward Miguel); *Impact of Health Information Technology on Clinical Care* (Thomas Rundall), *How Industrialization Affects Children's Well-Being* (David Levine), and *Poverty, Health and Adolescent Risk Behavior* (Paul Gertler). The complete list of CHR-managed research

projects can be found on the Center's website: healthresearch.berkeley.edu.

During the spring 2005 semester, a concerted effort will be made to reach out to more faculty across the campus. We will establish working relationships with other research institutes and centers on the campus, work collaboratively with schools and departments to identify faculty who would benefit from being affiliated with CHR,

synergy:

*the working together of
two or more things
to produce an effect
greater than the sum
of their individual effects*

and pursue direct-to-faculty marketing of the Center's services and programs. Many of these benefits and services are described in this issue of *synergy*.

If your research fits within the Center's mission—and nearly any project investigating health-related issues does—I hope you will contact me to discuss how the Center can help you locate research colleagues with complementary theoretical perspectives and research skills, and how the Center's staff can assist you in the preparation of your grant proposal and the management of your funded grants.

Thomas G. Rundall, Chair

Inside synergy

Focus on
Our Members
2

Center
Conference
Update
4

Special
Feature
6

New HIT
Grant
Awards
8

Member
Spotlight:
Ron Lee
11

Newest
Center
Grants
12

Focus on Our Members

The Center's 70 members come from 12 departments on the Berkeley campus, as well as the Institute for Health Policy Studies at UC San Francisco (UCSF) and the joint UC Berkeley-UCSF Global Health Institute. Each issue of *synergy* focuses on a representative sampling of our members.

Thomas Boyce (Public Health, boyce@socrates.berkeley.edu) serves as the chair for the new SPH division, Community Health and Human Development. Boyce is also the associate dean for academic affairs and research in the School of Public Health. His research interests include developmental psychobiology of stress in young children, early contextual and biological risk factors for developmental psychopathology, and the social and behavioral factors in disease pathogenesis.

Ralph Catalano (Public Health, rayc@berkeley.edu), professor of Public Health, has conducted research on the economic antecedents of specialty mental health services utilization and stress-related illness. His work on the effects of catastrophic events on human health has focused not only on mental health, but also on gestational effects such as spontaneous miscarriages, low birth weight, and sex ratio of newborn babies.

Jane Mauldon's (Public Policy, jmauldon@socrates.berkeley.edu) research interests include welfare policy and child and adolescent health, including disabled children and adolescent pregnancy. She recently evaluated the teen-parent component of California's welfare reforms. Mauldon also serves as the current chair of UC Berkeley's Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects.

Jennifer Chatman (Business, chatman@haas.berkeley.edu) is the Paul J. Cortese Distinguished Professor of Management in the Haas School of Business. Her research explores the psychology of leadership and culture within organizations, including organizational culture and post-merger integration, managing diverse professionals, and managing teams and cooperation. Chatman has worked with several businesses as a consultant, focusing on the business advantages of leveraging organizational culture and leading change.

William Dow (Public Health, wdow@berkeley.edu) is a health economist whose research interests include economic demography and international health. Much of his research focuses on developing countries and underserved and indigent populations. One of his ongoing projects is a longitudinal survey, *The Costa Rica Healthy Aging Survey*, funded by the Wellcome Trust in the U.K. Dow's undertaking is a multidisciplinary project that will involve economists, demographers, sociologists, epidemiologists, physicians, and others. This approach is an attempt to understand "how you produce better health" by collecting extensive biomarkers of health in addition to socioeconomic data.

John Freeman (Business, freeman@haas.berkeley.edu) is the Helzel Professor of Entrepreneurship and Innovation. His research interests include strategic alliances and the



evolution of technology in biotechnology, semiconductor manufacturing, and radio broadcasting; entrepreneurship in high technology; and the dynamics of firm growth and survival.

Ron Lee (Economics/Demography, rlee@demog.berkeley.edu) has a joint appointment with the departments of demography and economics and is the director of the Center for Economics and Demography of Aging, funded by the National Institute on Aging. For more on his research interests, turn to the “Spotlight” article on page 5.

Ann Keller (Public Health, annk@berkeley.edu) is an assistant professor of health policy and management and holds a PhD in political science. Keller’s research is concentrated on the application of expertise in democratic decision-making in the environmental and health policy arenas. She is currently studying the structure of expertise at the CDC and the extent to which divisions within the organization combine traditional expertise with local knowledge in devising public health interventions. Keller is also conducting research on two distinct forms of health-inspired mobilization. In the first, she compares patient groups who press their claims in research settings rather than relying exclusively on more

Continued on page 10

Center Conference Update



Alfred Nobel stands guard over the Karolinska Institute Conference Center in Stockholm.

The Center's Swedish Connection

A delegation of Center members traveled to Sweden this past June to meet with colleagues from the Medical Management Centre (MMC), part of the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm. Joan Bloom, Ann Keller, Kristi Raube, Jamie Robinson, Tom Rundall, and Steve Shortell presented highlights of their work in public forums attended by local and regional health care administrators and practitioners, and in smaller meetings designed to highlight areas of collaboration with MMC researchers. Areas of possible interest to both groups include health care leadership, quality improvement, evaluation and health care economics, safety, and informatics. Also in the group were John Hsu (Kaiser Permanente Division of Research) and Peg Farrell (CHR Program Manager).

The three-day event, funded by both the Center and MMC, is the first of several planned conferences. Representatives from the Medical Management Centre will be traveling to Berkeley July 7 & 8 for a second meeting. Center members interested in attending or learning more about this meeting are encouraged to contact the Center (CHR_UCB@berkeley.edu) for more information.

Aussies and Brits

This past summer's annual Australian Study Tour was noteworthy for a number of reasons. The dozen participants in the 2004 group represented the largest cohort from Down Under in the seven years that Australian health system executives have been coming to Berkeley. They were joined, for the first time, by six health care leaders from the English National Health Service.

Although moving a group this large from venue to venue during the week's activities did have its challenges (the image of "herding cats" often came to mind), the participants' diversity of viewpoints and backgrounds—and accents—allowed for some extremely valuable three-way national comparisons as the group spent the week learning about the American health care system from Berkeley researchers and local executives at Kaiser Permanente, Blue Shield, John Mui/Mt. Diablo, San Francisco Health Plan, and others.

It is likely that this was the last time that the Center will host an Australian group, for its sponsoring organization has chosen to forego any future study tours. Happily, though, it was just the first in a planned series of groups from the United Kingdom.



Australian and British visitors enjoyed their time in sunny Berkeley this past summer.

Connections

Forming New Health & Technology
Research Partnerships

Most people could easily imagine a sociologist and an economist working together on a health-related research project. But a health care economist and an engineer? Such an unlikely pairing is the goal of a new Center multidisciplinary research initiative.

This past December, the Center, together with CITRIS—the *Center for Information Technology Research in the Interest of Society*, a multi-campus center headquartered on Berkeley’s campus—and TEKES—the *National Technology Center of Finland*—hosted a one-day gathering of Berkeley technology and social science researchers, representatives from Finnish and U.S. technical enterprises, and Bay Area health care systems. Participants met in small groups to discuss possible joint research projects focused on the development, implementation, and evaluation of wireless and embedded technologies in health care. A number of interesting projects were identified. More information about the conference, including speaker presentations, is available at <http://www.citris.berkeley.edu/events/spotlight/2004-12-03-connections-research-partnerships.shtm>.

Berkeley researchers interested in pursuing one of these or other lines of inquiry may apply for one of the Center’s new HIT Small Grants, jointly funded by the Center and CITRIS (see p. 8 for details on this new program). Other funding is available through a CITRIS/TEKES joint agreement. Please contact Gary Baldwin, CITRIS’ Executive Director (garyb@eecs.berkeley.edu; 510-643-8489) for more information.

Eisenberg Legacy Lecture

With all the initiatives undertaken in recent years to improve quality of care and boost patient safety, why hasn’t more progress been made on this front? Barbara McNeil, a radiologist, professor, and founding head of the Department of Health Care Policy at Harvard Medical School, addressed this question Nov. 17 as the featured speaker for the second annual *John Eisenberg Legacy Lecture*, co-sponsored by the Center, UC Berkeley’s School of Public Health, the Stanford Center for Health Policy/Primary Care Outcomes Research, the Institute for Health Policy Studies at UC San Francisco, and the California HealthCare Foundation.

In her talk, held at UC Berkeley and titled “Surprising Barriers to Improving Medical Care,” McNeil discussed some overlooked factors that may impede even the most well-

Continued on page 9



Why the Center for Health Research should manage **YOUR** next research proposal...



So you've been thinking about that shiny new program announcement but are nervous at the prospect of facing the morass of university bureaucracy. Don't despair — You are not alone.

Let the skilled and experienced staff at the Center for Health Research and its parent organization, IBER (the Institute of Business & Economic Research), assist you. Here's a very brief look at what we can do for YOU.

Grant Proposal Services



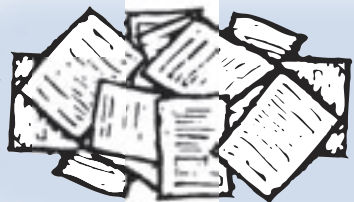
- Disseminate funding announcements
- Review RFPs
- Develop final proposal budget
 - Provide authorizing signatures
 - Review and submit to Sponsored Projects Office
 - Submit to agency via electronic means or standard express mail, as needed

Financial Services

- Set up budgets
- Produce financial reports at specified frequencies
- Train project assistants on IBER accounting procedures and expectations



- Review quarterly budget and spending reports
 - Order equipment, publications, and project supplies
- Reimburse travel and other research expenses in a timely manner



Grant Administration Services

- Advise on campus and agency policies
- Prepare consultant agreements, subcontracts, pre-award requests, no-cost extensions, and closeouts

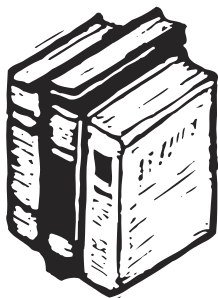
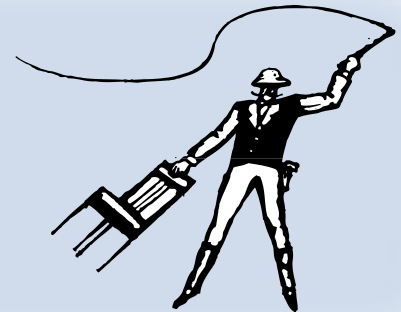
Personnel Services



- Assist with job description preparation and staff recruitment, including salary approvals
- Administer all student and staff employee new-hire paperwork
 - Maintain official employee personnel files
- Provide employee benefits counseling and payroll services
 - Administer faculty summer salaries.

Advocacy and Representation

Provide advocacy services by the IBER Director and Deputy Director to the campus (e.g., requests for Exceptional Principal Investigator status) or to funding agencies (e.g., requests for advice and assistance with implementation of agency policies)

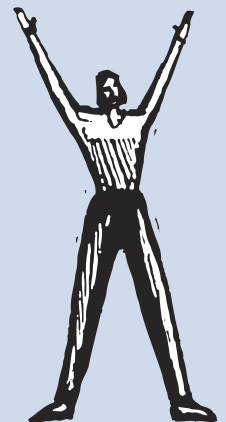


Publication and Website Services

Assist with the establishment of a working paper series, including electronic dissemination of the research results



If you are a UC Berkeley faculty member who is interested in conducting research on the socio-economic and technological factors affecting the health of individuals and organizations, we encourage you to contact Bob Barde, the IBER Deputy Director (barde@haas.berkeley.edu; 510-642-8351) today for more information about how we can help you reach your goals.



New HIT Grant Awards

The Center for Health Research, in partnership with CITRIS and TEKES, is pleased to announce four grants for up to \$10,000 each for research into the area of health information technology, with a specific focus on “wireless and embedded technology in health care.” (see p. 5 for more details on this new research initiative)

Health researchers and technologists from all disciplines are encouraged to submit proposals. Proposals from any UC Berkeley faculty member with PI status will be considered, although special attention will be given to those from Center or CITRIS members and junior faculty.

Topics that may be of interest to researchers from the social sciences include (but are not limited to):

- Factors affecting technology adoption by health care professionals, patients, families, and other consumers
- Short- and long-term effects of new technologies on health, safety and well-being, frequency, accuracy, and effectiveness of communication between patients and their caregivers
- Cost-effectiveness of technologies developed by the joint initiative
- The contribution of technology to the integration and coordination of care to patients, particularly to patients with chronic diseases such as diabetes, congestive heart failure, asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
- Qualitative studies of the reactions of elderly persons to new technologies
- Health plan benefit coverage of new technologies and consumer/health provider reimbursement for these technologies
- Cross-national studies of technology use, cost, effectiveness, and social impacts
- Regulatory policies impacting the adoption and diffusion of these new technologies
- Changes in the design of patient care processes and work force training induced by the adoption of new technologies

Complete instructions for proposal submissions will be available in the next month. Applicants for these awards must meet the same criteria as the Center’s other small grant program. Details—including program requirements and submission instructions—will be available online at healthresearch.berkeley.edu/grants.

The Center for Health Research is aided in its mission by an outstanding group of faculty and staff who meet at least once a semester to review the Center’s activities and financial status. Current members of the Advisory Committee include Bob Barde, Ray Catalano, Jennifer Chatman, Peg Hardaway Farrell, Elizabeth Flora, Kamran Nayeri, Hal Luft, Dele Odus-Owen, Geoffrey Owen, Kristi Raube, Jamie Robinson, Kathy Romain, Tom Rundall, Bill Satariano, Joe Selby, Carl Shaprio, Steve Shortell, and Ann Swidler. Joe Selby, director of Kaiser Permanente’s Division of Research, represents the Center’s research partnership with KP.

Continued from page 5, Center Conference Update

intended and well-designed quality improvement efforts. The factors included clinicians' and patients' biases, along with more measurable factors such as inadequate clinical data. The last challenge McNeil discussed was how clinicians can determine the optimal use of new medical technologies in the face of political and industry pressure.

The *Eisenberg Legacy Lecture* series is funded by a grant from the California HealthCare Foundation. The 2005 Lecture will be held on the Stanford campus.

Save the Date!

The Center for Health Research's third annual *Science & Society* research conference will be held on Wednesday, April 20, 2005, at the Berkeley City Club.

Entitled *Living Longer, Living Better?* the day's presentations will examine what it means to be and grow old in today's America. How will the nation's changing demographics affect us? How have our attitudes and expectations about growing old evolved? What will "retirement" mean for the Baby-Boomers? Will there be an "anti-aging" serum someday?

Speakers include William Thomas, author of *What Are Old People For? How Elders will Save the World*; Richard D. Della Penna, director of Kaiser Permanente's Aging Network; UC Berkeley's own Bruce Ames, Ron Lee, and others.

As has been done for past events, registration will be done online at livinglonger.berkeley.edu.

Eisenberg story by Sara Selis; photos by Peg Hardaway Farrell and Elizabeth Flora



Continued from page 11, Member Spotlight

energy will determine how health and mortality vary with age. Lee is particularly interested in how patterns of parental investment in offspring will shape the optimal age patterns of mortality, and how these investments have themselves evolved. Such provocative theories and lines of investigation are only a part of Lee's overall research agenda.

"Follow the ripples," indeed. If an organism was to pursue Lee's optimal life cycle theory, then, and if such an organism happened to be a red, two-headed dragon, the energy investment necessary for two heads would be disastrous to the species' ultimate fitness and survival—which is probably why this creature can only be seen in Ron Lee's front yard once a year.

Cont. from page 3, Focus on Our Members

traditional forms of political lobbying. The second study analyzes characteristics of community mobilization around a number of broadly defined environmental health issues, including asthma, exposure to toxics, and obesity. Keller is also completing a manuscript on the role of scientists in shaping acid rain and climate change policy in the United States.

Botond Koszegi (Economics, botond@econ.berkeley.edu) has wide-ranging interests, some of which he has combined into research themes such as the economics of self-delusion, hyperbolic discounting, anticipation, reference-dependence, and experimental economics.

David Leonard (Political Science, leonard@socrates.berkeley.edu) is the former Dean of International Area Studies and has served as advisor to the Food and Agricultural Organization, the United Nations Development Program, the World Bank, the United States Agency for International Development, the Office for Technology Assessment of the United States Congress, and the Government of Kenya. His latest book is titled *Africa's Stalled Development: International Causes and Cures*.

Robert Levenson (Psychology, boblev@socrates.berkeley.edu) has research interests in the area of human psychobiology and affective neuroscience. In the Berkeley Psychophysiology Lab, Levenson has been studying human emotion by examining the subjective experience of emotion, emotional behavior, and physiological reactivity to emotional stimuli. Other studies focus on how

emotional understanding changes as a function of normal adult development and how culture and ethnicity influence the various aspects of emotions.

Lorraine Midanik (Social Welfare, lmidanik@berkeley.edu) is currently serving as associate dean for academic affairs in the School of Social Welfare. Her research interests include research methodology, health services research, health behavior, alcohol and drug policy, epidemiology of alcohol and drug use, evaluation of treatment services, employee assistance programs, retirement, and caregiver burden.

Ann Swidler (Sociology, swidler@berkeley.edu) has analyzed how culture works to influence action and how institutions develop and change. She has done research on individualism in American culture and on critical institutions such as schools, marriage, and government. Her current project examines variations in social and political responses to the AIDS pandemic in sub-Saharan Africa. Along with colleagues in the Successful Societies Program, she is attempting to develop a general model of the sources of institutional vitality and societal competence.

Hal Luft (Institute for Health Policy Studies, UCSF, hluft@itsa.ucsf.edu) is the Caldwell B. Esselstyn Professor of Health Policy and Health and also serves as the director of IHPS. Luft's major research area is managed care, and he is engaged in exploring how marketplace behavior affects quality of care and how the increased focus on quality in turn affects the various participants in the health care system.

Member Spotlight: Ron Lee

Dragons and Demographics



Story and photo by Dion Shimatsu-Ong

A giant, two-headed, red dragon soared through Professor Ron Lee's front yard last October. This year, a giant Trick-or-Treater-eating Hershey Bar dominated his lawn. Whimsical creations designed and built by Lee have become something of a tradition in his neighborhood every Halloween, sending out a warning to all and sundry: this is one multi-dimensional and creative man at work!

Professor Ronald Lee is best known for his courses and research work in economic demography, population theory, demographic forecasting, population aging, indirect estimation, and research design.

When he talks about his theoretical research interests, he does so in a thoughtful, measured delivery that almost belies the intensity, depth, and breadth of his thinking. In fact, the directions of his lines of inquiry are like the proverbial ripples in a pond—ripples that spread and create ripples of their own. The trick is to follow those rippling lines of thought.

One of his current research interests is what he calls *Life History Theory*. Part population theory, part evolution, it attempts to understand why senescence happens: why do humans and other species have the fertility and mortality patterns they do? How can nature possibly find it useful to build an organism as incredibly complicated as a human being, and then throw it out after such a relatively short lifespan, only to start all over again (with a new fetus)?

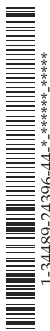
Following another ripple, we come to work he calls *Optimal Life Cycle* research. Assuming an organism at the highest possible reproductive fitness, one that would have the best chance of success in terms of natural selection, he asks questions such as “How would such an organism divide its energy among health-related expenditures in order to improve its chances for survival, versus reproduction, versus growth?” If it grows, for example, it could have higher fertility in the future, but it might not survive to reproduce. This allocation of

Continued on page 9

synergy is published each spring and fall by the Center for Health Research, an affiliate of the Institute of Business and Economic Research, at the University of California, Berkeley. ©2005, Regents of the University of California. Please direct all correspondence to the UC Berkeley Center for Health Research; 423 Warren Hall #7360; Berkeley CA 94720-7360. Phone: 510-643-7211; fax: 510-643-6981; CHR_UCB@berkeley.edu. Online at HealthResearch.berkeley.edu. Thomas G. Rundall, PhD, Chair; Peg Hardaway Farrell, PhD, Editor. The programs and activities of the Center for Health Research are made possible in part by a research partnership with the Kaiser Permanente Division of Research.



synergy
University of California, Berkeley
Center for Health Research
423 Warren Hall #7360
Berkeley CA 94720-7360
Address Service Requested



1-34489-24396-44*.*****.*****

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
University of
California

Newest Center Grants

The Center for Health Research now administers over \$11 million dollars in externally funded grants, including these recent awards:

Paul Gertler (Business/Public Health)—*Exploratory Center for Behavioral Epidemiology (BEE Center)*, National Center for Research Resources (9/04–7/07); *Poverty, Health, and Adolescent Risk Behavior*; National Institute of Child Health & Human Development (9/04–7/08)

Edward Miguel (Economics)—*Health, Education, and Economic Development*, National Science Foundation (8/04–7/07); *Experimental Evidence on Child Health and Long-run Outcomes in Kenya*, National Institute of Child Health & Human Development (1/05–6/07)

Thomas Rundall (Public Health)—*Methods for Developing Actionable Evidence for Consumers of Health Services Research* (10/04–1/06); *Impact of Health Information Technology on Clinical Care* (10/04–9/07); Kaiser Permanente/Department of Health & Human Services/Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality