Department of Health Policy: Our First 4 Years
Melinda B. Buntin, Ph.D., Chair
December 2017

MPH students at a reception honoring David Satcher, September 2017
What I’ll Cover:

- Mission
- Context
- Faculty
- Research
- Education
- Events & Public Programs
- Publications
- Looking ahead
To improve health and health care through research, education, and service.

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To act as a nonpartisan, credible information source for health policy* decision-making.

*Health policy refers to decisions, plans, and actions that are undertaken to achieve specific health care goals within a society (WHO).
The Department acts as a nonpartisan, credible information source for local and national health policy leaders.

Governor Bill Haslam testifying before the U.S. Senate on ways to strengthen the individual health insurance market.
Prevalence and Location of Health Policy Entities in Schools of Medicine, U.S., 2016

Percent of Schools of Medicine

- Health Policy Dept in School of Medicine
- Health Policy Dept in School of Public Health
- Health Policy Center
- Any Health Policy Entity

Source: NEJM Catalyst Blog
Institutional Models for Health Policy Departments

Part of School of Public Health
- Johns Hopkins
- UC Berkeley

Part of School of Medicine
- Harvard
- U Penn

Trans-Institutional Center
- Duke
- USC

Vanderbilt University
22 Full-Time Primary Faculty Members

Chair
Buntin, Melinda*

* Indicates tenure-track.
Recent Recruits

Recruiting approximately two faculty members per year to reach goal of two dozen tenure-track primary faculty

Jea Young Min, PharmD, MPH
July 2017
VA Quality Scholar & Pharmacoepidemiologist

Jordan Everson, Ph.D.
August 2017
Health Information Tech & Provider Networks

Stacie Dusetzina, Ph.D.
January 2018
Drug Policy & Cost of Cancer Care
Faculty Research Interests Include:

- Aging & Long-Term Care
- Global Health
- Health Care Reform & Spending
- Insurance Coverage
- LGBT Health
- Maternal & Child Health
- Medicaid & Medicare
- Pharmacoepidemiology
- Provider Payment
Over 60 Mentees in 16 Disciplines

- Anesthesiology
- Cardiology
- Critical Care
- Economics
- Epidemiology
- Global Health
- Infectious Disease
- Law
- Medicine
- Oncology
- Pediatrics
- Pulmonology
- Radiology
- Rheumatology
- Sociology
- Urology

Junior Faculty
Post Docs
PhD Candidates
Fellows
Medical Residents
Medical Students
MPH Students
Undergraduates
Master of Public Health program
- Tracks in Epidemiology, Global Health, and Health Policy
- 34 MPH students admitted in Fall 2017

Part of Learning Communities section of the School of Medicine curriculum

4 courses at the undergraduate level

Doctoral program launching soon!
Trainee Spotlight: Sarah Greenberg

Graduate of first cohort of Master of Public Health: Health Policy track

Thesis: *Evolution of the Home Health Market*

Now: Episodes Strategy Specialist for TennCare

Faculty mentor: David Stevenson
Dr. Stevenson presenting on “Financing and Payment Strategies to Support High-Quality Care for People with Serious Illness” at National Academies of Sciences Serious Illness Roundtable, Nov. 2017
Health Policy Seminars and Lectures

Annual Value-Based Health Care Delivery Seminar

“It will change your practice and life.”

“Very thorough review of current health care models as they apply to our work; very relevant program with tangible opportunities for action.”

“Definitely a must if you are interested in policy, prevention, and learning health systems.”

— Selected quotes from clinical faculty members, residents, and medical students.

Michael Porter kicking off the first annual seminar.
Turmoil in Health Insurance Markets: What Can Be Done?

Featuring John Graves & Julie McPeak,
TN Insurance Commissioner
Per Capita Caps in Medicaid — Lessons from the Past

Andrew J. Goodman-Bacon, Ph.D., and Sayeh S. Nikpay, Ph.D., M.P.H.

In the summer of 2016, Representative Paul Ryan (R-WI) released “A Better Way,” a wide-ranging proposal that included a plan for reforming Medicaid. Its fate depended heavily on the presidential election, and now financial bonuses or penalties related to the efficiency and quality of care, thereby shifting more financial risk to hospitals, medical groups, and other providers. Through a star rating system, marketplaces are unworkable and are resulting in higher prices and fewer choices.
Faculty Spotlight: Sayeh Nikpay, Ph.D., MPH

Dr. Nikpay briefing journalists on the Affordable Care Act at the Poynter Institute, October 2017.
Faculty Spotlight: Gilbert Gonzales, Ph.D. & Carlos Grijalva, M.D., MPH

Dr. Gonzales: recipient of Inaugural Chancellor's Research Award in Diversity, Equity & Inclusion for his research on LGBT families and their insurance rates, in *JAMA Internal Medicine*.

Dr. Grijalva: honored as a 2017 University Chancellor’s Faculty Fellow for his research in vaccine policy, pharmacoepidemiology, and infectious disease.
Faculty Spotlight: Laura Keohane, Ph.D.

“This is an outstanding candidate who is in a terrific and supportive environment. The candidate has a great team of mentors and their letters of support are exceptional. Her publication record is strong. The career development plan is well designed and the research plan is persuasive and well-integrated.”

- K01 Mentored Research Scientist Career Award Summary; From Quality of Care for Dual-Eligible Beneficiaries in Managed Care Plans. Impact Score: 16
Looking Back – Looking Ahead

**4-Year Review:**
- From 9 to 22 full-time faculty
- $20+ million in grants and contracts
- 107 MPH program graduates
- 17 Health Policy track students
- Collaborations across campus
- Relationships with policymakers at both state & local level
- National attention as a “place to watch”

**5-Year Plan:**
- Hire 4-8 more tenure-track faculty
- Establish doctoral program
- Transition young scholars to research independence
- Endowed professorships, seminars, centers, and scholarships
- Demonstrate impact on policy and health outcomes