Parents can better cuddle premature babies thanks to tiny new sensors
National Geographic | 2/28/19
The sensors are not yet approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, though … they could be deployed to some hospitals in as little as two years. And that would be a major boon to parents facing this difficult situation, says Bobbi Pineda, a neonatal therapist and assistant professor at Washington University School of Medicine who was not involved in the study.

Drugs could get more expensive for American patients...
Daily Mail (UK) | 3/1/19
The high costs could translate into rising prices for Americans if and when the drugs make it to the market, said Rachel Sachs, an associate professor of law at Washington University School of Law, and an expert in drug pricing. "Companies feel able to spend this amount on purchasing these smaller companies because they feel as if they’ll be able to charge a high enough price to recoup that investment," Sachs told DailyMail.com.

First ever global scientific eating plan forgets the world’s poor
The Conversation | 2/27/19
A team of 37 world-leading scientists from 16 countries have just released the world’s first ever scientific eating plan…. [Co-authored by four scientists, including Lora Iannotti of Washington University in St. Louis]

Can Netflix Show Americans How to Cut the Cost of Drugs?
The New York Times | 3/5/19
The Netflix business model makes particular sense for hep C drugs, said Rachel Sachs, an associate professor of law at Washington University School of Law. Hep C is a communicable disease, so governments have a strong public health interest in treating as many patients as possible. With widespread treatment, hep C could be eradicated. “That rarely comes along and is important to pursue as a public health matter,” she said, referring to the possibility of eradication….
**These Researchers Are Using Artificial Intelligence to Make a Better Flu Vaccine**

*Time* | 3/5/19

Jacco Boon, an assistant professor of medicine specializing in influenza virology at Washington University in St. Louis, says AI-related efforts similar to Berg’s work have already revealed new information about the human immune response to the flu. “What we can detect, and in what volumes, have all gotten better over time,” says Boon.

**The Health 202: One GOP senator is urging the drug industry to make good on lowering prices**

*The Washington Post* | 3/6/19

And Rachel Sachs, an associate professor of law at Washington University in St. Louis, said the GOP senator’s proposal puts the onus on drug companies to act. Drug companies have been “very successful in demonizing PBMs over the last few years,” she told me. “Now that it looks like Congress is thinking about giving the pharmaceutical industry what they have asked for on PBMs…..”

**Engineering ways to reduce clothing waste**

*Engineering 360* | 3/8/19

A paper from environmental health researchers at Washington University in St. Louis details the problem. The paper, “The global environmental injustice of fast fashion,” co-authored by Rachel Bick, Erika Halsey and Christine Ekenga, was published in the journal Environmental Health.

**Expanding Medicaid would not cost Missouri money**

*St. Louis American* | 3/8/19

A group of researchers at the Center for Health Economics and Policy at Washington University, including myself, recently analyzed the fiscal impact of a potential Medicaid expansion in Missouri from a state budgetary perspective…. *Abigail R. Barker is a research assistant professor at the Brown School, the Center for Health Economics and Policy and the Institute for Public Health at Washington University in St. Louis*

**Puzzling number of men tied to Ferguson protests have died**

*The Associated Press* | 3/17/19

“These protesters and their deaths may not be a high priority for (police) since there is this antagonistic relationship,” Washington University sociologist Odis Johnson said. “I think there is a need for them to have a greater sense of urgency.”…
This Jefferson County teen has everything on track – except her weight. Now she hopes surgery can help.

St. Louis Post-Dispatch | 3/18/19
“'The surgery gained a real foothold in just the last few years,’’ said Shaina Eckhouse, a bariatric surgeon at Washington University School of Medicine whose team also performs weight loss surgeries on adolescents…. The key to curbing childhood obesity rates is prevention or early intervention, but pediatricians are often overwhelmed by the number of patients with obesity, said national childhood obesity expert Denise Wilfley, a researcher at Washington University who runs family obesity treatment studies.

HIV Remains Persistent Problem In Missouri — Especially In Rural Areas

St. Louis Public Radio | 3/22/19
But in rural parts of the state, it’s often more difficult for people to gain access to HIV testing and treatment, said Bill Powderly, director of the Washington University School of Medicine Institute for Public Health. “Particularly in rural communities, access to care is uneven,” he said Friday at the 7th Annual Global Health & Infectious Disease Conference at Wash U.

Beneficial bacteria can turn from friend to foe in the body, say scientists

Irish Examiner | 3/26/19
Lead researcher Professor Gautam Dantas, from Washington University School of Medicine, said: “If we’re going to use living things as medicines, we need to recognise that they’re going to adapt, and that means that what you put in your body is not necessarily what’s going to be there even a couple of hours later….”

Smoking marijuana while pregnant may raise risks for baby

CBS News | 3/27/19
“'Given increasing cannabis accessibility and potency, as well as growing public perceptions that it’s safe to use, it is critical for additional research to understand the potential adverse consequences and benefits of cannabis throughout development and how these associations may arise,’’ senior study author Ryan Bogdan, associate professor of psychological & brain sciences at Washington University in St. Louis, told CBS News.
To address inequities, we must put race at the forefront
St. Louis Post-Dispatch | 3/27/19
[Op-ed:] Many people think about racism as individual prejudice. However, it is much more than that. … Darrell Hudson is associate professor at the Brown School at Washington University, and co-director of the Collaboration on Race, Inequality and Social Mobility in America, which is hosting Race at the Forefront: Sharpening a Focus on Race in Applied Research on Thursday and Friday.

Apple Watch feature that spots signs of deadly heart conditions FINALLY launches in the UK...
Daily Mail (UK) | 3/28/19
Dr. David Brown, a Washington University [in] St Louis cardiologist, thinks that the risks of AFib in the Apple watch wearing age-group are so low that there will be a a surge in false alarms....

As a cure for high drug prices, outcomes-based deals aren’t delivering yet
Modern Healthcare | 3/23/19
“Instead of a money-back guarantee, you could think about an initial payment plus bonus payments if the drug performs as hoped,” said Rachel Sachs, associate professor of law at Washington University.

Do business concerns keep doctors from treating opioid addiction?
STAT News | 3/29/19
[Op-ed:] One morning last week as I arrived at our new addiction treatment center, the CAPA Clinic in St. Louis, one of the social work student interns I supervise couldn’t wait to tell me about the “excitement” they’d experienced in the few hours the clinic had been open for the day: a patient had been stabbed, another was screaming in the waiting room and had to be removed by the police, and detectives arrived to arrest one of the clinic’s clients....David A. Patterson

Silver Wolf, Ph.D., is an associate professor in the George Warren Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis...