Center for Health Care Research and Policy
Case Western Reserve University at
MetroHealth Medical Center

Regionwide Work...Nationwide Impact
Entering our Third Decade

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To the Community:

In July, 2014, the Center began its third decade as our region’s leader in research and teaching in health care delivery and health policy. Never in our history have we faced such transformational changes. The Center is helping to inform these changes at local, state and national levels. We view Northeast Ohio as a learning laboratory for research and training, recognizing the national relevance of regional challenges and opportunities. Even as health care competition gets stiffer during this transition phase, we serve as a catalyst for collaboration. We bring together students, scholars, and community leaders to conduct cutting-edge multidisciplinary research and policy-relevant programs to improve the value of health care in Northeast Ohio. Our internationally recognized work is supported by The MetroHealth System and a broad array of federal and foundation grants.

Training the Next Generation, Spawning New Programs. Our faculty advise post-doctoral trainees enrolled in CWRU degree programs in clinical and health policy research, including programs of the regionwide NIH-sponsored Clinical and Translational Science Collaborative (CTSC). We take pride in training the next generation of innovative scholars, each year serving as advisers for more than 40 trainees.

Community-facing programs spawned and supported by the Center illustrate how the Center catalyzes collaboration. These include the CWRU Center for Reducing Health Disparities, Better Health Greater Cleveland, the Northern Ohio Trauma System (NOTS), the Cleveland HIV Health Information Project (CHHIP), and the CDC-sponsored REACH program to reduce health disparities in Greater Cleveland. All of these programs bring competitors together to improve health and the value of health care in the region.
Results and Recognition. A sampling of recent accomplishments include:

- Coverage by National Public Radio’s Marketplace of MetroHealth Care Plus, a Medicaid waiver program that provided health insurance for over 28,000 county residents. Conceived by Senior Scholar John Corlett and analyzed by Center faculty, MHCP brought safety net organizations together and documented unparalleled improvements in care during 2013 - at costs 25% below a cost neutral expenditure cap.

- Receiving the 2012 Kenneth Arrow Award (“Best Paper”) from the International Health Economics Association for work that explains why employers pay more for health insurance than they should. Center members Randy Cebul and health economists Mark Votruba and Jim Rebitzer collaborated in this important research, supported by a 2005 CWRU Presidential Research Initiative grant for cross-disciplinary collaboration.

- Supporting innovative region-wide initiatives to bring clinical care together with public resources for health - including Cleveland’s Municipal Schools and Recreation Centers.

- Since 2010, the Northern Ohio Trauma System (NOTS) has:
  - Established collaborations with EMS and 14 Northern Ohio hospitals that documented reductions in trauma-patient deaths by 38.6 percent in Cuyahoga and surrounding counties.

- Since 2008, Better Health Greater Cleveland has:
  - Reported care for almost 70% of Cuyahoga County patients with chronic medical conditions.
  - Increased by more than 9,000 the number of Cleveland-area patients whose diabetes is well controlled and by 25,000 the number whose hypertension is well controlled.
  - Reduced preventable cardiovascular hospitalizations by more than 2,000 -- saving more than $13 million in health care costs between 2009-2011.
  - Received the Maurice Saltzman Award of the Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation "for work of national importance to the health interests of the community".
  - Received "Best Paper" awards from the American and International Medical Informatics Associations for documenting that using electronic health records improve care.

Redesigning the Future. We view the transformative changes in health care as exciting opportunities to redesign the future and reinvest in our mission. We already have improved health from primary care to trauma care. We are at the table with the Governor’s Office of Health Transformation to redesign health care and approaches to payment statewide. We welcome partners in Northeast Ohio who are stakeholders in making our region a healthier place to live and a better place to do business.

Randall D. Cebul, MD, Director
Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology and Biostatistics
CWRU at MetroHealth Medical Center
Our Faculty*

Jennifer L. Bailit, MD, MPH  
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President, Better Health Greater Cleveland

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Medical Director, NOTS

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Professor of Medicine and Senior Associate Dean for Medical Affairs

John R. Corlett  
Vice President, Government Relations and Community Affairs

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The Charles Elton Blanchard MD Professor of Health Management Emeritus, CWRU School of Medicine

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Director, MetroHealth Employee Wellness Program

Ashwini Sehgal, MD  
Duncan Neuhauser Professor of Community Health Improvement  
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Co-Director, Social Sciences Research Unit  
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Mark E. Votruba, PhD, MA  
Director, Health Economics Research Unit  
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* Except as noted, all faculty appointments are at Case Western Reserve University, and all locations are at MetroHealth Medical Center.

Faculty Retreat, CWRU Squire Valleeave Farm, February 15, 2013

Pictured (Left to Right)  
Douglas Einstadter, Joseph Sudano, Jr., Kurt Stange (back), Carol Blixen, Richard McCormick, Shari Bolen, David Kaelber, Douglas Gunzler, Mary Jo Roach, Rob Fischer, Adam Perzynski, Randall Cebul, Jarrod Dalton, Neal Dawson, Thomas Love, School of Medicine Dean Pamela Davis, Martha Sajatovic