

Virtual Mentor

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Contributors

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Marion Danis, MD, is chief of the Ethics Consultation Service at the Clinical Center and head of the Section on Ethics and Health Policy in the Department of Clinical Bioethics at the National Institutes of Health. Her research focuses on finding strategies for fairly rationing limited health care resources by involvement of the public.

Alex Federman, MD, MPH, is an assistant professor of medicine in the Division of General Internal Medicine at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York. Dr Federman was awarded a Robert Wood Johnson Generalist Physician Faculty Scholarship in 2004. His research interests include access to supplemental insurance for low-income seniors and its impact on use of primary care services, financial barriers to care for low-income seniors, and patient-physician communication about health care costs.

Michael A. Fischer, MD, MS, is an internist, clinical epidemiologist, and instructor of medicine at Harvard Medical School. He is also an associate physician in the Division of Pharmacoepidemiology and Pharmacoeconomics, Department of Medicine, Brigham and Women's Hospital, where he directs that division's hospital-based educational and medication review activities. His research is primarily devoted to studying how scientific evidence and drug policy changes affect prescribing patterns.

Richard M. Frankel, PhD, is professor of medicine and geriatrics and a senior research scientist at the Regenstrief Institute at Indiana University School of Medicine. He is also a senior scientist in the Center on Implementing Evidence Based Practice at the Richard L. Roudebush Veterans Administration Medical Center. Dr Frankel currently serves as the statewide director of the Professionalism Competency for undergraduate medical education at Indiana University School of Medicine and is co-

principal investigator of the Relationship-Centered Care Initiative, a 4-year effort to change the culture of the school.

Robert Goodman, MD, started No Free Lunch, an organization that encourages health care providers to "just say no" to pharmaceutical industry gifts and enticements. From July 2001 through June 2003 he was a physician advocacy fellow in the Open Society Institute's Medicine as a Profession Program. He continues to see patients and to teach at Columbia where he includes a course on "non-promotion-based medicine" in the curriculum for internal medicine residents. He is also the medical director of CoSMO, the Columbia medical students' Free Clinic.

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Meredith B. Rosenthal, PhD, is assistant professor of health economics and policy in the Department of Health Policy and Management at Harvard University. Dr Rosenthal's principal area of research is the influence of economic incentives on consumer and provider health care decisions. Her other substantive interests include the pharmaceutical industry, mental health policy, and the economics of smoking.

Robert W. Seifert is the policy director at The Access Project, a national initiative that provides research and policy analysis support to grassroots groups working to improve access to health care. At the Access Project he oversees community research and has

authored numerous publications on health care access and financing. Since 2004, Mr Seifert has also been director of policy and research for the Massachusetts Medicaid Policy Institute.

Terry Stein, MD, is the director of clinician-patient communication for The Permanente Medical Group in the Northern California region of Kaiser Permanente. In this role she develops and delivers programs to enhance the interpersonal skills of the nearly 6000 physicians across the area. She also co-directed the Clinician-Patient Communication Research Initiative for Kaiser Permanente from 2000-2005.

Theme Issue Editor

Emily Rothbaum is a fourth-year medical student at the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York. She is currently applying for pediatrics residencies. She graduated from Harvard College with a degree in history and science in 2001. Before starting medical school, she spent time in Washington, DC, doing health policy research at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities and in Madrid, teaching English. During medical school, she co-founded and wrote a health policy newsletter for medical students and faculty. As a pediatrician, she plans to combine clinical practice with continued involvement in health policy research and advocacy.

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