

# CHERISH

Center for Health Economics of Treatment Interventions for Substance Use Disorder, HCV, and HIV



EXCEPTIONAL CARE. WITHOUT EXCEPTION.



## Newsletter - January 2017



## 2016 Year in Review

2016 was an exciting and productive year for CHERISH! CHERISH investigators received 4 new grants, including a \$2.1 million dollar PCORI grant to Dissemination and Policy Director Zachary Meisel for a comparative effectiveness study of opioid risk communication strategies. CHERISH investigators also published peer-reviewed articles in journals such as *Annals of Internal Medicine*, *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, and *Health Affairs*, and we had frequent blog and news posts on our website and on social media.



CHERISH investigators also traveled nationally and internationally to present their research findings. Dr. Kathryn McCollister presented on “the Economic Consequences of Substance Use Disorders” at EuHEA in Hamburg, Germany, and joined Dr. Schackman and Dr. Brandon Aden in presenting a symposium on measuring the value of addiction health services at the 2016 Addiction Health Services Research conference. Dr. Ben Linas gave an oral presentation at the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases’ The Liver Meeting 2016, where CHERISH was profiled on AASLD TV, increasing our exposure on a national level. Dr. Zachary Meisel and Dr. Karen Lasser, pilot grant recipient, presented preliminary results of their respective studies on substance use health policy needs assessment and integrating HCV treatment in primary care at the Annual Conference on the Science of Dissemination and Implementation.



CHERISH awarded new pilot grants to Dr. Michael Pesko at Weill Cornell Medical College and Dr. Kit Delgado at the University of Pennsylvania. We ended 2016 by hosting our first ever introduction to health economics two-day training short course at Weill Cornell Medical College. We are excited to welcome Dr. Sean Murphy to the CHERISH family and look forward to many more developments in 2017!



### In This Newsletter

- ▶ Highlights of our first year
- ▶ Welcoming Dr. Sean Murphy as CHERISH Consultation Service Director
- ▶ Recap of our training short course
- ▶ Spotlight on CHERISH at AASLD’s The Liver Meeting 2016
- ▶ CHERISH and The Leonard Davis Institute (LDI) joint blog posts
- ▶ Where you can find our investigators at upcoming conferences

### Congratulations Corner

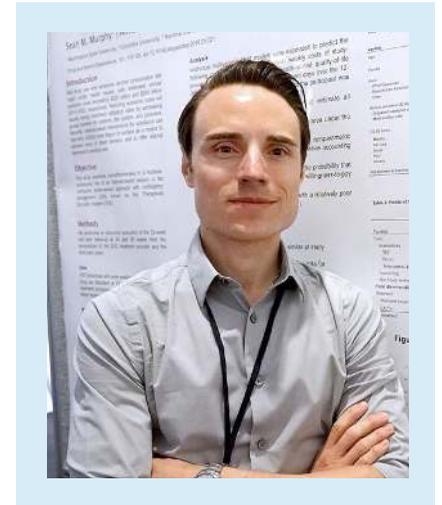
- ▶ HCV & HIV Core Co-Director **Jeffrey Samet, MD, MA, MPH** has been installed as the first John Noble Professor of Medicine at Boston University School of Medicine
- ▶ **Jake Morgan, PhD** of the HCV & HIV Core received his PhD in Health Services Research from Boston University



## Welcoming Sean Murphy, Consultation Service Director

CHERISH is proud to welcome Dr. Sean Murphy as the CHERISH Consultation Service Director. Dr. Murphy was previously an associate professor in the Department of Health Policy and Administration at Washington State University where he completed his doctorate in economics. He will be joining the Weill Cornell Medical College faculty in February of 2017. His research interests include health economics, chronic disorder management, substance use and mental health disorders and econometrics. Dr. Murphy's recent publications focus on economic evaluations of opioid use disorder interventions and treatment. Dr. Murphy is an investigator in the CHERISH Methodology Core and will be responsible for extending the CHERISH investigator network and managing the consultation service.

The CHERISH consultation service is available to researchers nation-wide in substance use disorder treatment, HIV and HCV fields. Consultation requests are made through the CHERISH website and, if a match with a consultant occurs, consultations are provided free of charge for up to approximately 6 hours of consultant time.



Since its launch in December 2015, CHERISH consultants have completed twelve consultations. Several of the studies focus on HCV and/or HIV, linkage to care, and treatment in the substance use disorder setting. CHERISH consultants were able to provide valuable guidance on research aims, methods, and data, as well as assistance in responding to comments from reviewers for previously reviewed grant applications. Those who have received consultations have commended the usefulness of this service, as well as the expertise of our consultants:

- “ Consultation was outstanding. Consultant was available, approachable with questions, gave expert advice, and we have proposed to collaborate. Consultant helped design economic evaluation for grant application and also provided descriptive language for application. The consultant, who is mid-career, had expertise that was well-suited for my needs, but additionally, the director of the center also provided feedback on my grant application. I got comprehensive feedback within one week. I was very impressed - service exceeded my expectations. ”
- “ This consultation was incredibly high yield - I was very impressed with the efficiency, timeliness and assistance that resulted from just two 1 hour calls. This consultation led us to revise a grant aim and allowed us to incorporate appropriate text. I would highly recommend this service to others. THANK YOU!! ”
- “ This is an incredibly helpful service and I am very grateful to be able to take advantage of it. I can say without a doubt that the consultation made my grant application much stronger. In fact, I don't believe I could have incorporated an economic analysis into my grant without Dr. Schackman's help. ”

### Consultation Services

#### We have health economic expertise in:

- Markov Modeling
- Monte Carlo simulation
- Discrete event simulation
- Budget impact and costing
- Cost-effectiveness / cost-benefit
- Agent-based modeling
- Quality of life
- Qualitative data collection
- Statistical analysis / econometrics

#### We can help with:

- Selecting simulation modeling approaches
- Choosing longitudinal and health insurance claims datasets
- Planning a study / analyzing existing data
- Preparing a grant application, manuscript, presentation, or report

To learn more about CHERISH services for researchers, please visit:

[www.cherishresearch.org/services](http://www.cherishresearch.org/services)

## Economic Evaluation Training Short Course

On December 1 - 2, 2016 CHERISH sponsored our first two-day training short course, "An Introduction to Economic Evaluation in Substance Use Disorder, HCV, and HIV Treatments." The course provided an introduction to multiple economic evaluation methods used to evaluate health care services, with a focus on substance use disorders, HIV and HCV, and provided more in-depth exposure to cost-effectiveness analysis. Students were introduced to concepts of decision analysis, measurement of cost, health utilities and quality adjusted life years (QALYs), as well as a briefer introduction to cost-benefit analysis, budget impact analysis, and simulation modeling techniques. Interactive case exercises applied these concepts to economic evaluation of HIV screening in substance use treatment programs.

CHERISH also sponsored an optional third day of training on TreeAge healthcare modeling for investigators and students of all levels, offered at a discounted rate for trainees. The course was met with a great deal of positive feedback from the 36 attendees, including 16 trainees and 20 investigators from a total of 13 institutions.

### Day One (12/01)

8:00-8:30 AM: *Arrive and register*  
8:30-8:45 AM: *Introduction*: Brandon Aden, MD, MPH  
8:45-9:30 AM: *Rationale and an introduction to economic evaluations*: Bruce Schackman, PhD, MBA  
9:30-12:15 PM: *Decision Analysis* – Matthew Simon, MD, MSc  
9:30-11:00 AM: *Lecture* – Overview of decision analysis methods  
11:15-12:15 PM: *Lab* – Introduction to TreeAge  
12:15-12:45 PM: *Working Lunch* – Continue working in TreeAge  
1:00-3:45 PM: *Costing methods and practice* – Bruce Schackman, PhD, MBA  
1:00-2:30 PM: *Lecture* – Presentation on the theory and practice of costing  
2:45-3:45 PM: *Lab* – Costing methods in Excel  
4:00-6:00 PM: *Cost-effectiveness analysis* – Benjamin Linas, MD, MPH  
Application of cost-effectiveness methods, sensitivity analysis

### Day Two (12/02)

8:30-9:00 AM: *Review of homework* – Bruce Schackman, PhD, MBA  
Review of TreeAge CEA "homework"  
9:00-12:15 PM: *Health Utilities and QALYs* – Brandon Aden, MD, MPH  
9:00-11:00 AM: *Lecture* – Introduction and overview quality of life measures, health utilities and QALY's. Direct patient measure vs community derived measurement  
11:15-12:15 PM: *Lab* – Cases in Excel  
12:15-12:45 PM: *Working Lunch* – QALY's in TreeAge  
1:00-3:00 PM: *Interpreting CEA and introduction to other methods of economic evaluation* – Jeremy Bray, PhD  
Understanding CEA ratios, thresholds, and overview of cost-benefit analysis and budget impact analysis  
3:15-6:00 PM: *Introduction to simulation modeling* – Benjamin Linas, MD, MPH  
Overview of Markov modeling and Monte Carlo simulation



## CHERISH at The Liver Meeting

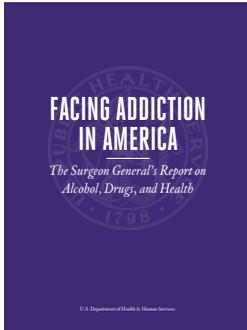
AASLD TV 2016, produced by WebsEdge/Health, provided coverage of The Liver Meeting, the Annual Meeting of the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases held November 11 - 15, 2016 in Boston, MA. Each daily program consisted of conference news, interviews with The Liver Meeting presenters, and pre-recorded film segments. WebsEdge profiled CHERISH, among other organizations, by creating a short documentary-style film focusing on our efforts and their implications for liver disease research. The profile was screened online, around the conference center, and on a dedicated television channel in select guest hotel rooms during the conference.



CHERISH HCV & HIV Core Director Benjamin Linas presented several posters at The Liver Meeting. Additionally, an oral presentation by Dr. Linas held during the Health Services Research: Cost Effectiveness and Economics of Care Parallel Session addressed the question, "what is the cost-effectiveness of HCV treatment among liver transplantation candidates?"

Dr. Linas was joined by Center Director Dr. Bruce Schackman in a poster presentation on the cost-effectiveness of an HCV screening and treatment linkage intervention in US methadone maintenance treatment (MMT) programs.

## CHERISH & Penn's Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics Joint Blog Posts

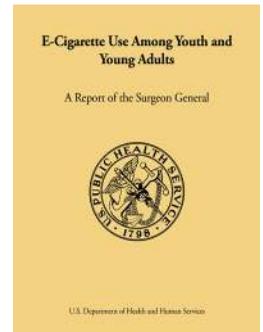


### Answering the Call: Facing Addiction in America

In November 2016 the Surgeon General, Dr. Vivek Murthy, released the groundbreaking, comprehensive report Facing Addiction in America: The Surgeon General's Report on Alcohol, Drugs, and Health. Sarah Gutkind of the CHERISH Administrative Core and Julia Mitchell of the CHERISH Dissemination & Policy Core tackled the the topics addressed in this report in a blog post published to the websites of CHERISH and the Leonard Davis Institute. As researchers, the Surgeon General challenges us to broaden our perspectives and explore models of integrated SUD care, models of ongoing chronic care, and models of coordinated specialty care, and this blog post reaffirms that researchers at LDI and CHERISH are up to the challenge.

### The Effect of Vaping Minimum Age Laws on Teen Smoking and Birth Outcomes

CHERISH pilot grant recipient, Michael Pesko, PhD, presented new evidence for the substitution effect in a blog post cross-posted to the CHERISH website and the Leonard Davis Institute Health PolicySense blog. This post was linked to the publication of Dr. Pesko's study, "The Effect of E-Cigarette Minimum Legal Sale Age Laws on Traditional Cigarette Use and Birth Outcomes Among Pregnant Teenagers" in the National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper Series in November of 2016. The topics discussed in this paper are echoed in the Report of the Surgeon General on E-Cigarette Use Among Youth and Young Adults issued in December 2016.



Read these blog posts in full at [www.cherishresearch.org/blog](http://www.cherishresearch.org/blog).

## Find Us

CHERISH researchers continue to travel around the country to discuss economic analysis research methods and their application to substance use, hepatitis C, and HIV treatment interventions. Please join us if we're presenting in your neighborhood!



### The Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections 2017

#### Bruce Schackman, PhD

- Poster presentation: Cost-Effectiveness of HCV Screening and Linkage in MMT: Relevance of HIV Co-Infection

February 13 - 16, 2017 Seattle, WA



### 12th iHEA World Congress: Revolutions in the Economics of Health Systems

#### Kathryn McCollister, PhD

- Pre-Congress session: New Insights Into the Economics of Substance Use Disorder Treatment: Addressing the Opioid Epidemic
- Social event TBD

July 8 - 11, 2017 Boston, MA



### Summer Institute on Longitudinal Research & 2017 International Conference on Global Health

#### Bruce Schackman, PhD & Sean Murphy, PhD

- Workshop: Introduction to Economic Evaluation in Substance Use Disorders

August 15 - 17, 2017 Universal City, CA