

HEALTH ECONOMICS RESEARCH ORGANIZATION  
2015 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 session at the Allied Social Sciences Associations meetings January 3-5, 2015 in Boston. 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 session at the annual ASSA meetings. *It is up to each member to recruit people who are new to the field, and my 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 economics working in the health care field, it was possible to have a pretty good idea 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, 2016, please send me an abstract as soon as possible, but no later than April 1, 2015. Since the AEA also has an April 1<sup>st</sup> deadline for proposed joint sessions, you should submit abstracts for consideration to be included in a HERO-AEA session no later than March 1, 2015.

Even if you are not able to offer a paper for the 2016 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 sessions. 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 ever 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.*

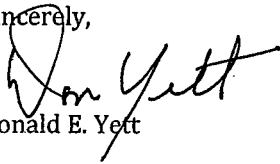
The ASSA is an "umbrella" organization setup, and run, by the AEA. In recent years at least half a dozen new organizations have been allotted sessions at the annual meetings. Consequently, space limitations required that some organizations have their number of sessions reduced. This was done, in part, 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 2015 meetings in Boston 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, 2015 in Boston.  
*Please pass information along to anyone you know who might like to participate in HERO.*

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don Yett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "D".

Donald E. Yett

2015 HERO Schedule

**Jan 03, 2015 8:00AM**

**Boston Marriot Copley, Provincetown**

Health Economics Research Organization/American Economic Association

**Health Insurance and Labor Market Outcomes (I1)**

**Presiding:** Donald Yett (University of Southern California)

**The Long Term Impact of Health Insurance Expansions on Eligible Children**

David Brown (U.S. Treasury Department)

Amanda Kowalski (Yale University)

Ithai Lurie (U.S. Treasury Department)

**The Impact of the Affordable Care Act Young Adult Mandate on Labor market Outcomes:  
Evidence from Tax Data**

Bradley Heim (Indiana University)

Ithai Lurie (U.S. Treasury Department)

Kosali Simon (Indiana University)

**How Do Providers Respond to Public Health Insurance Expansions? Evidence from Adult  
Medicaid Dental Benefits**

Thomas Buchmueller (University of Michigan)

Sarah Miller (University of Notre Dame)

Marko Vujicic (American Dental Association)

***Discussants:***

John N. Friedman (Harvard University)

Colleen Carey (University of Michigan)

Seth Freedman (Indiana University)

**Jan 03, 2015 10:15AM**

**Boston Marriot Copley, Provincetown**

Health Economics Research Organization

**Health Insurance Reform (I1, I1)**

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

**Market Socialism and Community Rating In the Affordable Care Act**

H. E. Frech (University of California-Santa Barbra)

Peter Zweifel (University of Zurich)

**Insurer Participation and Premiums in Exchanges: The Roles of Regulation, Market Competition,  
and Product Characteristics**

Jean Marie Abraham (University of Minnesota)

Kosali Simon (University of Indiana)

Jeffrey McCullough (University of Minnesota)

Coleman Drake (University of Minnesota)

**Bidding in Medicare Advantage**

Michael Chernew (Harvard University)

***Discussants:***

Anthony Lo Sasso (University of Illinois-Chicago)

Stephen T. Parente (University of Minnesota)

**Jan 03, 2015 2:30PM**

**Boston Marriot Copley, Provincetown**

Health Economics Research Organization

**Behavioral Responses to Health Information (I1, H8)**

**Presiding:** Michael Grossman (City University of New York, NBER and IZA)

**If my Blood Pressure Is High, Do I take It to Heart? Behavioral Impacts of Biomarker Collection in the Health and Retirement Study**

Ryan Edwards (Queens College and NBER)

**Publicly-Provided Health Insurance and Ex Ante Moral Hazard: The Case of Medicaid Expansions for Pregnant Women**

Robert Kaestner (University of Illinois-Chicago and NBER)

Dhaval M. Dave (Bentley University and NBER)

George Wehby (University of Iowa and NBER)

**Moral Hazard and Less Invasive Medical Treatment for Coronary Artery Disease: An Analysis of Smoking in the National Health Interview Survey**

Jesse Margolis (City University of New York)

Jason Hockenberry (Emory University and NBER)

Michael Grossman (City University of New York, NBER and IZA)

Shin-Yi Chou (Lehigh University and NBER)

**Diabetes Diagnosis and Subsequent Exercise Participation among Older Americans**

Kenneth Chay (Brown University and NBER)

Leigh Ann Leung (New York City Department of Finance)

Shailender Swaminathan (Brown University)

***Discussants:***

Jason Hockenberry (Emory University and NBER)

Joshua Graff Zivin (University of California- San Diego and NBER)

Dhaval M. Dave (Bentley University and NBER)

Paul Glewwe (University of Minnesota)

**Jan 04, 2015 8:00AM**

**Boston Marriot Copley, Provincetown**

Health Economics Research Organization

**Contributed papers in the Economics of Hospitals, Public Insurance, and Medical Expenditures (I1, I1)**

**Presiding:** J. Michael Fitzmaurice (JMF Associates)

**Measuring the Hospital Length of Stay/Readmission Cost Trade-off under a Bundled Payment Mechanism**

Kathleen Carey (Boston University)

**Heterogeneity in Take-Up of Public Insurance Benefits: The Case of Mental Health**

Ezra Golberstein (University of Minnesota)

Gilbert Gonzales (University of Minnesota)

Steven C. Hill (AHRQ)

Samuel H. Zuvekas (AHRQ)

**Estimating the Medical Care Costs of Youth Obesity in the Presence of Proxy Reporting Error**

Adam Biener (Lehigh University)

Chad D. Meyerhoefer (Lehigh University)

John Cawley (Cornell University)

***Discussants:***

Vivian Ho (Rice University)

Dhaval M. Dave (Bentley University)

Nathan Tefft (Bates College)

**Jan 04, 2015 10:15AM**

**Boston Marriot Copley, Provincetown**

Health Economics Research Organization

**New Evidence on Geographic Variations in Health Care (II)**

**Presiding:** Joseph Newhouse (Harvard University)

**Do Commercial Health Care Prices Influence Medicare Spending?**

John A. Romley (University of Southern California)

Erin Trish (University of Southern California)

Dana P. Goldman (University of Southern California)

**Geographic Variation in Medical Spending**

Joseph Newhouse (Harvard University)

**Geographic Variation in Quality of Care for Commercially Insured Patients**

Michael Richard McKellar (Harvard University)

Mary Beth Landrum (Harvard University)

Teresa Gibson (Harvard University)

Bruce Landon (Harvard University)

A. Mark Fendrick (University of Michigan)

Michael Chernew (Harvard University)

***Discussants:***

Joshua Graff Zivin (University of California- San Diego)

Carrie Colla (Dartmouth University)

Austin Frakt (Boston University)