

**THE COMMONWEALTH FUND
HARKNESS FELLOWSHIPS IN HEALTH CARE POLICY AND PRACTICE
2007-10 HARKNESS/BOSCH FOUNDATION FELLOWS**



STEPHANIE STOCK, M.D., Ph.D. (2007-08)

Research fellow and lecturer

Department of Health Economics and Clinical Epidemiology

University of Cologne

Project Title: *Improving Quality of Care in Home Health Care: What Can We Learn From Other Settings?*

Placement: University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing

Mentor: Mary Naylor, Ph.D., FAAN, RN, University of Pennsylvania and NewCourtland Center for Transitions and Health

STEPHANIE STOCK, M.D., Ph.D., a 2007-08 Commonwealth Fund Harkness/Bosch Foundation Fellow in Health Care Policy and Practice, is an assistant professor and research fellow in the Medical School of the University of Cologne, where her focus is on disease management, improvement of access to and quality of care for chronically ill, patient guidelines, health care financing, functioning and role of the risk compensation system in the statutory health insurance, cost-of-illness studies, and health care systems research. She has co-authored 6 books and written over 20 book chapters and over 30 peer-reviewed articles, published in journals such as *Health Affairs*, *Health Policy*, *Diabetic Management*, and *Disease Management and Health Outcomes*, 2006, and was the lead author in drafting the guidelines for the German Disease Management program introduced in 2003. Stock holds a degree in health economics from the European Business School at Oestrich-Winkel and a medical degree from Albert Einstein University at Ulm. Stock also spent a year studying at Tufts Medical School in Boston and time conducting research at the National Center for Quality Assurance in Washington D.C.

Project Abstract: Pay-for-performance, collecting and reporting performance data, and a growing awareness of sub-optimal care have necessitated the identification of best practices to help reduce quality gaps. Home health care agencies frequently have turned to guidelines to promote best practices, though implementing new practices once they have been identified remains a significant challenge. This study aimed to summarize the available evidence on guideline implementation effectiveness research and to draw up practical recommendations for an industry-wide framework for a systematic approach to guideline implementation. A systematic review of the literature was carried out in three bodies of literature: guideline implementation/evidence-based medicine, organizational studies, and research in knowledge transfer. Semi-structured interviews were also conducted with CEOs of home healthcare agencies, researchers and experts in the field. These focused on six effective implementation strategies as identified from the literature, as well as to topics related to organizational and national health care policy measures. The study found that successful implementation of best practice is a product of the interaction of the strength of the evidence, the care provider's skills and the patient's preferences. It needs two components: a good evidence base and evidence-based management. There is no "one size fits all" approach, but rather implementation is a multi-level process involving complex interactions that occur over a long period of time. Nonetheless, six effective strategies for implementation were identified that were deemed feasible by CEOs, researchers and experts: distribution of educational materials, educational meetings, educational outreach visits, opinion leaders, audit and feedback, and reminders. Further research is necessary to identify which implementation strategies work best in which setting, how organizational and socio-political factors interact, and whether a multifaceted approach involving several implementation strategies will yield better results compared to single interventions.

Key: * indicates co-authored with a Harkness Mentor and/or U.S. colleague
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Harkness Fellowship-Related Publications

** StockS, SchmidtH, BuscherG, GerberA et al. „Financial incentives in the Germany Statutory Health Insurance: New findings, new questions.” *Health Policy* 2010, dpo:10.1016/j.healthpol.2009.12.015

StockS. “Examining Strategies for Implementing Best Practices in Home Healthcare.” *Journal for Healthcare Quality*; 31(2): 10-17.

* StockS., TebestR, ReiderL, BoulcC. “Herausforderung Demenz Versorgungs strukturen für die Zukunft entwickeln.“ *Monitor Versorgungsforschung* January 2010: 25-29.

** Schmidt H., Gerber A., Stock S., “What can we learn from German health incentive schemes?” *BMJ* 2009; 338: 725-728.

Promotions

- PD (Privatdozent), University of Cologne, Germany, 2009.

Media Coverage:

- Interview and coverage in the University Press at Cologne
- Coverage at the University of Pennsylvania Press

Conferences and Meetings with Experts:

- Annual Meeting, Geriatric Society of America, USA, 2008
- International Symposium, Institute of Medicine (IOM), Washington DC, October 2007.
- Fall Conference of the American Business Editors and Writers (SABEW), Chapel Hill, North Carolina, October 2007.
- Center for Transitions, Penn University School of Nursing, February, 2008.
- WONCA, September 2009 at Basel, Switzerland
- The German Ministry of Health, Bonn, 2008
- Bertelsmann Foundation, Gütersloh, 2009
- Careum Foundation, Zürich, Switzerland, 2009
- Gerard Anderson, Ph.D., Professor and Director, Center for Hospital Finance and Management, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
- Chad Boulc, M.D., Director, Lipitz Center for Integrated Health Care and Eugene and Mildred Lipitz Professor in Health Care Policy, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
- Milton Weinstein, Ph.D., Henry J. Kaiser Professor of Health Policy and Management, Harvard School of Public Health
- Reinhard Busse, Prof. Dr. med, Technische Universität Berlin
- Dr. Stefan Görres, Professor, Interdisciplinary Ageing and Nursing Research, University of Bremen
- Penny Feldman, Ph.D., vice president, Research and Evaluation, Visiting Nurse Service of New York

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Committees

- German-American expert group on health care reforms. Initiated by the Engelberg Center for Health Care Reform (2010-11). First working group meeting to plan the agenda July 8 to 9, 2010 in Washington, DC.

Ongoing Collaborations

- Chad Bault, M.D., Director, Lipitz Center for Integrated Health Care and Eugene and Mildred Lipitz Professor in Health Care Policy, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
- Mary Naylor, Ph.D., FAAN, RN, University of Pennsylvania and NewCourtland Center for Transitions and Health

Highlights

“When I was a Harkness Fellow I found that the name 'Harkness' opens most doors in the U.S. This allowed me the opportunity to meet with Professor Milton Weinstein at the Harvard School of Public Health, one of the founders of modern decision analysis – and we had a wonderful discussion! After returning to Germany, I find that the growing network of Harkness Fellows provides an excellent opportunity to collaborate across disciplines. I would otherwise have never met with such a mix of experts from different fields in Germany all working in Health Care Policy research from different angles!” – Stephanie Stock

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CLAUS WENDT, M.A., Ph.D. (2008-09)
Research Fellow and Project Director
Mannheimer Center for European Social Research
University of Mannheim

Project Title: *Confidence in Receiving Medical Care in Seven Countries*

Placement: Harvard School of Public Health
Mentor: Robert Blendon, Sc.D., Harvard School of Public Health

CLAUS WENDT, Ph.D., a 2008-09 Commonwealth Fund Harkness/Bosch Foundation Fellow in Health Care Policy and Practice, is research fellow and project director at the Mannheimer Zentrum für Europäische Sozialforschung (Center for European Social Research) at the University of Mannheim. Previous positions include senior research fellow at the Collaborative Research Center 597, University of Bremen, and lecturer and research fellow at the Institute of Sociology, University of Heidelberg. Wendt's research interests include institutional theory, political sociology, international comparisons of welfare states and health care systems, and the sociology of health. He has written more than 20 peer-reviewed journal articles, with publications in *European Review*, *Social Policy & Administration*, *International Journal of Health Services*, *Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis*, *European Sociological Review*, and *Journal of European Social Policy*. Wendt holds a Ph.D. summa cum laude in sociology and a master's degree in political science, sociology, and economics from Heidelberg University, where his Ph.D. thesis won the Ruprecht-Karls Prize.

Project Abstract: A major accomplishment of modern health care systems is their promise of security against life risks. Since the availability of health services can be a matter of life and death, people need the security that necessary health care services will be provided in the case of serious illness or injury. Based on data from the 2007 Commonwealth Fund International Health Policy Survey, this project analyzed people's confidence that they would receive safe and quality medical care were they to fall seriously ill. The survey was carried out in seven countries (Australia, Canada, Germany, Netherlands, New Zealand, U.K., and U.S.) and included over 11,000 respondents. The analysis first investigated which factors impacted the lack of confidence in receiving future medical care, focusing on both socioeconomic characteristics as well as personal experiences with the health care system. A secondary analysis examined which population groups were particularly prone in the different countries to experience cost barriers to accessing the health system. The study found that between one-fourth and one-fifth of the population lacked confidence that they would receive medical care when in need in all countries except the Netherlands, where only five percent lacked confidence. Major disparities appeared across social groups, particularly among those who had reported not going to the doctor because of costs. Patients in the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and Canada faced hardly any cost barriers when visiting a doctor, and in Germany, Australia, and New Zealand cost barriers were significantly reduced with supplementary private insurance. In the United States, Medicare recipients were the least likely to experience cost barriers while Medicaid recipients and the uninsured were the most likely. These findings indicated that the experience of cost barriers had a strong negative effect on the confidence of receiving quality and safe medical care and represent a major health policy issue.

Harkness Fellowship-Related Publications

Articles in peer-reviewed journals

** Wendt C. and Minhas R. (2010): The Power of Ideas – Can Obama's Healthcare Reforms Change the U.S. Health System? *International Journal of Clinical Practice*, 64, 4, 423-425

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Wendt C., Frisina L., and Rothgang H. (2009): Health Care System Types. A conceptual framework for comparison, *Social Policy & Administration* Vol. 43, No 1, 70-90

** Minhas R. and Wendt C. (2009): Letter from America: The Political Economics of US Healthcare Reform. *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine*, 102(4): 129—133; doi:10.1258/jrsm.2009.09k022

** Minhas R., Wendt C., Wierzibicki, A. (2008): Is healthcare in the United States too big to fail? *International Journal of Clinical Practice*, 62, 12, 1827-1830

Books, edited volumes:

* Marmor T.R and Wendt C. (Eds.) (2010): *Reforming Healthcare Systems*. Two Volumes. Edward Elgar Publishing, forthcoming November 2010

** Rothgang H., Cacace M., Grimmeisen S., Wendt C. (2010): *The Changing Role of the State in OECD Health Care Systems. From Heterogeneity to Homogeneity?* Houndmills, Basingstoke: Palgrave, forthcoming September 2010

Promotions

- Professor of Sociology of Health and Health Systems, University of Siegen, 2009.

Presentations

- Healthcare Systems and Healthcare Utilization. *Research Seminar on Comparative Social Research, Cologne Graduate School SOCLIFE, Köln, November 2009*
- Demographischer Wandel und Gesundheitssysteme im internationalen Vergleich. *Sommerschule 2009 des Marsilius Kolleg Heidelberg, Gesund altern - individuelle und gesellschaftliche Herausforderungen, Heidelberg, September 2009*
- *Ideas and Institutions in the Field of Health Care*. RC 19/ISA annual conference: Social Policies: Local Experiments, Travelling Ideas, Montreal, August 2009
- *Regulating Access to Health Care Providers & Inequalities of Utilization in European Countries*. AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting, Chicago, June 2009
- *Ideas and Institutions in the Field of Health Care*. Center for European Studies, Harvard University, April 2009
- *Challenges and Reform Options in Health Care Systems: What Can America Learn from European Countries?* University of Wisconsin, Madison, January 2009
- Who has Access to Health Care in Europe? Invited by The Health of Nations Study Group, Center for European Studies, Harvard University, November 2008

Meetings with Experts

- Jonathan Oberlander, Ph.D., Associate Professor, UNC-Chapel Hill School of Medicine
- Theodore R. Marmor, Professor Emeritus, Yale School of Management

Committees, Memberships, and Editorial Activities

- Board Member, Research Committee 19 on Poverty, Social Welfare and Social Policy, International Sociological Association, since April 2010.
- Member, Editorial Board, *International Journal of Clinical Practice*, since September 2009.
- AcademyHealth

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- German Sociological Association (GSA), GSA section ‘sociology of health’, GSA section ‘social policy’
- International Sociological Association (ISA), Research Committee on Poverty, Social Welfare and Social Policy, RC 19/ISA, Research Committee on Sociology of Health, RC 15/ISA
- European Health Policy Group
- European Social Policy Association Network (ESPAnet)
- Humboldt Network
- Japan Society for the Promotion of Science
- Equalsoc-Network, German Association of University Professors and Lecturers

Ongoing Collaborations

- Rubin Minhas (2008-09 Harkness) on articles on U.S. health policy
- Mirella Cacace (2008-09 Harkness) on The Changing Role of the State in OECD Healthcare Systems
- Jörg Haslbeck (2008-09 Harkness) on Patients’ Voice (planned)
- Stephanie Stock (2007-08 Harkness) on Palliative Care (planned)
- Co-investigator in the project: The Comparative Political Economy of Health Inequities (RWJ grant) with J. Beckfield/principal investigator, N. Krieger, S. Olafsdottir, M. Avendano; 2009-2010
- EU COST Action: Enhancing the role of medicine in the management of European health systems: Implications for control, innovation and user voice (co-investigator and member of the steering committee; coordinated at University of Leeds), September 2009 – August 2014

Highlights

“My new position as professor of sociology of health and health care systems is strongly related to the Harkness Fellowships, without which a chair at Siegen University would have been much more difficult to achieve. Additionally, my membership on the editorial board of the International Journal of Clinical Practice and on the board of RC19, International Sociological Association, are also directly linked to the Fellowship and my collaborations with other Harkness Fellows. Finally, the leadership seminars have been of great importance, and I continue to work to strengthen my leadership skills.” – Claus Wendt

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JULIA KREIS (2009-10)

Research Fellow

Institute for Quality and Efficiency in Health Care (IQWiG)

Project Title: *Consumer Involvement in Comparative Effectiveness Research*

Placement: Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

Mentors: Kay Dickersin, M.A., Ph.D., John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
Holger Schünemann, M.D., Ph.D., McMaster University
Milo Puhan, M.D., Ph.D., Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

JULIA KREIS, a 2009-10 Commonwealth Fund Harkness Fellow in Health Care Policy and Practice, is a research fellow at the Institute for Quality and Efficiency in Health Care (IQWiG), an independent scientific institute that evaluates the quality and efficiency of health care for the German statutory health insurance. Her work includes the evaluation of pharmaceuticals, diagnostic tests, and non-pharmacological interventions. Previously, she worked at the Federal Association of Company Health Insurance Funds where she managed a European Commission project on health monitoring. She is spokeswoman of the working group “Evidence base and quality management of health promotion and prevention” in the German Society for Social Medicine and Prevention and has been a member of the Cochrane Collaboration since 2005. She earned a masters in psychology from the University of Marburg in 2002 and is a Ph.D. candidate at the Technische Universität Berlin.

Project Abstract:

Comparative effectiveness research (CER) has been placed high on the political agenda in the United States: the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 designates \$1.1 billion for CER activities. In June 2009, the Institute of Medicine published a report, “Initial National Priorities for Comparative Effectiveness Research,” that strongly recommended involving consumers in CER research and study dissemination. By contrast, current conceptualizations of consumer involvement are still in the early stages of development, and knowledge about the best ways to involve consumers in health research and about the impact of such involvement is scarce. The project aims to address these questions. First, it will document what is currently done in the United States to actively involve consumers in conducting systematic reviews in order to learn precisely how consumers are involved in the process of conducting systematic reviews and also what experiences with these processes can teach us about common facilitators and barriers for future recommendations in involving consumers in systematic reviews. To this end, websites of organizations carrying out systematic reviews will be searched and interviews with key informants will be held. Key international players (Cochrane Collaboration and Campbell Collaboration) will also be approached. The results of this study will then be used to identify specific areas of consumer involvement in CER that need further research. On that basis, research questions will be deduced that will be addressed in the second part of the Fellowship. The results on current strategies and lessons learned concerning consumer involvement in systematic reviews will inform the IOM Committee on Standards for Systematic Reviews of Clinical Effectiveness Research that is currently developing recommendations on systematic reviews.

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Harkness Fellowship-Related Publications

Kreis J. “Consumer involvement in systematic reviews. Draft Version 2.0. April 15, 2010.” Internal background paper to the IOM Committee on Standards for Systematic Reviews of Clinical Effectiveness Research.

* Schünemann H, Ghersi D, Kreis J, Antes G. “Reporting of research – are we in for better health care in 2020?” *Strüngmann Forum – MIT Press* (in press)

** Schmidt H, Kreis J. “Lessons from abroad.” *Hastings Center Report*. 2009; 39: 20-22

Presentations

- Kreis J. *Consumer involvement in systematic reviews – outline of the planned project*. Institute of Medicine; Workshop on Standards for Systematic Reviews; January 14, 2010; Washington, D.C.
- Kreis J. *Involving consumers in systematic reviews – possible aims and approaches*. Cochrane Collaboration; Mid-year meeting of the Cochrane Collaboration Steering Group; March 25, 2010; Auckland, New Zealand.
- Kreis J. *Involving consumers in systematic reviews*. Consumers United for Evidence-based Health Care; 2010 Annual Membership Meeting; April 15, 2010; Washington, D.C.

Conferences

- “Sackett Symposium - Randomized Clinical Trials: The past, the present and the future” at McMaster University in Hamilton, Canada, April 2010
- “Science-driven innovations for maternal and perinatal health: A new framework” at the World Health Organization head office in Geneva, Switzerland, December 2009.

Meetings with Experts

- Meeting with Members of the IOM Committee on Standards for Systematic Reviews of Clinical Effectiveness Research and IOM Staff Members (Jill Eden and colleagues) to discuss the project on consumer involvement in systematic reviews
- Interviews with various experts in the field of comparative effectiveness research as part of the project on consumer involvement in systematic reviews
- Meetings with various faculty members at McMaster University (e.g., Gordon Guyatt, Julia Abelson, John N. Lavis, Brian Haynes)
- Meetings with various faculty members at Johns Hopkins School of Public Health (e.g., Steve Goodman, Ruth Faden)

Committees

- Member, Scientific Committee, 2010 Joint Colloquium of the Cochrane & Campbell Collaborations, to be held in Keystone, Colorado, October 18-22, 2010.

Ongoing Collaborations

- GRADE working group, McMaster University
- Oregon Center for Evidence-based Policy (current work on a grant proposal)

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Memberships

- *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Sozialmedizin und Prävention* [German Society for Social Medicine and Prevention]
- *Deutsches Netzwerk Evidenzbasierte Medizin* [German Network for Evidence-Based Medicine]
- Cochrane Collaboration
- GRADE Working Group, McMaster University

Highlights

“For me, the Harkness Fellowship provides the unique opportunity to not only meet, but actually collaborate with outstanding researchers that I have known from the literature for a long time already. The Fellowship allows me to build an international network of researchers that I will be able to draw on even when I am back in Germany. Beyond that, the Fellowship really added a new focus to my professional portfolio: After I had been working in a more methodological field during the last years, the time here broadened the scope of my professional activities towards health policy – and this will surely have an impact on my future career steps in Germany.” – Julia Kreis