The Annals of Health Law is proud to present the Fifteenth Issue of our online, student-written publication, Advance Directive. Advance Directive aims to support and encourage student scholarship in the area of health law and policy. In this vein, this issue explores the legal, regulatory, and economic challenges to innovation in health care. Healthcare innovation may conventionally be thought of as limited to issues related to technology, or development of new drugs and therapies or medical devices; however, healthcare innovation is decidedly broader, encompassing a vast array of different industries, providers, and legal frameworks. Here, the authors examine a variety of topics on the issue of healthcare innovation, ranging from the integration of social services into the traditional medical model to policies relating to increased transparency within the pharmaceutical industry.

This issue begins with a discussion of the managed care model. Our first author examines how integration of legal aid into the managed care model could expand access to preventive care, thereby decreasing overall healthcare costs for individuals. Thereafter, another author critiques the financial success of managed care models, focusing on how demographics might negatively impact such success.

Our discussion continues with the impact the Affordable Care Act (“ACA”) has had on innovation. First, one author considers the Hospital Readmissions Reduction Program, established in Section 3025 of the ACA, and argues that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services successfully utilized this program to lower readmission rates, thus contributing to lower costs for healthcare organizations overall. The next article offers an author’s perspective on how the ACA has impacted innovation, with a specific focus on the influence of the Physician Payment Sunshine Act (“Sunshine Act”). The author examines how the Sunshine Act has possibly discouraged physician cooperation or participation in the development and advancement of the industry.

Additionally, we navigate current debates within the pharmaceutical industry. One author discusses the role of genetics in the industry, arguing in favor of the use of genetic information to improve the effectiveness of medication. Another author discusses the patentability of genetic information. Finally, we end our focus on the pharmaceutical industry with an author who argues that drug transparency could potentially stifle innovation, rather than having the intended effect of decreasing cost.

Lastly, we evaluate how innovation affects the traditional doctor-patient relationship. One author notes that medical mobile applications affect this traditional relationship by increasing consumer knowledge and participation in the health care process but argues that the Food & Drug Administration must increase regulation on these types of applications for them to remain safe and effective. We then discuss the ACA’s mandate that healthcare organizations meet a certain minimum level of patient satisfaction to receive Medicare funding. In this realm, our final author discusses the possibility that an increased focus on patient satisfaction, especially with an increasingly engaged consumer population might negatively impact the quality of care provided.
We would like to thank Amy Michelau, our Technical Production Editor, because without her knowledge and commitment this Issue would not have been possible. We would like to give special thanks to our *Annals* Editor-in-Chief, Ryan Marcus, for his leadership and support. The *Annals* Executive Board Members, Sarah Kitlinski, Sumaya Nough, Amy Michelau, and Morgan Carr, and the *Annals* Senior Editors, Holly McCurdy, James Flannery, Joseph Willuweit, and Christopher MacKenzie provided invaluable editorial assistance with this Issue. The *Annals* members deserve special recognition for their thoughtful and topical articles and for editing the work of their peers. Lastly, we must thank the Beazley Institute for Health Law and Policy and our faculty advisors, Professor Lawrence Singer, Professor John Blum, and Kristin Finn for their guidance and support.

We hope you enjoy our Fifteenth Issue of *Advance Directive*.

Sincerely,

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