

Center for Health and Research Transformation

# CHRT Health Policy Fellowship

at the University of Michigan

CHRT



MICHIGAN MEDICINE  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

“The CHRT Fellowship enhanced my ability to think about policy—from the formulation of the research questions to the translation of the research findings to inform policy in real-time. I valued going through the experience with an incredible cohort of both policymakers and researchers. This inter-sectoral peer mentorship enhanced my training and helped me build connections that I hope will last for my entire career.”

— Dr. Renuka Tipirneni, Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine, University of Michigan Medical School and Institute for Healthcare Policy & Innovation



## CHRT's policy fellowship is designed to build bridges between Michigan's health services researchers, non-profit leaders, and health policymakers.

Over a four-month period, these fellows learn from dozens of outside experts—including health scholars, health and human service policymakers, members of the media—and from each other. They then work collaboratively on projects designed to translate new research for policymakers and practitioners.

Regular fellowship sessions consist of group discussions and seminar-style presentations on public health policy and current issues affecting health policy and practice in Michigan and across the nation. Fellows meet with policymakers in Washington, DC—to gain exposure to the national policymaking environment—and learn about the social determinants of health and health policy from professionals working in Detroit and Lansing (circumstances allowing).

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Since 2012, nearly 100 fellows have completed the program, including program directors for major public sector organizations; chiefs of staff for senators and representatives on both sides of the aisle; and professors of dentistry, internal medicine, pediatrics, social work, and related disciplines.

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Fellowship speakers include top executives and administrators in health policy and practice, senior health services researchers, and key stakeholders within the field of health policy from within the University of Michigan community and other organizations across the state.

### RECENT SPEAKERS HAVE INCLUDED:

**Vincent Duffy**  
News Director,  
Michigan Radio

**Robert D. Fowler**  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Small Business Association  
of Michigan

**Jewel Gopwani**  
Community Engagement  
Director and Op-Ed Editor,  
Detroit Free Press

**Julie Rovner**  
Chief Washington  
Correspondent,  
Kaiser Health News

**Thomas L. Simmer**  
Senior Vice President  
and Chief Medical Officer,  
Blue Cross Blue Shield  
of Michigan

**David A. Spahlinger**  
President, University of  
Michigan Health System

**Doug Bitonti Stewart**  
Executive Director,  
Max and Marjorie  
Fisher Foundation

**Felix M. Valbuena, Jr.**  
CEO, Community Health  
and Social Service Center  
(CHASS)

**Amy Zaagman**  
Executive Director, Michigan  
Council for Maternal and  
Child Health



## Curriculum

Over the four-month fellowship period, interactive sessions take place in Ann Arbor, Detroit, and Lansing, as well as a three-day trip to Washington, DC (circumstances allowing). Orientation briefings focus on the legislative process, Michigan state government structure, the research process, and challenges in building sustainability for nonprofit organizations.

### **Additional sessions cover a broad range of health policy topics and perspectives, including:**

- the history of health insurance and the Affordable Care Act,
- lessons in effective policy advocacy,
- provider and health plan efforts to maximize quality and minimize costs,
- introductions to Michigan's key health legislators and organizations,
- local and national media engagement panels,
- health policy perspectives of small and large businesses, and
- introductions to cutting edge clinical research and hot topics in health policy.

## Deliverables

Fellows are required to attend and participate in all fellowship sessions and trips and to define, develop, and present a final project—based on their own work—that translates research for a policy audience. Fellowship projects range in scope, but will include writing and presenting testimony, developing policy one-pagers, briefing legislators and legislative staff members, assembling issue briefs, consulting for state agencies, and writing op-eds.

### **Previous fellowship projects have included:**

- Collaborating with the Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health to work toward updating child passenger safety legislation in Michigan.
- Partnering with the Michigan League for Public Policy to help expand the Healthy Kids Dental Program to all 83 Michigan counties.
- Partnering with CHRT, the Michigan Health and Hospital Association, and the State of Michigan to begin to organize a statewide work group for sepsis care coordination.
- Developing, in conjunction with the American Heart Association, a statewide, regional approach to better respond to medical emergencies in a timely manner.
- Building connections with policymakers across the aisle to introduce legislation that expands the scope of practice for nurse practitioners.



### **RECENTLY PUBLISHED OP-EDS BY FELLOWS INCLUDE:**

"Medicare Advantage can save lives, money by covering blood pressure monitors," by Laurie Buis, Detroit Free Press

"Doctors could prescribe drugs more accurately—if they could just get the data," by Akbar Waljee, STAT First Opinion

"Hearing aids might reduce dementia risk," by Elham Mahmoudi, Consumer Reports

"Trump's new rule to allow short-term health insurance plans is dangerous for moms and kids," by Michelle Moniz, Detroit Free Press

"They care for Michigan's most vulnerable; we should care for them," by Michelle Meade, Bridge Michigan

REQUEST A FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION BY VISITING  
[WWW.CHRT.ORG/FELLOWSHIP/APPLY](http://WWW.CHRT.ORG/FELLOWSHIP/APPLY) OR BY EMAILING  
US AT [CHRT-POLICY-FELLOWSHIP-APPS@UMICH.EDU](mailto:CHRT-POLICY-FELLOWSHIP-APPS@UMICH.EDU).

“Not only has the fellowship given me access to a number of highly experienced practitioners and experts in healthcare and the media, but it has introduced me to policymaking colleagues I can contact about important legislation. I highly recommend the CHRT fellowship to any policymaker or practitioner who wants to become a stronger advocate for using cutting edge research to inform public policy.”

— Stephanie Bogema, Chief of Staff to Priority Health President and CEO



“The day in Detroit was incredibly meaningful to me. I was moved by the array of stories we heard and inspired by the dedication and efforts of the speakers to build community and bolster the health of Detroit residents.”

— Mark Peterson, Associate Professor, Michigan Medicine

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