



Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Investigator Awards in Health Policy Research

An RWJF national program

SUMMARY

The *Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Investigator Awards in Health Policy Research* is a national program that aims to build the capacity of the health policy field by offering general research support for innovative ideas that are unlikely to be funded elsewhere. It started in 1993.

The program encourages investigators to think creatively about the most important problems affecting American health and health care and to contribute to the intellectual foundation of future health policy. It serves as one of the Foundation's main vehicles for funding research on broad health policy issues. Grants to investigators have ranged in size up to \$335,000 and in length from two to four years.

Key Results

- From 1993 to June 2010 the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) made awards for 167 projects totaling more than \$43.6 million to 216 investigators (listed on the program's [Web site](#)). The investigators were drawn from such fields as economics, public health, sociology, political science, ethics, journalism, medicine and law.
- As of May 2010 the investigators supported by this award program had collectively published 68 books, two special issues of the *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law*, 143 book chapters, and 839 papers in more than 150 journals including *Health Affairs*, *New England Journal of Medicine*, *Journal of the American Medical Association*, *American Journal of Public Health*, *Milbank Quarterly*, *Social Science and Medicine* and *Health Services Research*.
- Numerous Investigator Award recipients reported that the award had had a significant impact on their careers and their research interests.
- Several investigators have received outside awards for the work they did while they were investigators.
- Several investigators have obtained additional funding for work related to the topic of their Investigator Award, adding value to RWJF's investment.

- Investigators have contributed to the thinking about health reform through their books, articles and opinion pieces. See [Grantee Profile](#) of James A. Morone, Ph.D., as one example. Several investigators also have positions within the Obama administration.

(See the [Project List](#) for links to Program Results on a selection of the research projects funded by the program; see the [Profile List](#) for profiles of a selection of investigators.)

Program Management

Since January 2001 the national program office has been located at the Institute for Health, Health Care Policy and Aging Research at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, N.J. Prior to that time, the program was under the direction of a national program office located in Washington at the Association for Health Services Research, now called AcademyHealth after a merger with the Alpha Center for Health Planning.

Funding

The RWJF Board of Trustees originally authorized the program in 1991. Total funding through July 2010 is \$56.9 million.

CONTEXT

From its earliest days RWJF has sought to build the capacity of social scientists to do health policy analysis. In 1972, with one of its first grants (ID# 000004), RWJF funded planning for a health policy research and teaching center at the University of California, San Francisco, School of Medicine. It went on to provide two additional grants for the center (ID#s 000398 and 002455), which offered courses and fellowships. A successor to this center, the Institute for Health Policy Studies, remains active.

The next year, with grant ID# 000239, RWJF funded the continuation of a fellowship program in health economics at Harvard University, which had been established by the Carnegie Corporation. Fellows included such leading figures in the next generation of health economists as Harold Luft, Ph.D., Paul Ginsburg, Ph.D., and William D. White, Ph.D. Despite these successes, Harvard found that many young economists were reluctant to choose health as their specialty at that time and the university returned 56 percent of the \$423,000 grant.

At the same time, RWJF invested in several "great men" who were given free rein to work on broad policy areas:

- Labor economist Victor Fuchs, Ph.D.
- Medical sociologist David Mechanic, Ph.D. (now the program's director)

- Health economist Eli Ginzberg, Ph.D.
- Nephrologist William Schwartz, M.D.

Staff became concerned that this informal investment did not have enough diversity—racially, ethnically or by gender—and that they were not discovering the future leaders in health policy, according to David Colby, Ph.D., RWJF vice president, Research & Evaluation.

Many in the field also thought that much health policy research was too narrowly focused and data driven to inform the critical policy issues facing the nation. RWJF saw an opportunity to encourage creative thinkers and policy analysts from a variety of social, behavioral and clinical disciplines to step back and do some reflective and conceptual thinking about a broad range of health policy challenges.

In particular, RWJF program staff wished to attract scholars into health policy from the social sciences—including economics, sociology and political science—because they considered those disciplines essential to understanding and analyzing the health sector and its problems. They also recognized the lack of other funding sources for researchers in the social sciences.

In response, RWJF conceived the *Investigator Awards in Health Policy Research* program in the early 1990s. The *Investigator Awards* program complemented another RWJF national program, *RWJF Scholars in Health Policy Research*, established at about the same time (see below). The program was renamed the *Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Investigator Awards in Health Policy Research* in 2010; throughout this report, we use the short name, *Investigator Awards*.

The Human Capital Portfolio

The *Investigator Awards* program is part of RWJF's Human Capital Portfolio, the goal of which is to attract, develop and retain high-quality leaders and workers in health and health care. Other programs focused on health, health care and health policy research within this portfolio include:

- *Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholars*[®] program, which has supported more than 1,000 physicians to carry out health services research in other fields. Originally authorized by the Board of Trustees in 1972, it is the Foundation's oldest national program. See [Program Results](#).
- *Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Fellows* program, which allows mid-career health care practitioners to apply their skills toward improving health policy by working with the U.S. Congress. See [Program Results](#).

- *Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Scholars in Health Policy Research* program, which focuses on the recruiting, training and mentoring of postdoctoral students in health policy. See [Program Results](#).
- *Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health & Society Scholars*[®] program, which focuses on building expertise to address the social, environmental, behavioral, economic and biological factors that affect health. See [Program Results](#).
- *Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Physician Faculty Scholars* program, which provides junior faculty with mentoring, protected time, networking and the opportunity to gain valuable research experience. The program produces academic leaders who are creative and well positioned to improve the nation's health care.

By housing all of these programs under the same program team, RWJF staff can identify synergies among them and ways for project directors and scholars/leaders from the various programs to learn from each other. (For more background on RWJF's efforts in this area, see Colby's 2003 chapter, "Building Health Policy Research Capacity in the Social Sciences," in *To Improve Health and Health Care Volume VI, The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Anthology*.)

THE PROGRAM

Program Design

The *Investigator Awards* program challenges scholars to think creatively about the most important problems affecting American health and health care and to contribute to the intellectual foundation of future health policy.

The program funds broad and innovative policy-relevant projects that are not usually funded by such sources as the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the National Science Foundation, other federal agencies or other foundations. It seeks a diverse mix of investigators—from those early in their careers to senior scholars—to undertake studies that:

- Explore underlying values, historical evolution and interplay among the social, economic and political forces that shape health, health care and health policy in the United States
- Apply new perspectives from a variety of disciplines to analyze the organization, delivery and financing of health care services, workforce issues and public health challenges
- Develop innovative ideas that hold promise for contributing to better policy-making
- Synthesize existing work in ways that expose its policy significance and advance the understanding of key issues

"The Foundation has to deal with current pressing issues," said David Mechanic, Ph.D., the national program director. "The Foundation also has to have a long-range view and anticipate the emerging problems that are important for the nation's health and health care. We see our program as [offering] that kind of intelligence.... We see ourselves as funding people who are thinking carefully and conceptually on the cutting edge about future issues and challenges."

Over its first 18 years the *Investigator Awards* program has maintained its original mission of funding innovative health policy research.

Program Management

National Program Office

Since January 2001 the Institute for Health, Health Care Policy and Aging Research at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, N.J., has housed the national program office for the *Investigator Awards* program. Mechanic is also the director of the institute. The program's deputy director is Lynn Rogut.

From 1992 to December 2000 the national program office was at the Association for Health Services Research—a nonprofit professional society for health services researchers and research organizations located in Washington—which in May 2000 merged with the Alpha Center to become AcademyHealth.

National Advisory Committee

A national advisory committee of 15 experts from such fields as—medicine, public health, political science, sociology, economics, law, history, the behavioral sciences and health services research—reviews grant applications and participates in the selection process. Members of the national advisory committee also participate in the program's annual meetings. See the program's Web site for a [list of committee members](#).

When the national program office moved to Rutgers in January 2001, its staff and RWJF staff reviewed the program's research portfolio and found that some topics, such as health disparities, had received continued investment, while others, such as quality of care and insurance, had received less. To encourage a broader range of applicants and research, the staff broadened the national advisory committee to include people with a range of interests, as well as more women and minorities. Having a more diverse national advisory committee leads to a more diverse selection process, according to Mechanic.

Selecting Investigators

The national program office markets the program to a broad range of potential applicants, manages the application and award selection process and organizes annual meetings for award recipients.

The program seeks investigators in fields such as anthropology, business, demography, economics, engineering, ethics, genetics, health and social policy, history, journalism, law, medicine, nursing, political science, public health, psychology, science policy, social work and sociology. While most investigators come from academia, individuals working in nonacademic settings, such as research firms and policy organizations, may also apply. Over the years, the directors have found that one-to-one outreach is one of the most effective ways to recruit potential successful applicants. The *Investigator Awards* program director personally encourages promising scholars from diverse backgrounds to apply, including those he meets through his service on the national advisory committees of the *RWJF Scholars in Health Policy Research* and *RWJF Health & Society Scholars* programs and through his many academic and professional affiliations.

While the diversity of the applicant pool for postdoctoral programs has increased in recent years, the pool of highly experienced advanced minority researchers remains small, and the program competes with many other opportunities available to highly qualified minority researchers. Generally, two or three of the 10 projects funded each year are directed by minority researchers, including four projects in 2008 and two in 2009.

To attract candidates from diverse backgrounds, the director and deputy director of the program use a variety of methods. They make three requests for names of potential applicants to members of their national advisory committee. They encourage current and past investigators to reach out to potential applicants or provide names to the directors. Then the directors make personal contact with them.

The directors also review journals, conference brochures and agenda books, faculty listings at institutions of higher education across the country including historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) and Hispanic-serving institutions, and varied Internet sites to identify candidates who might not be reached through other methods. In 2009 the deputy director personally contacted about 145 minority researchers.

With well over 200 applications each year, the selection process remains highly competitive, however. Historically, less than 5 percent of initial applicants receive Investigator Awards.

Grants are made to investigators' institutions and have ranged in size up to \$335,000 and in length from two to four years. Grant funds are to be used primarily for salary support

for each investigator. (More information about the application and selection process is available [online](#).)

An Early Assessment

Eight years into its existence, at about the time the national program office moved to Rutgers, the Lewin Group in Falls Church, Va., carried out an assessment of the *Investigator Awards* program. The assessment involved telephone interviews of investigators, a review of program documents and a Senior Scholar Panel to add expertise in particular areas and provide global insights. Findings included:

- Some 96 percent of investigators interviewed said the program funds research that otherwise would not be done.
- Collaboration among investigators and with researchers outside the program is a regular occurrence.
- More than 80 percent of respondents noted that little or no research had been undertaken on their project topic prior to the award.

See [Appendix 1](#) for more details on the assessment.

Working With Other RWJF National Programs

The national program office staff invites scholars from several other RWJF Human Capital programs to attend its annual meetings. These include:

- *Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholars*
- *Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Scholars in Health Policy Research*
- *Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health & Society Scholars*

Program staff and investigators serve on national advisory committees or as site directors or faculty of other RWJF Human Capital programs:

- National Program Director Mechanic serves on the national advisory committee of RWJF's *Scholars in Health Policy Research* program and previously served on the national advisory committee of *Health & Society Scholars*.
- Investigator Jose Pagan serves on the national advisory committee of RWJF's *Health & Society Scholars* program. Bruce Link, Peter Bearman, James House, Ichiro Kawachi and Robert Aronowitz serve as site directors of that program.
- Investigators Mark Peterson, James Morone, Alejandro Portes and Mark Pauly are members of the *Scholars in Health Policy Research* national advisory committee.
- Investigator Lisa Iezzoni serves on the national advisory committee of the *Clinical Scholars* program.

- Investigators Harold Luft, Mark Pauly and Mark Peterson serve on the *Changes in Health Care Financing and Organization* national advisory committee.
- Investigators Richard Deyo and David Meltzer serve on the national advisory committee of the *Physician Faculty Scholars* program.
- More than 40 investigators serve as site directors or faculty for three RWJF programs in the Human Capital Portfolio:
 - *Health & Society Scholars*
 - *Clinical Scholars*
 - *Scholars in Health Policy Research*

National program office staff members reach out to prior participants in other programs who might be interested in applying for an Investigator Award.

- Nine *Scholars in Health Policy Research* have received Investigator Awards.
- Eight investigators are alumni of *Clinical Scholars*.
- Three investigators are alumni of *Health & Society Scholars*.
- Two investigators are alumni of *Generalist Physician Faculty Scholars*.
- One investigator is an alumnus of *Harold Amos Medical Faculty Development*.

"We are a *unique program*," said Mechanic. "Most programs at [RWJF] are applied programs that deal with challenges to health like smoking, substance abuse and obesity and with improving access and quality of care. There is little time or opportunity to think deeply about future issues.

"The *Investigator Awards* program has tapped into new communities of scholars such as historians, lawyers and ethicists who contribute to an enlarged perspective and help bring issues to the Foundation's attention that might not ordinarily become salient."

Collaborations Among Investigators

In 1997 the original national program office began convening "cluster groups" as a vehicle for bringing together investigators who were doing similar kinds of research and promoting interdisciplinary exchange and collaboration. Periodic group meetings focused on major policy issues and problems, encouraging interdisciplinary thinking and drawing heavily on the work of the investigators.

In 2002 the Rutgers national program office received additional funding from RWJF to allow these groups to meet more often and work on product-oriented joint projects.

Since 2002 these groups have published four books, two special journal issues, and one article with two books in press as of July 2010 (see [Overall Program Results](#) for more information).

Active group research projects as of July 2010 are the following:

- **Medical Professionalism in the New Information Age:** The group considers how information technology is affecting the practice of medicine.
- **Patients as Policy Actors:** The group addresses the changing place of the patient in policy discourse and the many and diverse ways patients are conceptualized, studied and envisioned as therapeutic agents or policy stakeholders.
- **The Health Care Safety Net and Universal Coverage:** A collaborative project on the role of the safety net in health reform and in achieving expanded coverage and access. As of July 2010, the group had developed a book proposal on this topic and is seeking a publisher.

Examples of previous research groups include:

- The Boundaries of Public and Population Health
- History and Social Policy
- Retrospective on the Social Transformation of Medicine by Paul Starr
- Impact of Public Support Policies on Health
- Society and Population Health
- Politics and Health Policy
- Competition and Regulation in Health Care
- Courts and Health Policy

"We fund individual people, but when you get people who come together from varying disciplines they bring different perspectives and it enlarges understanding," Mechanic says. "They start stimulating each other and together produce a product that no single investigator could have produced."

OVERALL PROGRAM RESULTS

- **From its first awards in 1993 through June 2010 the *Investigator Awards* program has funded 167 projects of 216 investigators at a cost of more than \$43.6 million in these grants.** (See the [Web site](#) for names of investigators and their projects through 2008.)

The 216 investigators who have received funding (some projects have been collaborations by two scholars) came from more than 20 disciplinary fields, including economics, public health, sociology, political science, ethics, journalism, medicine, nursing and law.

Projects have examined a wide range of issues, such as:

- Persistence of racial segregation and discrimination in health policy and health care
- Relationship of tobacco and firearm policies to public health
- Dynamics and values underlying health reform efforts in the United States
- History and driving forces behind technology in American health care
- Issues of trust, accountability and limit setting in managed care
- Integration of long-term care, mental health and substance abuse services into mainstream medical care
- Consumer culture and American medicine

See the [Project List](#) for Program Results on the work of some of the investigators.

- **As of May 2010 investigators had collectively published 68 books, 143 book chapters, and 839 articles in more than 150 journals.** See the Web site for a listing of the investigators' publications by category: [books](#), [book chapters](#) and [articles](#).

Published work has covered the following topics:

- **Health problems** of children, women, families, the disadvantaged, immigrants, people with chronic illnesses and other groups
- **Health disparities** with 19 books as of 2010 that cover topics related to health disparities
- **Public health problems** such as AIDS and other infectious diseases, environmental illnesses, disaster preparedness, drug and alcohol abuse, adolescent violence, pandemics, diet, Alzheimer's disease, climate change, social isolation and mental illness
- **Health care issues** such as medical care quality, performance reporting, the doctor-patient relationship, the nursing workforce, technology diffusion, malpractice, long-term care, the influence of special interests and the future of public hospitals/clinics
- **Financing issues** such as the uninsured, Medicaid expansion, Medicare prescription drug coverage, employer-based insurance, pay-for-performance,

value-based purchasing, consumer-directed health care and mental health coverage

- **Influences on policy-making** such as calls for health care reform, public values and perceptions, social justice, lobbying, the presidency, the courts and intergovernmental partnerships
- **The program's research groups have produced books and special journal issues on a variety of topics.** Most recent accomplishments (as of July 2010) include:
 - **Medical Professionalism in the New Information Age.** This group completed a book manuscript, *Medical Professionalism in the New Information Age* (edited by David Rothman and David Blumenthal), to be published by Rutgers University Press in September 2010. Topics covered include information technology and medical professionalism, health care quality regulation, medical liability, ownership and control issues, the rise of health information professionals and consumer-oriented health information, among others.
 - **Patients as Policy Actors.** This group's book, *Impatient Voices: Patients as Policy Actors* (edited by Beatrix Hoffman, Nancy Tomes, Mark Schlesinger and Rachel Grob), will be published by Rutgers University Press in 2011. Topics include (among others): what patients are doing to protect themselves against commercial interests in human research, patient appeals of health insurance coverage denials, the health care activism of poor Americans, consumer efforts to reform the practice of childbirth, patients and the rise of the nurse practitioner profession and the impact patients and families have had on the treatment of cancer and traumatic brain injury.

For publications from the work of previous groups, see [Appendix 2](#).

- **Work by investigators has "shed new light" on several long-standing health issues, according to the national program office.** For example (links go to project descriptions on the program's Web site):
 - [Linda H. Aiken, Ph.D.](#), the Clair M. Fagin leadership professor of nursing, University of Pennsylvania, conducted research demonstrating that hospitals with high nurse staffing levels have better patient outcomes. Her work made the case for improving nurses' work environments in order to ensure a safe patient care environment.
 - [Lori B. Andrews, J.D.](#), distinguished professor of law at the Illinois Institute of Technology, conducted research that generated new knowledge about the nature and impact of gene patents and provided strategies for changing current patent policies in the United States.
 - The U.S. Supreme Court cited the writings of two investigators in a 2000 ruling against a patient who argued that she should be able to sue her health maintenance organization for offering doctors financial bonuses to keep costs down. (*Pegram*

v. Herdrich) In its decision, the court cited an amicus brief co-authored by [Gregg Bloche, J.D.](#), professor of law, Georgetown University Law Center. It also cited a paper written by [Peter Jacobson, Ph.D.](#), professor of health management and policy, School of Public Health, University of Michigan, in the *Houston Law Review*; it was a product of his Investigator Award on the law and managed care.

- [Daniel Carpenter, Ph.D.](#), the Allie S. Freed professor of government, Harvard University, completed work on Federal Drug Administration (FDA) regulatory policy, which has influenced the debate on FDA reform and informed Congress, the media and many others about the changes needed in U.S. drug regulation. His project-related book, *Reputation and Power*, has been hailed by several reviewers as the most comprehensive and detailed study of the FDA to date and one of the best analysis of any American regulatory agency. See his [Grantee Profile](#) for more information on his work.
- [Lawrence Casalino, M.D., Ph.D.](#), the Livingston Farrand associate professor of public health at Weill Cornell Medical College, explored how physician practices are organized and how they affect the delivery of high-quality medical care. He found that systematically improving the quality of medical care requires the use of care management processes by physician groups. To create the "business case" for quality, physicians need financial incentives to help them invest in personnel and technology. See his [Grantee Profile](#) for more information on his work.
- [Norman Daniels, Ph.D.](#), the Mary B. Saltonstall professor of population ethics, Harvard School of Public Health, and his colleague James Sabin, M.D., professor of clinical psychology, Harvard Medical School, have worked with the Massachusetts Medicaid program to develop reasonable limits on prescription drug coverage and have provided training on limit setting to senior state policy-makers across the country. See [Program Results](#) on his project.
- [David Hemenway, Ph.D.](#), professor of health policy, Harvard University School of Public Health, explored the links between firearms and public health and urged health professionals to become front-line proponents of prevention and education strategies. His research findings are frequently quoted by the media and most recently in an editorial on handgun violence, public health and the law in the *New England Journal of Medicine* on April 3, 2008.
- [James Morone, Ph.D.](#), professor of political science, Brown University, explored the role that the nation's puritan moral tradition plays in shaping American health policy. He argued that moral divisions can stymie scientifically based public health proposals and turn society's sickest and most disadvantaged members into sinners. See his [Grantee Profile](#) for more information on his work.
- [David Rosner, Ph.D.](#), the Ronald H. Lauterstein professor at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health, and [Gerald Markowitz, Ph.D.](#), distinguished professor at the City University of New York, analyzed federal, state and local public health authority responses to 9/11 and the later anthrax

attacks, furthering understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of existing emergency response systems.

- **The award has had an effect on investigator's careers and an impact on their scholarly work, and it has changed how investigators are viewed by their colleagues.** Responses below are from the most recent survey of investigators' views conducted in 2006 and from a midterm review that surveyed investigators:

The Award's Effects on Investigators' Careers

- [David Blumenthal, M.D., M.P.P.](#) (2002 awardee). "My Investigator Award project was 10 years in the planning, and has enabled me to realize a central aspiration of my career." See his [Grantee Profile](#) for more information on his work.
- [Nicholas A. Christakis, M.D., Ph.D.](#) (2000 awardee). "A few years ago, I became very interested in how illness, disability, health behavior, health care and death in one individual could have like consequences for other individuals to whom they are connected in a social network. I had difficulty persuading others that the effects were plausible or of sufficient magnitude. Funding from the *RWJF Investigator Awards* program was instrumental in helping me get this project off the ground." (Midterm review)

Christakis' work on this topic was the subject of a cover story in the *New York Times Magazine*, "[Are Your Friends Making You Fat?](#)" September 10, 2009.

- [Dalton C. Conley, Ph.D., M.Phil.](#) (1999 awardee and Health Policy Research Scholar as well). "The *Investigator Awards* program has served to cement the area as a lifelong interest. I come from a social stratification/inequality perspective, so the opportunity to learn more about all aspects of the health care system and the social determinants of health and illness from a range of disciplinary perspectives has been invaluable to my development as a research scholar." (Midterm review). See [Grantee Profile](#) of his earlier work as an RWJF Scholar in Health Policy Research.
- [Bruce Link, Ph.D.](#) (1995 awardee and national advisory committee member). "This award set us off on an entirely new research agenda that has dramatically shaped our subsequent careers. It led to recognition for me that contributed to my election to the Institute of Medicine and it helped [Jo Phelan](#) in her successful tenure application." See also [Program Results](#) on Link's and Phelan's project.
- [Mark Schlesinger, Ph.D.](#) (1993 awardee and national advisory committee member). "The award provided the resources for me to move into an entirely new field of research: the study of how people make decisions involving complex options. It was a truly transformational award for my research agenda."
- [David B. Smith, Ph.D.](#) (1994 awardee). "The award came at a turning point for me. ... No one was interested in funding research on discrimination in health care,

only short range 'practical' solutions that swept these larger and more controversial problems under the rug." See also [Program Results](#) on his project.

The Award's Impact on Investigator's Scholarly Work

- [Linda H. Aiken, Ph.D., M.S.N., B.S.N.](#) (1998 awardee). "The extensive references to our research in the latest IOM report, *Keeping Patients Safe: Transforming the Work Environment of Nurses*, are evidence of how our research has fundamentally changed the debate on the nurse shortage."
- [Phil Brown, Ph.D.](#) (1998 awardee). "I want to reiterate just how influential the award was. I am sending you a collection of 19 papers that all stem from the support RWJF provided when I developed this new line of research."
- [Norman Daniels, Ph.D.](#) (1997 awardee). "... time release from teaching and access to new collaborations... led me to new, and I believe seminal, work I would not have undertaken at all were it not for the grant." See also [Program Results](#) on his project.
- [Amy Finkelstein, Ph.D.](#) (2003 awardee). "I've never had a working paper generate as much policy interest so early in its life as one of the papers coming out of this project. Our work on how Medicaid influences the market for private long-term-care insurance was being cited in CBO [Congressional Budget Office] reports and requested by Hill staff before we had even finished the journal submission process."
- [Lisa Iezzoni, M.D., M.Sc.](#) (1996 awardee). "The ...award allowed me to entirely change the focus of my research and to investigate a topic that has received little scrutiny despite high prevalence—mobility problems among adults with chronic conditions." See also [Program Results](#) on her project.
- [Harold Luft, Ph.D.](#) (2004 awardee). "It is allowing me to undertake a project that I never would have considered without this type of support. It is allowing me to pull together three decades of research and training to put down on paper some very different ideas that, hopefully, will inform the policy debate in the next few years."

How the Award is Viewed by Investigator's Colleagues

- "It is a highly prestigious award known for genuinely helping scholars conduct research that they otherwise would not be able to do."
- "My sense is that it is seen as a significant honor. People commonly list it under honors on their vitas but don't list NIH grants. It's seen as competitive and very hard to get."

- "My faculty receives awards and grants all the time, but this was announced department-wide. My recent NSF [National Science Foundation] grant, for instance, was not."
- "It is a plum award, permitting the scholar wide latitude in research and encouraging creativity."
- "It is widely recognized as an honor for researchers focused on large projects of national importance."
- "It is viewed as an important award and one that understands the importance of erasing disciplinary boundaries."
- "The Investigator Award is a health policy MacArthur. My colleagues want one, and they hold me in higher esteem because I had one."
- **Eight investigators were elected to the Institute of Medicine (IOM) of the National Academy of Sciences between 2008 and 2010, making a total of 36 investigators in the IOM.** They are:
 - 2008: [Keith Wailoo, Ph.D.](#) (2001 awardee) and [Jonathan Skinner, Ph.D.](#) (2005 awardee)
 - 2009: [George Davey Smith, M.D., D.Sc.](#) (2001 awardee), [Jose Escarce, M.D., Ph.D.](#), (2004 awardee) and [Howard Markel, M.D., Ph.D.](#) (2007 awardee)
 - 2010: [Ichiro Kawachi, M.D., Ph.D.](#) (1996 awardee), [William M. Sage, M.D., J.D.](#) (1998 awardee) and [Amy N. Finkelstein, Ph.D., M. Phil.](#) (2003 awardee)
- **Several investigators have received outside awards for the work they did while they were investigators.** Recent awards include:
 - [Lisa Iezzoni, M.D., M.Sc.](#), received the 2010 Distinguished Investigator Award from AcademyHealth, which recognizes individuals who have made a significant and long-lasting contribution to health services research. Other investigators who have received the award are:
 - [David Blumenthal, M.D., M.P.P.](#), 2008
 - [Mark Pauly, Ph.D.](#), 2007
 - [Linda H. Aiken, Ph.D., M.S.N., B.S.N.](#), 2005
 - [Harold Luft, Ph.D.](#), 1999
 - [David Mechanic, Ph.D.](#), 1991
 - [Nicholas A. Christakis, M.D., Ph.D.](#), was included in *Time Magazine's* 2009 List of the World's Most Influential People.

- [Steven Epstein, Ph.D.](#), won the American Sociological Association's 2009 Distinguished Book Award for his book, *Inclusion: The Politics of Difference in Medical Research*. The 2009 award was presented for the best single book published in 2007 and 2008.

Epstein also received the 2008 Eliot Freidson Outstanding Publication Award from the American Sociological Association's Medical Sociology Section for this book as well as the association's Robert K. Merton Professional Award in 2007.

- In 2009 [Amy Finkelstein, Ph.D.](#), and [Jeffrey Brown, Ph.D.](#), received the TIAA-CREF Paul A. Samuelson Award for their paper "The Interaction of Public and Private Insurance: Medicaid and the Long-Term Care Insurance Market." The Samuelson award is given annually in recognition of outstanding scholarly writing on issues related to lifelong financial security.
- Aaron Kesselheim, M.D., J.D., M.P.H., a 2009 awardee, received the 2010 Alice S. Hersh New Investigator Award from AcademyHealth, which recognizes the contribution of new scholars to the field of health services research. His profile will be posted to the *Investigator Awards* Web site in September 2010.
- [Daniel Lee, Ph.D.](#), and Bryan Weiner, Ph.D., won the 2008 Best Article of the Year in *Medical Care Research and Review* for their paper (with Halle Amick), "Conceptualization and Measurement of Organizational Readiness for Change: A Review of the Literature in Health Services Research and Other Fields."
- [David Mechanic, Ph.D.](#), received the 2009 Rhoda and Bernard Sarnat International Prize in Mental Health from the IOM. The Sarnat Prize medal is presented to individuals, groups or organizations that have demonstrated outstanding achievement in improving mental health. Mechanic was recognized for his decades of effort to increase scientific knowledge about the causes and factors shaping mental health and to improve mental health care services.

In 2008 he received the Adam Yarmolinsky Medal from the IOM, which is presented to an Institute member from outside health and medical sciences. Mechanic was acknowledged for helping to bring sociology into the forums influencing health policy.
- [Vincent Mor, Ph.D.](#), with co-authors Amal Trivedi and Shailender Swaminathan, received the 2009 Article of the Year Award from AcademyHealth for their paper on "Insurance Parity and the Use of Outpatient Mental Care Following a Psychiatric Hospitalization."
- [Celeste Watkins-Hayes, Ph.D.](#), received an Early CAREER Award from the National Science Foundation for a project that builds upon the research she is conducting for her Investigator Award.

See [Appendix 3](#) for earlier award winners.

- **Several investigators obtained additional funding for work related to the topic of their Investigator Award, adding value to RWJF's investment.** Recent additional funding includes:
 - [Thomas Gallagher, M.D.](#), and [Michelle Mello, J.D., Ph.D., M.Phil.](#), were awarded a demonstration grant in 2010 by the federal Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality for a major project that will extend their Investigator Award research by developing and testing innovative disclosure-and-offer programs at five health care institutions in Washington State.
 - [Julie Fairman, Ph.D., R.N.](#), was the ANA/AAN/ANF distinguished nurse scholar in residence at the Institute of Medicine in 2009–2010, where she worked on the RWJ Initiative on the Future of Nursing.
 - [Howard Markel, M.D., Ph.D.](#) and [Alexandra Minna Stern, Ph.D.](#), received two grants from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for the period of 2008–2010 for a project on the 1918 influenza pandemic that complements their Investigator Award project. They also received a grant in 2010 from the National Endowment for the Humanities for work on a digital archive and database related to the 1918 influenza pandemic.
 - [Eugene R. Declercq, Ph.D.](#), received three grants from HRSA's Maternal and Child Health Bureau—one in 2010 to study the impact of multiple cesarean sections on maternal and newborn health, one in 2007 to study the causes and consequences of disparities in cesarean rates, and one to study the impact of repeat cesareans over time.
 - [Naa Oyo A. Kwate, Ph.D.](#), received a National Institutes of Health Director's 2009 New Innovator Award and will use NIH funds to explore the effects of multiple levels of racism on the immune function and overall health of urban African-Americans and to test a structural-level intervention to reduce the negative impact of racism.
 - In 2009 [John W. Lynch, Ph.D.](#), received a \$4 million Australian Fellowship to conduct evidence-based population health research and its translation into policy with a focus on early-life interventions. Lynch is conducting this research as a professor at the University of South Australia.
 - [Charles L. Bosk, Ph.D.](#), whose Investigator Award project focuses on patient safety and professional responsibility, received an R01 grant in 2009 from the National Institutes of Health for a study of duty-hour reform at eight health care facilities where residents are trained. He also received a grant in 2008 from the Veterans Affairs Health Services Research and Development Service to test the feasibility of a mandatory nap program for residents.
 - In 2008 [Joseph J. Fins, M.D.](#), received a grant from the Richard Lounsbery Foundation to help sustain and build research infrastructure for the study of

disorders of consciousness. In 2009 he received a grant from the Buster Foundation to expand research infrastructure and scholarship in neuroethics and disorders of consciousness. He also serves as a co-investigator for a grant made by the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke in 2008 to colleague Nicholas Schiff, M.D., on Mechanisms of Recovery for Severe Brain Injury.

- In 2008 [David Meltzer, M.D., Ph.D.](#), received a K24 Mid Career Award from the National Institute on Aging for research and mentoring in cost-effectiveness and hospital-based eldercare.

See [Appendix 4](#) for earlier examples.

- **Investigators have contributed to the thinking about health reform through their books, articles and opinion pieces, according to Lynn Rogut, deputy director, and several have positions within the Obama administration.**

- The book, *The Heart of Power: Health and Politics in the Oval Office*, by [David Blumenthal, M.D.](#), and [James A. Morone, Ph.D.](#), influenced thinking about initiating and implementing health reform. Blumenthal was named the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology in 2009. See [Grantee Profile](#) of James Morone.
- Larry Casalino, M.D., Ph.D., has studied physician practice organization for a decade and, with Stephen Shortell, Ph.D., M.P.H., M.B.A., has influenced thinking on medical homes and accountable care organizations (related health care organizations and providers held accountable for cost and quality of care delivered to a specific population). The new health reform legislation funds demonstrations of these concepts. Casalino's opinion pieces on these topics appeared in the *New England Journal of Medicine* on April 29, 2010, and the *Journal of the American Medical Association* on May 5, 2010. See [Grantee Profile](#) for more information.
- Richard Frank, Ph.D., who has done extensive study of mental health parity, is the deputy assistant secretary for planning and evaluation in the Office of Disability, Aging and Long-Term Care Policy (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services).
- [Sherry Glied, Ph.D.](#), was unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate to serve as assistant secretary for planning and evaluation, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. While professor and chair of the department of health policy and management at the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University, Glied studied the U.S. employer-based health insurance system.
- [Richard Kronick, Ph.D.](#), serves as the deputy assistant secretary for planning and evaluation in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services health policy office of the assistant secretary for planning and evaluation. His work focuses on

understanding whether and how markets can be made to work well in health care, particularly for vulnerable populations.

- Sara Rosenbaum, J.D., served as a member of President Obama's transition team and has been a voice in health reform discussions about the role of Medicaid and SCHIP (now CHIP), states in health reform and many other issues. Rosenbaum is chair of the department of health policy and Harold and Jane Hirsh professor of health law and policy at the George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services.
- Jonathan S. Skinner, Ph.D., who has conducted much research on geographic variation in health care utilization and quality, has influenced thinking on reducing costs while maintaining quality of care. Skinner is John Sloan Dickey Third Century Professor of Economics at Dartmouth College.
- [Timothy M. Westmoreland, J.D.](#), is a consulting counsel for the U.S. House of Representatives Energy and Commerce Committee. Westmoreland's work has addressed the impact of the federal budget process on the improvement of American public health.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Rutgers national program office staff expanded communications efforts to make investigators' work available to a broad audience. Efforts include:

- Encouraging investigators to produce journal articles in major peer-reviewed journals such as *Journal of the American Medical Association*, *New England Journal of Medicine*, *Health Affairs* and *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law*. Earlier in the program there had been an emphasis on writing books, which have more limited readership than other media.
- Publishing a [Research in Profile](#) newsletter, with the help of Burness Communications, that focuses on an investigator's body of work and is targeted to an audience of researchers, policy-makers, members of the media and the general public
- Releasing two updates of the *Media Guide*
- Maintaining a comprehensive [Web site](#) with information on the program itself, the application and selection process and investigators' work

See the [Bibliography](#) for details on publications from the national program office.

In spring 2005 Rutgers University Press published *Policy Challenges in Modern Health Care*, a book edited by Mechanic, Rogut, Colby and James R. Knickman, Ph.D., at that time, vice president of Research & Evaluation at RWJF.

- The book contains 16 essays written by investigators that link the nation's health problems to larger political, cultural and philosophical contexts.

- It addresses such issues as socioeconomic disadvantage and health disparities, obesity, tobacco policy, gun violence, service rationing, medical errors, the role of nursing in quality of care and the influence of special interests.
- The national program office has distributed nearly 1,000 copies to legislators, regulators and other key policy actors as well as television, radio and print journalists. The book is available [online](#).

Stephen M. Shortell, Ph.D., dean and Blue Cross of California professor of health policy and management, University of California, Berkeley, wrote of the book: "A marvelous collection of ideas and insights by first-rate scholars. This book lays a foundation for more creative and effective policy-making."

CHALLENGES FOR THE FUTURE

The various scholars programs funded by RWJF "produce good work and we, at RWJF, should tap into their expertise," said Lori A. Melichar, Ph.D., senior program officer, when considering future expectations for the *Investigator Awards* program. According to Melichar, the RWJF's Human Capital team, which oversees these programs, has a strong interest in encouraging cross-program and cross-scholar collaboration. Through such collaboration, she said, "we can extend the benefits of these programs." Thus, a goal for the future is the expansion and strengthening of these collaborations.

In addition, Foundation staff wants to "attract a broader range of disciplines among the investigators supported by the program," according to Melichar. Investigators come from a range of disciplines, but some fields—such as architecture, engineering and pharmacy—have been hard to attract. RWJF's other Human Capital programs focus on a limited set of disciplines; whereas *Investigator Awards* is designed to engage a broader spectrum of researchers, presenting a unique programmatic opportunity.

In a change from past practice, starting with the October 2010 call for applications, RWJF plans to fund approximately eight Investigator Awards every other year. Annual grantee meetings will continue, which may include cross-meetings with other scholars programs in alternate years.

Report prepared by: Susan G. Parker and Mary Geisz

Reviewed by: Robert Narus and Molly McKaughan

Program Officers: Lori Melichar and David Colby

APPENDIX 1

Lewin Assessment of the Investigator Awards Program: 2000

To prepare for re-authorization of the program in January 2001 and help stimulate discussion about the future of the program at RWJF, program staff contracted with the Lewin Group, a national health care and human services consulting firm with headquarters in Falls Church, Va. (grant ID# 039419), to conduct an assessment of the program from its inception in 1992 to the fall of 2000. The assessment took place from July through October 2000.

The assessment relied on semi-structured telephone interviews with investigators, the original program director and deputy director and national advisory committee members. The interviews were supplemented by a review of program documents.

The assessment also incorporated a new strategy being tested by RWJF for future evaluations: the use of a senior scholars panel to add expertise in particular areas and to provide global insights about the program. The three panel members were:

- Harold Luft, Ph.D., director of the Institute for Health Policy Studies, University of California, San Francisco (and a former investigator)
- Allan Rosenfield, M.D., dean of the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health
- Thomas Rundall, Ph.D., professor of health policy and management, University of California, Berkeley

The senior scholars panel members conducted a review of the body of work produced by a group of 10 awardees randomly chosen from a larger group of 17 investigators who had completed their projects under the program.

Findings From the Interviews and Document Review

- **Investigators generally praised the wide variety of academic disciplines represented over the course of the program.** Awardees tend to have backgrounds in sociology, politics and public policy or economics, with physician representation growing in recent years. Some respondents indicated a need to recruit more actively from disciplines less represented such as law, history and anthropology.
- **The vast majority of respondents confirmed that collaboration among investigators and with researchers outside the program is a regular occurrence.** Applying for an award with a co-investigator in another field was highlighted as a particularly useful example of interdisciplinary collaboration.

Such collaborations have involved investigators' working together across an array of disciplines such as medicine/sociology, pediatrics/sociology.

epidemiology/psychology, critical care medicine/law, economics/health care management and zoology/public health-biomathematics.

- **Most investigators appreciated the cluster groups and said their involvement in this activity was useful and/or enjoyable.**
 - Some 84 percent found the groups either very or somewhat useful, whereas only 15 percent indicated they were not useful.
 - Similarly, 83 percent regarded the activity as very or somewhat effective in fostering interdisciplinary exchange.
- **More than 80 percent of respondents noted that little (59 percent) or no (23 percent) research had been undertaken on their project topic prior to the award.** The percentage of investigators reporting that no related research was available at the start of their project fell from 41 percent in 1993–1995 to 9 percent in 1998–1999, suggesting that under-tilled topics were addressed to a greater degree as the field matured and that generating entirely new projects may prove increasingly difficult in the future.
- **Most investigators distinguished the program's funding of broad-based research in contrast to the narrower health care-related projects usually supported by other funders.**
 - Some 96 percent of investigators interviewed said the program funds research that otherwise would not be done.
 - One investigator: "[The program is] the only health services research program that is focused on funding idea-generating projects as opposed to data analysis or evaluation work that typifies the field."
 - Investigators welcomed the opportunity to address "big questions with imprecise, theoretical answers" rather than "small, known questions with specific, data-analysis-driven answers."
 - Investigators noted that broad-based research is fostered through support for book writing, which allows for a depth and scope not usually found in the treatment of similar themes in peer-reviewed articles.
- **The majority of respondents rated the program as very successful in its selection of projects that address critical health and health care issues and that have health policy relevance, such as measuring and improving quality of care.** In addition, the program has contributed to moving selected topics—for example, social determinants of health—into the mainstream debate.

Findings From the Senior Scholars Panel

- **The panel concluded the award's impact on investigators may lie more in the areas of increased professional visibility and personal growth rather than in formal career development.**
- **The panel noted that investigators from fields outside the health policy arena became immersed in health policy issues during the award period and produced valuable work, but may not continue their involvement in this arena over the long run.**
- **The impact of investigators' work upon their respective disciplines appeared to range from broad and extensive to more narrow and limited, with several bodies of work being labeled as exemplary in advancing the field of health policy.**

The panel cited the work of James Robinson for introducing a new approach to study the health care system—namely, the use of qualitative case studies—which has contributed to legitimizing case study methods as tools in health policy research.

- **Panel members concluded the program is building the field and likely serving more purposes than RWJF initially expected.** These unexpected purposes include:
 - Recruiting researchers into the area of health policy who might not otherwise have carried out research in the field
 - Supporting very experienced leaders in health policy to focus on and create an impact on issues they might not have otherwise been able to study
 - Furthering the careers of more-junior policy researchers by enabling them to produce substantial work that they might not have otherwise been able to do or carry out as quickly

Assessment Recommendations

Lewin offered the following recommendations to RWJF:

1. **Begin the grant application and review process three or four months earlier so that awardees are notified before the beginning of the academic year.** This would give awardees greater flexibility to integrate program responsibilities within their schedules and would help jump-start project activities.
2. **Recruit an editor and a communications director to increase the timely availability of dissemination products and broaden the dissemination strategy to the state level.**
3. **Engage the national program office as well as the national advisory committee in the process of determining whether an applicant's proposed scope of work is realistic relative to the proposed budget and time line and incorporate a more formal and rigorous cost-benefit analysis into the determination.**

4. **Compensate co-investigators for incremental costs beyond their control, such as duplicative overhead allocations, increasing to \$300,000 the funding ceiling for co-investigator projects.**
5. **Use the annual meeting as a forum for cross-fertilization with other programs to build the field of health policy research.** Potential networking and outreach partners include other RJWF health-policy related programs such as *Scholars in Health Policy Research*, health care industry associations and other compatible for-profit and not-for-profit organizations.
6. **Invite more program alumni to participate in the annual meeting.** This would allow alumni to mentor new researchers.
7. **Upon request, offer feedback to proposal applicants who did not receive an award.** The evaluators noted that the potential benefit of increasing the future pool of researchers was counterbalanced by the potential increased workload this might generate for the national program office and the risk of altering the balance between the formal and more qualitative aspects of the selection process.
8. **Augment the minority mailing list for program announcements.** In recent years, outreach has been stepped up to increase the number of minority applicants and awards, including:
 - Marketing to potential investigators who participate in other professional training programs. Examples include the Commonwealth Fund/Harvard University Fellowship in Minority Health Policy, RWJF's *Harold Amos Medical Faculty Development* program and the Association of Academic Minority Physicians
 - Issuing personal invitations to apply. In 2000, two minority applicants were selected: an African-American and a Mexican-American.

APPENDIX 2

Research Groups' Books & Journal Publications

- **Competition and Regulation in Health Care.** This group produced a special issue of the *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law* in October 2001 on competition and regulation in health care markets. An expanded version was republished as a book, *Uncertain Times: Kenneth Arrow and the Changing Economics of Health Care* (Duke University Press, 2003).
- **Retrospective on *The Social Transformation of American Medicine* by Paul Starr.** This research group published a collection of essays assessing Paul Starr's book in a double issue of the *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law* (August–October 2004). According to Mark Schlesinger, Ph.D. (1993 Investigator and National Advisory Committee Member), and Timothy Jost, J.D., who is on the board of editors

of the journal, "Starr's book was widely reviewed and read when it was published in 1982 and won both the Pulitzer and Bancroft prizes."

- **Politics and Health Policy.** This group collaborated on the book *Healthy, Wealthy, & Fair: Health Care and the Good Society* (Oxford University Press, 2005). The book was edited by investigators Lawrence Brown, Ph.D., professor of health policy and management, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University; Lawrence R. Jacobs, Ph.D., professor of political science and Mondale chair, University of Minnesota; and James Morone, Ph.D., professor of political science, Brown University. It was reviewed in the *New England Journal of Medicine* and the *Journal of the American Medical Association* in 2005.

The authors explain how the inequities arise, why they persist and what makes them worse. Growing income inequality, high poverty rates and inadequate health care coverage: All three trends help account for the United States' health troubles.

- **History and Social Policy.** Led by Rosemary A. Stevens, Ph.D., both an award recipient and a national advisory committee member, this group produced the book *History and Health Policy in the United States: Putting the Past Back In* (Rutgers University Press, 2006).

The book was reviewed in the *New England Journal of Medicine* and *Health Affairs* in 2007. In the book, 17 scholars of history, the history of medicine, bioethics, law, health policy, sociology and organizational theory make the case for the usefulness of history in evaluating and formulating health policy today. Together, the essays argue that it is only by knowing where the country has been that people can begin to understand health services today or speculate on policies for tomorrow.

- **Boundaries of Public and Population Health.** This group collaborated on a book published in 2008 by Rutgers University Press titled *The Contested Boundaries of American Public Health (Critical Issues in Health and Medicine)*.

The volume includes chapters by 11 investigators and one former national advisory committee member. Essays explore a seemingly straightforward question that is central to debates about how best to prevent illness and enhance the well-being of society: What are the boundaries of public health today and how have they changed over time?

- **Impact of Public Support Policies on Health.** This multidisciplinary group of investigators formed to explore the potential role of major public income support policies in improving health outcomes in the United States and to consider the value of pursuing a research agenda in this area. The group collaborated on grant applications that were submitted to the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), the Agency on Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) and RWJF's program *Changes in Health Care Financing and Organization (HCFO)* to examine the effects of the earned income tax credit (EITC) on insurance coverage and the health status of women and children. Although the applications were not

ultimately funded, Peter Arno and colleagues published a paper, "Bringing Health and Social Policy Together: The Case of the Earned Income Tax Credit," which appeared in the *Journal of Public Health Policy*, 30(2): 198–207, 2009.

APPENDIX 3

Earlier Award Winners

- Lawrence R. Jacobs, Ph.D., and Robert Shapiro, Ph.D., whose book *Politicians Don't Pander: Political Manipulation and the Loss of Democratic Responsiveness*, received the Richard E. Neustadt Award in 2002 for the best book on the presidency from the American Political Science Association and the Goldsmith Award in Political Journalism in 2002 from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. The book was also honored by the American Sociological Association (see [Program Results](#)).
- In 2002 Linda Aiken, Ph.D., R.N., received the AcademyHealth Article of the Year Award for her *Journal of the American Medical Association* article on hospital nurse staffing and patient mortality that was based on the research she did for her Investigator Award project. It was also the first time that a nursing researcher received such an award. In 2005 Aiken received AcademyHealth's Distinguished Investigator Award, which recognizes individuals who have made a significant and long-lasting contribution to the field of health services research. In 2006 Aiken received the William B. Graham Prize for Health Services Research. It is the highest distinction that researchers in the health services field can achieve. Past winners include investigators Rosemary Stevens, Ph.D., M.P.H., David Mechanic, Ph.D., and Harold S. Luft, Ph.D.
- Dalton Conley, Ph.D., received the National Science Foundation Alan T. Waterman Award in 2005. He was the second social scientist to win this prestigious award.
- Lucian L. Leape, M.D., received the DuPont Award for Excellence in Children's Health Care from the Nemours Foundation and, for individual achievement, the 2004 John M. Eisenberg Patient Safety and Quality Award.
- David M. Gaba, M.D., was named winner of the Veterans Health Administration's 2003 David M. Worthen Award for education in the health professions.
- Keith A. Wailoo, Ph.D., received the 2005 William H. Welch Medal from the American Association for the History of Medicine for his book *Dying in the City of the Blues: Sickle Cell Anemia and the Politics of Race and Health* (University of North Carolina Press). He received the Rutgers University Board of Trustees Award for Excellence in Research in 2004 and in 2007, he was appointed Martin Luther King, Jr. professor of history at Rutgers. The professorship was established to honor the legacy of King and his dedication to human rights.

- [Robert J. Sampson, Ph.D.](#), was elected a member of the National Academy of Sciences on April 25, 2006.
- In 2006 [Barron H. Lerner, M.D., Ph.D.](#), received the William H. Welch Medal from the American Association for the History of Medicine for his *book The Breast Cancer Wars: Hope, Fear, and the Pursuit of a Cure in Twentieth-Century America*.
- [Bernice Pescosolido, Ph.D.](#), won the 2006-2007 Hans O. Mauksch Award for Distinguished Contributions from the American Sociological Association Section on Teaching and Learning.
- [Rosalie A. Kane, D.S.W.](#), received the University of Minnesota Distinguished Women Scholars Award in Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities for 2007. The award recognizes the significant contributions that Professor Kane has made to the university, the field of health services research and to the greater society in the area of long-term care and aging.
- [Daniel P. Carpenter, Ph.D.](#), received a 2007 Guggenheim Fellowship Award. The 2007 Fellowship winners include 189 artists, scholars and scientists selected from almost 2,800 applicants.
- [Margaret M. Weir, Ph.D.](#), was elected to the 2007 Class of Fellows of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.
- [Bruce G. Link, Ph.D.](#), NAC member and 1995 awardee, received the 2007 Leo G. Reeder Award from American Sociological Association's medical sociology section. This award recognizes the scholarly contributions, especially a body of work displaying an extended trajectory of productivity and encompassing theory and research. The Reeder Award also acknowledges teaching, mentoring and training as well as service to the medical sociology community broadly defined.

Link also received the 2007 Rema Lapouse Award from the American Public Health Association. This award is granted to an outstanding psychiatric epidemiologist in recognition of significant contributions to the scientific understanding of the epidemiology and control of mental disorders.

- [Peter S. Bearman, Ph.D.](#), was one of 12 recipients of the 2007 National Institutes of Health Pioneer Award. He will receive \$2.5 million over five years for research on identifying the causes of the rising number of autism cases.

APPENDIX 4

Earlier Examples of Additional Funding Received by Investigators

- Nicholas A. Christakis, M.D., Ph.D., used his Investigator Award project to facilitate the acquisition of an R-01 award in 2001 from the National Institute on Aging to study the interrelationship of morbidity and mortality between elderly spouses.

- In 2001 [Beatrix Hoffman, Ph.D.](#), received a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities, and [Peter Baldwin, Ph.D.](#), received an award from the National Institutes of Health, which provided additional support for their Investigator Award projects.
- Investigators who have been awarded fellowships from the Center for the Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences include [Mark C. Suchman, Ph.D., J.D.](#), in 2003; [Harold S. Luft, Ph.D.](#); and [Keith A. Wailoo, Ph.D.](#), in 2006; [Arline T. Geronimus, Sc.D.](#); and [Eric Klinenberg, Ph.D.](#) in 2007; and [Steven G. Epstein, Ph.D.](#), in 2008.
- In 2003 [Mark Suchman, Ph.D.](#), received a grant from the National Science Foundation to conduct a nationwide survey of 160 hospitals to map information technology practices. He analyzed and used the results in his *Investigator Award* project.
- In 2005 [M. Gregg Bloche, M.D., J.D.](#), was named a Guggenheim Fellow. The John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowships provide support to advanced professionals in midcareer in 79 different fields from the natural sciences to the creative arts.
- Investigators who have received follow-on research funding from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality include [Lawrence Casalino, M.D., Ph.D.](#); [Dennis P. Scanlon, Ph.D.](#); [Vincent Mor, Ph.D.](#); and [R. Adams Dudley, M.D., M.B.A.](#)
- In 2001 [Jonathan S. Skinner, Ph.D.](#), received a grant from the National Institute on Aging for a project to examine the causes and consequences of health care efficiency. The major goal of this project was to improve understanding of the causes and consequences of regional variations in health care intensity, which could have important implications for the health and well-being of the elderly, for addressing health disparities and for the financial health of the Medicare trust funds. One of the sections of the grant considers related issues in technology growth and diffusion, the focus of Skinner's *Investigator Award* project.
- [Cathy J. Cohen, Ph.D.](#), received a grant of \$600,000 in 2004 from the Ford Foundation for mounting a new national survey focused on Black youth that was a central component of the work produced for her *Investigator Award* project. She also received two additional grants from the Ford Foundation—one for \$600,000 and a second for \$195,000—that have supported continued development of new datasets for the Black Youth Project and the dissemination of research findings.
- Investigators who have received research funding from the Foundation's *Changes in Health Care Financing and Organization* program since 2004 include [Sara Rosenbaum, J.D.](#), [Gloria J. Bazzoli, Ph.D.](#), [Lisa Iezzoni, M.D., M.Sc.](#), [Bradford H. Gray, Ph.D.](#), [Richard Kronick, Ph.D.](#), [Vincent Mor, Ph.D.](#), [Harold S. Luft, Ph.D.](#), and [Peter Jacobson, J.D., M.P.H.](#)

- Two investigators, [Harold W. Neighbors, Ph.D.](#), and [Harold S. Luft, Ph.D.](#), received transition supplement support in 2009 from RWJF to create additional impact for their *Investigator Award* projects.

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Innovative Projects Tackle Major Health Policy Challenges in America (newsletter). National Program Office and Burness Communications, Issue 26, September 2009.

Total Cure: SecureChoice for America's Health Care System (newsletter). National Program Office and Burness Communications, Issue 25, May 2009.

Paying the Tab: Reducing the Social Costs of Alcohol Use through Policy (newsletter). National Program Office and Burness Communications, Issue 24, August 2008.

New Research Projects Probe Health Policy Changes in America (newsletter). National Program Office and Burness Communications, Issue 23, May 2008. (4,500 copies distributed.)

World Wide Web Sites

www.investigatorawards.org. The *Investigator Awards in Health Policy Research* program Web site includes a program description; call for applications; a list of awardees with descriptions of their research; and information on investigator's publications:

- [All books](#)
- [Featured Books](#)
- [Journal articles](#)

New Brunswick, NJ: Institute for Health, Health Care Policy and Aging Research, Rutgers, State University of New Jersey, January 2001.

PROJECT LIST

Reports on a selection of investigator projects in this national program are listed below. Click on a project's title to see the complete report, which typically includes a summary, description of the project's objectives and its findings, and a list of key products.

- [Book Examines Influence of Women in Shaping Health Care](#) (September 2006)
- [Book Links National Order and Public Health to Poor Inner-City Neighborhoods](#) (September 2006)
- [Daniels and Sabin Outline Ways to "Fairly" Allocate Medical Resources in New Book](#) (September 2006)
- [Harvard Scholar Traces Failure of Clinton Health Reform Plan](#) (January 2001)
- [How Has Racial Segregation Affected Health Care?](#) (December 2006)
- [Investigator's Book Suggests That Politicians Are Not Swayed by Public Opinion When Making Policy Decisions](#) (August 2005)
- [Investigators Study the Link Between Socioeconomic Status and Health](#) (August 2005)

- Lab Coats Plus Laptops Can Equal Better Medical Care (January 2001)
- Low Income, Not Race or Lifestyle, Is the Greatest Threat to Health (January 2001)
- New Era in Health Care Marked by Turbulence, Creativity, Author Says (January 2001)
- When Walking Fails: Mobility Problems of Adults With Chronic Conditions Suggests Policy Solutions (August 2005)

PROFILE LIST

- Linda Aiken
- David Blumenthal
- Daniel Carpenter
- Larry Casalino
- R. Adams Dudley
- James A. Morone