

HEALTH ECONOMICS RESEARCH ORGANIZATION
2016 MEMBERSHIP

To: Donald Yett
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Enclosed is a (\$___) donation to HERO to help cover the costs of administrating the organization (\$15 recommended)

- Please keep me on the HERO list. My address shown above is correct.
 Please keep me or add me to HERO list. My correct(ed) address is shown above.
 Please remove me from the HERO list.
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Dear Colleague:

Again this year there will be five HERO sessions at the Allied Social Sciences Associations meetings January 3-5, 2016 in San Francisco. The schedule of sessions is given below.

HERO really needs your help. Our organization is like a producer co-op. There is no paid executive or staff. It is strictly a volunteer effort. The "dues" are low, and no one is ever dropped for non-payment, consequently there is no budget for a membership drive or solicitation of papers for sessions at the annual ASSA meetings. *It is up to each member to recruit people who are new to the field, and may never have heard of HERO, to join and to give papers at our sessions.* Please help out so that our organization—which is over 50 years old—can continue as a forum for presenting your research and that of your colleagues at the annual ASSA meetings.

There are two areas that we especially need your help. Please help by submitting abstracts of proposed papers as soon as possible, and spread the word if you can, that the earlier we get an abstract, the better the chance it will get on the program. (See below for how the program is put together.) Second, it has become more and more difficult to keep the HERO mailing list up to date. If your listing is not current, please send me a correction. If you, or any of your colleagues, are not getting this newsletter in the mail, please fill out the form at the top of the page and send it to me so that you will get a copy. Since HERO does not have a budget for "outreach" it is essential that everyone help to keep the membership roster as up to date as possible.

The HERO program is based primarily on the abstracts that are submitted each year. Accordingly, it reflects the research that you and your colleagues bring forth. Thus, as I am sure you have noticed, both the session topics and the participants are quite different from year-to-year.

In the early days of HERO, when there were a lot fewer economists working in the health care field, it was possible to have a pretty good idea of what each person was working on, but over the years the number of HERO participants has increased to the point where that is no longer feasible. If you are doing research that will be ready for presentation in January, 2017, please send me an abstract as soon as possible, but no later than April 1, 2016. Since the AEA also has an April 1st deadline for proposed joint sessions, you should submit abstracts for consideration to be included in a proposed HERO-AEA session no later than March 1, 2016. The deadline for HERO sessions is April 15, 2016.

Even if you are not able to offer a paper for the 2017 meetings, I would appreciate hearing from you. This information will be helpful in my annual search for chairpersons and discussants for the sessions that emerge from the abstracts submitted. However, you should keep in mind that HERO, perhaps more than some associations, has a policy of broad participation. In order for this to be effective, to the fullest possible extent, *the majority of the papers at our session are selected from among the abstracts submitted.*

If you are willing to chair a session, please keep in mind that it involves all of the work of contacting the participants, filling out the necessary forms, notifying the participants and showing up for the session. A few persons in the past have thought all that was involved was picking a topic and giving some names of possible speakers and discussants, and the rest would be done by HERO "staff." Unfortunately there is only the USC Department of Economics administration and myself. It is impossible for me to "flesh out" all the sessions, no matter how great the "big picture" might be. Fortunately, most persons who volunteer to help set up and chair HERO sessions understand this point.

This is the only "call for papers" that we can afford to make, so please mark it on your calendar, and spread the word.

Although most of you already know how the HERO program is put together each year, much to my surprise, I hear from people every year asking how it gets done. So, perhaps it will be useful for me to summarize the process again: The abstracts submitted are considered separately in terms of how they might fit into the possible sessions. Chairs are selected for the sessions that can be pulled together from among the abstracts that relate to a common theme. The chair makes the final selections of the papers for a particular session, including the few papers that have to be "recruited" to fill out a good session. There is a "contributed papers" session, which may or may not have a theme, to try to include several of the excellent abstracts that are on topics that cannot be fitted into one of the other sessions. *The chairs are responsible for informing the authors, whose papers they select, about arrangements for each session. Notifications from chairs cannot be expected until summer. Please bear this in mind in deciding whether to submit on an abstract for consideration next year.*

Because HERO has no staff, *as much as I would like to, it is not possible for me to correspond personally with every person submitting an abstract.* Also, given the long lead-time in dealing with the AEA regarding a possible jointly-sponsored session, it is often three or four months before the program is firm---even longer in the case of sessions that are sponsored only by HERO since planning for them does not begin until the AEA's decisions have been made. Because the ASSA does not distribute information on sessions organized by other participating associations, *it is essential that anyone making a duplicate submission of an abstract include this important information on the abstract.*

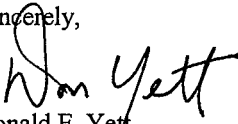
The ASSA is an "umbrella" organization set up and run by the AEA. In recent years at least half a dozen new organizations have been allotted sessions at the annual meetings. Consequently, space limitations required that some organizations have their number of sessions reduced. This was done, in part, on the basis of a formula that was never clearly articulated. Apparently it takes into account attendance at each organization's sessions and the number of persons who indicated an affiliation with that organization when they registered for the meetings. I urge those of you who plan to attend the 2016 meetings in San Francisco to indicate on the registration form that you will be attending HERO sessions. This could help us to retain the current number of sessions. There is no requirement that you make a donation (in lieu of dues) to HERO, nor is it necessary that you drop listing any other organization on the registration form (multiple affiliations are acceptable).

Finally, I want to thank you for sending me the form at the top of this newsletter along with your donation of \$15 to support the HERO activities (or more if you are in the position to be especially generous). HERO is not affiliated with any other health economics or health research association. It does not receive any share of the revenue

generated by your registration at the ASSA meetings. The only subsidy it gets is in the form of free accounting service from the University of Southern California. In this regard, I have noticed that some of you seem to be puzzled by the fact that your donation to support HERO automatically gets you on the list of donors to USC. This is because the USC gift accounting department processes the donations to HERO, and sends out tax-deductible receipts, free of charge to HERO. However, it is unwilling to set up a completely separate arrangement for HERO, and that is why your name gets on the list of USC donors. Just toss out the resulting junk mail, and be happy about the savings for our organization in accounting and tax record costs.

We want to thank the many people who helped to organize the program for January, 2016 in San Francisco. *Please pass information along to anyone you know who might like to participate in HERO.*

Sincerely,



Donald E. Yett

2016 HERO Schedule

Jan 03, 2016 8:00 am, Hilton Union Square, Union Square 17 & 18

Aging and its Economic Consequences (J1, I1)

Presiding: Peter Orszag (Citigroup)

Long-Run Macroeconomic Effects of the Aging United States Population

Peter Orszag (Citigroup)

Ronald D. Lee (University of California-Berkeley)

The Effects of Longevity Increases and Social Security Reform on Lifetime Benefits

Courtney Coile (Wellesley College)

The Long-Term Benefits of Risk Prevention In The United States Elderly

Etienne Gaudette (University of Southern California)

Andrew Messali (University of Southern California)

David Agus (University of Southern California)

Dana P. Goldman (University of Southern California)

Discussants:

Jay Bhattacharya (Stanford University)

Alice Rivlin (Brookings Institution)

Lauren Nicholas (Johns Hopkins University)

Jan 03, 2016 10:15 am, Hilton Union Square, Yosemite A

Public and Private Health Insurance in the Medicare Program (I1, L8)

Presiding: Mark G. Duggan (Stanford University)

The Effects of Medigap Supplemental Insurance on Health Care Spending Among Disabled Medicare Beneficiaries

Jay Bhattacharya (Stanford University)

M. Kate Bundorf (Stanford University)

Vilsa Curto (Stanford University)

Kosali Simon (Indiana University)

Healthcare Costs, Prices and Quantities in Private and Public Medicare Insurance

Vilsa Curto (Stanford University)

Liran Einav (Stanford University)

Jonathan Levin (Stanford University)

Amy Finkelstein (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)

Jay Bhattacharya (Stanford University)

Pricing Regulations in Medigap

Vilsa Curto (Stanford University)

Discussants:

Marika Cabral (University of Texas-Austin)

Michael Chernew (Harvard University)

Haizhen Lin (Indiana University)

Jan 04, 2016 10:15 am, Hilton Union Square, Powell A & B

Contributed Papers in Physician Practices, Commercial Insurance, and HMO Penetration (I1, D4)

Presiding: J. Michael Fitzmaurice (JMF Associates)

The Impact of Organizational Factors on Inpatient Physician Practices

Julie Sakowski (Rational Answer Consulting)

Paula Song (University of North Carolina)

Hospital Decision Making and Physician Alignment: The Role of the Commercial Insurance Market

Sean Huang (Georgetown University)

Ian M. McCarthy (Emory University)

HMO Penetration and Fee-For-Service Price: Is There a Connection?

Christopher Whaley (University of California-Berkeley)

H. Edward Freck III (University of California-Santa Barbara)
William Comanor (University of California-Santa Barbara)

Discussants:

Joanne Spetz (University of California-San Francisco)
Gautam Gowrisankaran (University of Arizona)
Roger Feldman (University of Minnesota)

Jan 04, 2016 2:30 pm, Hilton Union Square, Powell A & B
The Impact of the Affordable Care Act on Hospital Use, Cost, and Market Structure
(I1, L1)

Presiding: Kosali Simon (Indiana University)

The Impact of the Affordable Care Act on Hospital Market Structure and Patient Access

Victoria E. Perez (Indiana University)
Ari B. Friedman (University of Pennsylvania)

The Effect of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Medicaid Expansion on the Utilization of Hospital Services

John Graves (Vanderbilt University)
Craig Garthwaite (Northwestern University)
Tal Gross (Columbia University)
Mathew J. Notowidigdo (Northwestern University)

ACA Insurance Coverage Expansion Impact on Hospital Cost

Zeynal Karaca (Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality)
Eli Cutler (Truven Health Analytics)
Michael Dworsky (RAND Corporation)
Christine Eibner (RAND Corporation)
Gary Pickens (Truven Health Analytics)

Discussants:

Richard Lindrooth (University of Colorado-Denver)
Vivian Ho (Rice University)
Sayeh Nikpay (University of Michigan and Vanderbilt University)

Jan 05, 2016 8:00 am, Hilton Union Square, Union Square 3 & 4
Health Economics Research Organization/American Economic Association
Evidence on Health Spending Growth and Slowdown Using Medicaid, Medicare, and Household Data (I1, H5)

Presiding: Donald E. Yett (University of Southern California)

Medicaid Expansions and Health Spending Growth

Amanda Kowalski (Yale University)
Mikhail Golosov (Princeton University)

Measuring the Incremental Benefit of Medicare Expenditures: Evidence from the Healthcare Cost Slowdown

Amitabh Chandra (Harvard University)
Carrie Colla (Dartmouth College)
Jonathan Skinner (Dartmouth College)

Is Recession Responsible for Reducing the Growth of Medical Care Spending? Evidence from Household Data

Asako Moriya (Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality)
Lan Liang (Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality)
Kosali Simon (Indiana University)

Discussants:

Martin Gaynor (Carnegie Mellon University)
Joshua Gottlieb (University of British Columbia)
M. Kate Bundorf (Stanford University)