IPH Scholars in the News
February 2019

Trump proposal would upend drug industry by overhauling rebates in Medicare
CNN | 1/31/19
“If this rule goes into effect in its current form, it would be the largest change the administration has yet announced on drug pricing,” said Rachel Sachs, an associate law professor at Washington University.

‘Different Face’ Of Addiction Has Led To ‘Long Overdue’ Shift From Criminal Justice To Public Health
St. Louis Public Radio | 2/4/19
When David Patterson Silver Wolf refers to the U.S. opioid epidemic as part of a “disease of despair” and “a tough disease to treat,” he’s speaking from experience both professional and personal. He experienced substance-use disorder firsthand after growing up in a troubled home that quickly led him toward drugs and alcohol.

Winners And Losers Under Bold Trump Plan To Slash Drug Rebate Deals
Kaiser Health News | 2/1/19
“It is the most significant proposal that the administration has introduced so far” to try to control drug prices, said Rachel Sachs, a law professor at Washington University in St. Louis.

Native Americans Face Greater Risk Of Becoming Problem Gamblers
KCUR-FM (Kansas City) | 2/5/19
Washington University Professor David Patterson Silver Wolf has studied how the Native American population has a higher rate of gambling addiction than the average rate in the general population. Estimates put the problem-gambling rate among Native Americans at 2.3 percent, more than double the rate among all adults.

Rethinking the name of a Carnival icon: Putting the ‘bama’ back in ‘Slacabamarinico’
AL.com | 2/3/19
“People don’t like change of revered figures,” said Henry Roediger, a professor in the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences at Washington University in St. Louis and an expert on false memories.
How Trump’s Latest Plan to Cut Drug Prices Will Affect You
The New York Times | 2/5/19
“It’s clear from the proposal that the administration is genuinely unsure about how pharmaceutical companies and insurers and P.B.M.s will respond to this proposal,” said Rachel Sachs, an associate professor of law at Washington University in St Louis.

A Call for Unity Among Two States of the Union
Ebony | 2/7/19
John Baugh, a sociolinguistics specialist and professor at Washington University in St. Louis, noted that the State of the Union address is strategically written by a team of speechwriters and approved by the president.…..

Medicaid rolls fall in Missouri, Tennessee, worrying advocates for poor
Kaiser Health News (NBC News) | 2/6/19
Timothy McBride, a health economist at Washington University in St. Louis who heads a Missouri Medicaid advisory board, said the state’s eligibility system has made it too difficult for people to stay enrolled.…..

Research shows new urine test could be more effective in detecting Prostate Cancer
Fox 2 | 2/7/19
Prostate cancer is the second most common cancer in men. Siteman Cancer Center’s top Urological Surgeon joined FOX 2 to discuss the effectiveness of a new urine test for prostate cancer. Dr. [Gerald] Andriole is part of an international team of researchers that is evaluating the effectiveness of a new urine test for prostate cancer.…..

Tuesday’s a big day for drug pricing and FDA
Politico | 2/11/19
In the morning, the Ways and Means Committee — following the lead of the House Oversight and the Senate Finance committees two weeks ago — will dive into rising prescription drug prices. Think of it as part of the undercard for the Feb. 26 main event, when seven drug company CEOs have agreed to testify before the Senate Finance Committee. This week’s Ways and Means hearing will feature: Mark Miller, executive vice president of health care at Arnold Ventures; Rachel Sachs, an associate professor of law at Washington University in St. Louis;
Missouri Gun Death Rate Among Highest In The Nation, CDC Says

St. Louis Public Radio | 2/9/19

Laurie Punch, a trauma surgeon at Barnes-Jewish Hospital [as well as an assistant professor and associate program director, general surgery residency, Washington University School of Medicine], considers gun violence a major threat to public health….

House committee weighs drug pricing proposals

Endpoints News | 2/13/19

Both Miller and Rachel Sachs, associate professor of law at Washington University in St. Louis, also said that the US could save money on prescription drugs by tying their prices to an international reference list, as the Trump administration recently proposed.

Alcohol Problems Grow as Booze Gets a Bigger Kick

WebMD | 2/14/19

Martinez said her study doesn’t directly link that increase in alcohol content to alcohol-related illnesses, but Richard Grucza, an epidemiologist at Washington University in St. Louis who studies alcohol use, said the study may help explain the apparent mismatch between consumption and health effects….

Confusing and high bills for cancer patients add to anxiety and suffering

The Conversation | 2/13/19

Weeks after my father passed away from cancer in 2010, my newly widowed mother received a bill for US$11,000…. By Mary C. Politi, Associate Professor of Surgery, Division of Public Health Sciences, Washington University in St Louis

Can California Beat The Federal Government In Lowering Drug Prices?

Kaiser Health News | 2/14/19

Lawmakers face an array of challenges that make reform hard, such as secretive drug pricing and the political influence of the pharmaceutical industry, one of the most powerful lobbies in the country, said Rachel Sachs, an associate professor at Washington University in St. Louis who specializes in health law.
**The Good, The Bad, The Ugly Side Of Fast Fashion**
*St. Louis Public Radio | 2/15/19*

A recent Wash U study by associate professor Christine Ekenga examined how the practice has ended up hurting the environment, workers and society. On Thursday’s *St. Louis on the Air*, host Don Marsh delved into its effects and what people can do to become more conscious consumers. Joining Marsh to discuss these topics were Mary Ruppert-Stroescu, associate professor of fashion design at the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts of Washington University in St. Louis....

**Tropical Disease PRV Fix Didn’t Stop Novartis From Winning Another**
*Regulatory Focus | 2/15/19*

Rachel Sachs, associate professor of law at Washington University in St. Louis, told *Focus* that there’s still a difference in type between the products winning PRVs for neglected tropical disease and rare pediatric disease treatments. The ones for rare pediatric diseases can charge higher prices, but that’s not the case in tropical diseases.

**Drug costs a top issue in 2020 elections**
*The Columbus Dispatch/Dayton Daily News | 2/17/19*

Rachel Sachs, an associate law professor at Washington University in St. Louis, said there has been a spate of proposals in recent years to allow the government to negotiate with drug companies for Medicare Part D, but they haven’t included provisions that would force the drug companies to play ball....

**Missouri officials defend drop in Medicaid enrollment**
*St. Louis Post-Dispatch | 2/15/19*

The 7 percent enrollment decline was the state’s most significant annual decrease since 2006, when lawmakers created tighter eligibility levels for certain groups, said Timothy McBride, a health economist at Washington University in St. Louis who heads the MO HealthNet oversight committee....

**Washington University engineering professor Pratim Biswas honored**
*St. Louis Post-Dispatch | 2/18/19*

Pratim Biswas, an engineering professor at Washington University in St. Louis, has been elected to the National Academy of Engineering, considered one of the highest honors in the field of engineering. Biswas holds eight patents and has started two companies off his
inventions. He is the recipient of the Fuchs Award, the highest in the field of aerosol science and engineering.

11 Signs You Aren’t An Introvert, You May Have Social Anxiety
Bustle | 2/19/19
“[If you have social anxiety you may] meet people who you like and would like to get to know better, but you avoid getting to know them or inviting them to do things out of fear,” Thomas Rodebaugh, an associate professor of psychology who studies social anxiety at Washington University in St. Louis, tells Bustle.

CDC grossly underestimating superbug death toll, researchers find
Becker's Hospital Review | 2/18/19
The researchers found their upper-end estimate of 162,044 deaths would make multidrug-resistant infections the third-leading cause of death in the U.S. Researcher Jason Burnham, MD, said he thinks even those numbers could be conservative.

A conversation with pediatric obesity researcher Denise Wilfley, PhD
Healio | 2/19/19
[Denise] Wilfley is the Scott Rudolph University professor of psychiatry, medicine, pediatrics, and psychological and brain sciences at the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. She serves as the director of the Center for Healthy Weight and Wellness at the Washington University School of Medicine and helped lead the push for binge eating to be recognized as an eating disorder....

Teens Are Vaping More And More, Even As Many Steer Clear Of Other Substances
St. Louis Public Radio | 2/19/19
On Tuesday’s St. Louis on the Air, host Don Marsh will lead a discussion in light of a recent study of American teenagers that showed a big jump in nicotine vaping in 2018. Joining him for the discussion will be Dr. Patricia Cavazos-Rehg, who is an associate professor in the Washington University School of Medicine’s Department of Psychiatry.
Ron DeSantis wants Floridians to access cheaper prescription meds from Canada
Tampa Bay Times/Miami Herald | 2/21/19
“It’s one thing if individual Americans might be crossing the border to purchase Canadian drugs at a discount,” said Rachel Sachs, an associate law professor at Washington University of St. Louis, who works in health law and drug regulations.

New recommendation could cut costly UTI tests in half, study says
UPI | 2/21/19
“Over-testing for UTIs drives up health-care costs and leads to unnecessary antibiotic use which spreads antibiotic resistance,” senior author and infectious diseases specialist David K. Warren, a researcher at Washington University School of Medicine and study author, said in a news release.

Congress is grilling pharma CEOs today. Here are 8 ideas for bringing down drug prices.
Vox | 2/26/19
One irony of the ongoing drug prices debate, says Rachel Sachs, an associate professor at Washington University in St. Louis, is that the drug industry opposition to more modest proposals like this, targeted to particular bad actors and actions, is driving Democrats to embrace more ambitious and potentially disruptive proposals.

Pharma’s day in Congress: ‘A hearing not a show’
BioPharma Dive | 2/26/19
Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle were “advancing very similar arguments and concerns” at the hearing, said Rachel Sachs, an associate law professor at Washington University in St. Louis. Republican Sens. John Cornyn, R-Texas, Bill Cassidy, R-La., and Grassley stood out in particular, Sachs said.

STL Moms: Depression and Pregnancy
Fox 2 | 2/27/19
Washington University psychologist Dr. Shannon Lenze stopped by to bring awareness to a serious pregnancy side effect: depression. One in seven women suffer with depression during and after pregnancy, and it is more than baby blues.
Time’s Up Takes on Sexual Abuse and Discrimination in Healthcare
InStyle/People | 2/28/19
Being hazed in an emergency room during her medical training is what alerted Jessi Gold, MD, MS, who is now an Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at Washington University in St Louis, to the toxic work environment in medicine. She was a student, looking on as doctors worked to save a patient who had been shot....