The Seventh Annual
Global Health Economics
Colloquium:
Medicare-for-All: How to Do It Right

January 24, 2020
8:30am–5:00pm
International House
UC Berkeley
Single Payer/Medicare-for-All is newly on the national political agenda. Two leading Democratic presidential candidates support it. Yet transforming how we pay for health care is a major task. If Medicare-for-All is adopted, how can we best design it to achieve universal coverage, high quality care and affordability?

In this colloquium, we gather leaders in Medicare-for-All design from the US along with international health system experts. The discussion will review current plans in Congress and from candidates, and will highlight the best approaches and trickiest issues in implementing Medicare-for-All.

Program

8:30 Welcome and Opening Remarks by Organizers
   James G. Kahn, UCSF
   Stefano Bertozzi, UC Berkeley
   Douglas Owens, Stanford University

8:45 Overview: Single Payer Vision, Scope, Design Issues
   James G. Kahn, UCSF

9:15 Video: Mission for Conference
   Pramila Jayapal (D-WA-07), Lead Sponsor, H.R. 1384 Medicare for All

9:30 Lessons from Other Countries – Core Features
   Moderator: Colin Boyle, UCSF
   Core Elements of Universal Insurance: Global Lessons,
   Joseph Kutzin, World Health Organization
   U.S. Single Payer Essential Features, Adam Gaffney
   Harvard University, Physicians for a National Health Program

10:15 Break

10:30 Financing Medicare-for-All
   Gabriel Zucman, UC Berkeley

10:55 Lessons from Other Countries – Role of Private Health Insurance
   Moderator: Stefano Bertozzi, UC Berkeley
   The European Experience with PHI, Sarah Thomson, World Health Organization
   Lessons from Canada, Danielle Martin, University of Toronto
   Lessons from the OECD, Frederico Guanais, Organization for Economic Cooperation & Development

11:55 Medicare-for-All, NHS style: The VA option
   Daniel Greenwood, Hofstra School of Law

12:15 Lunch

1:00 Modeling Medicare-for-All: How Design Options Affect Predictions
   Moderator: Douglas Owens, Stanford University
   Robert Pollin, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
   Gerald Friedman, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

1:40 Key Design issues in Provider Payment
   David U. Himmelstein, Stephanie J. Woolhandler, City University of New York at Hunter College, Harvard Medical School, Physicians for a National Health Program

2:30 Key Issues in Single Payer Design (by Zoom)
   Jeffrey Sachs, Columbia University

3:00 Break

3:15 Long-term Care Design: Settings and Benefits
   Moderator: Stefano Bertozzi, UC Berkeley
   Charlene Harrington, UCSF
   Allison Hoffman, University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School

4:00 Transition: How to Get from Here to There
   Moderator: James G. Kahn, UCSF
   Interim Steps That Build Structure & Support for M4A,
   Diane Archer, Just Care USA
   Lessons from the History of Single Payer and Corporatized Medicine, Laura Schmidt, UCSF

4:45 Reception
Bios

Diane Archer is founder and president of Just Care USA, an independent digital hub covering health and financial issues facing boomers and their families and promoting policy solutions. Archer began her career in health advocacy in 1989 as founder and president of the Medicare Rights Center.

Stefano M. Bertozzi, MD, PhD, is emeritus dean and professor of health policy and management at the UC Berkeley School of Public Health. Previously, he directed the HIV and tuberculosis programs at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and directed the Center for Evaluation Research and Surveys at the Mexican National Institute for Public Health. He co-edited the Disease Control Priorities (DCP3) volume on HIV/AIDS, Malaria & Tuberculosis.

Colin Boyle, MPP, MBA, is the Deputy Director of UCSF Global Health Sciences, dedicated to improving health and reducing inequities worldwide. He joined UCSF in 2012, after 15 years with the Boston Consulting Group (BCG), where he was managing director, leading many of the firm’s social impact projects. At UCSF, Mr. Boyle has focused on analyzing the case for investments in health.

Gerald Friedman, PhD, is an economics professor at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. He has conducted multiple economic studies of single payer, and has a new book, The Case for Medicare for All. In the 2016 U.S. presidential election he wrote an analysis of Bernie Sanders’ policies which concluded that they would produce significant economic growth in the United States.

Adam Gaffney, MD, MPH, is a pulmonary and critical care physician and a health services researcher at Harvard Medical School and the Cambridge Health Alliance. His research focuses on healthcare equity, emphasizing barriers faced by patients with pulmonary disease, and healthcare financing reform. He wrote To Heal Humankind: The Right to Health in History (Routledge 2017). He is president of PNHP.

Daniel J. H. Greenwood, JD, is professor at the School of Law at Hofstra University. His research focuses on the structure and rights of business organizations, problems of corporate governance, corporate collective responsibility, and problems of group rights in an individualist democracy. Recently, he proposed a role for the Veteran’s Administration in a Medicare-for-All system.

Charlene Harrington, PhD, RN, is professor emerita of sociology and nursing at UCSF and a member of the American Academy of Nursing and the National Academies of Medicine. Her work has focused on designing, managing, and evaluating long term care. Her recent research focuses on the corporate ownership and financing of long term care and its negative effect on quality, access, and costs.

David U. Himmelstein, MD, is a Distinguished Professor of Public Health at CUNY’s Hunter College and a Lecturer in Medicine at Harvard Medical School. He has authored three books and over 150 journal articles on widely-cited proposals for single payer, high administrative costs of health care, medical bankruptcy, and mortality due to uninsurance. He co-founded PNHP.

Allison K. Hoffman, JD, is a Professor of Law at University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School and Senior Fellow at Penn’s Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics. Her work examines health insurance regulation, the Affordable Care Act, Medicare and retiree healthcare expenses, and long-term care. She examines the role of regulation and the welfare state in promoting health.

Pramila Jayapal (video) represents Washington’s 7th district (Seattle and King County) in Congress. She is the first Indian-American woman to serve in the House. Before politics, Jayapal was a Seattle-based civil rights activist, as ED of OneAmerica, an immigrant advocacy group. She is Co-Chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus and serves on the Judiciary and Budget committees. She is the lead sponsor of H.R. 1384 Medicare-for-All.

James G. Kahn, MD, MPH, is emeritus professor in the Institute for Health Policy Studies at UCSF. He is the founding director of GHECon. Dr. Kahn is an expert in cost-effectiveness analysis and associated decision analysis, systematic review, and costing. He has researched and published on single payer economics in the academic and lay press.

Joseph Kutzin, MA, DHC, is a health economist with 30 years work in health financing policy and system reform, working on four continents. He joined the WHO in 1994, serving in the Geneva Headquarters, in Kyrgyzstan as Policy Advisor to the Ministry of Health, and in Copenhagen and Barcelona as the European lead advisor on health financing. He leads WHO’s global Health Financing Team.
Danielle Martin, MD, CCFP, FCFP, MPP, is Executive VP and Chief Medical Executive at Women’s College Hospital, and Associate Professor at the University of Toronto. Dr. Martin leads the hospital’s strategy to establish Women’s Virtual, Canada’s first virtual hospital. She is an internationally recognized researcher on health system issues. Her national bestselling book *Better Now: 6 Big Ideas to Improve the Health of all Canadians*, was released in 2017.

Douglas K. Owens, MD, MS, is the Henry J. Kaiser, Jr., Professor at Stanford University, director of the Center for Health Policy in the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies and of the Center for Primary Care and Outcomes Research. His research focuses on technology assessment, guideline development, cost-effectiveness analysis, evidence synthesis, and clinical decision making. He is Chair of U.S. Preventive Services Task Force.

Robert Pollin, PhD, is Distinguished University Professor of Economics and Co-Director of the Political Economy Research Institute at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. He co-authored economic analyses of two single payer proposals, California SB 562 and Sanders S 1129 Medicare for All, 2011 – 2016, he was a member of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the European Commission project on Financialization, Economy, Society, and Sustainable Development.

Jeffrey D. Sachs, PhD, is University Professor and Director of the Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University, and Director of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network and a commissioner of the UN Broadband Commission for Development. He has been advisor to three United Nations Secretaries-General. Sachs was ranked by The Economist among the top three most influential living economists.

Laura A. Schmidt, PhD, is a Professor of Health Policy at UCSF. She holds a joint appointment in the Institute for Health Policy Studies and the Department of Anthropology, History and Social Medicine. She authored an historical-archival study on the causes and conditions that brought about the first competitive healthcare market in America, and why obvious alternatives failed, including a single payer system and one modeled on public utilities.

Sarah Thomson, PhD, is a Senior Health Financing Specialist at the WHO Barcelona Office for Health Systems Strengthening. Her work focuses on comparative health systems policy analysis in high- and middle-income countries. She recently led multi-country studies focusing on the history, politics and performance of private health insurance globally and the impact of the financial and economic crisis on health systems in Europe.

Steffie Woolhandler, MD, MPH, is a Distinguished Professor at CUNY’s Hunter College and a Lecturer in Medicine at Harvard Medical School, where she was formerly Professor of Medicine. While a Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Fellow at the Institute of Medicine, she worked with Senator Paul Wellstone and Congressman Bernie Sanders. She has published more than 150 journal articles, reviews, chapters and books on health policy and is a co-founder of PNHP.

Gabriel Zucman, PhD, is associate professor of economics at UC, Berkeley. In papers and *The Hidden Wealth of Nations*, he developed methods to measure the wealth held in tax havens. In *The Triumph of Injustice: How the Rich Dodge Taxes and How to Make Them Pay*, written with Emmanuel Saez, he assessed the progressivity of the US tax system. Dr. Zucman has written, with Dr. Saez on financing of Medicare-for-All.