The Annals of Health Law is proud to present the third Issue of our online journal, Advance Directive. Consistent with our goal of promoting student health law scholarship, this Issue features articles addressing the theme of Health Care Disparities: Effectiveness, Rationing, and the Road to the Future, which expands upon discussions presented at the Third Annual Beazley Symposium on Access to Health Care.

This Issue begins with a look at future changes to improve the United States’ healthcare system. First, our authors examine ways to reform the healthcare system by implementing an explicit rationing of healthcare; and using the current Veterans Health Administration as a model for healthcare reform. Second, our authors explore potential solutions to decreasing the cost of healthcare through reasonably priced retail health clinics; and changing physician compensation, such as through pay-for-performance models.

Next, the Issue transitions into examining solutions to improve access and quality to healthcare. Specifically, our authors suggest that the pay-for-performance compensation model can improve access and quality of healthcare for the poor and ethnic/racial minorities; how decreasing the cost of medical school for physicians can increase access to health care in rural communities; implementing technological innovations, such as Electronic Health Records (EHRs), can improve quality of care; using charity care can improve access to healthcare for the uninsured; and that consumer driven healthcare is not a solution for improving access to healthcare for the poor, uneducated, and chronically ill.
Finally, the Issue delves into the current disparities needing access to healthcare in the United States. In particular, our authors investigate access to healthcare for the mentally ill through the Mental Health Parity Act; health disparities resulting from the effects of food deserts on low-income individuals; access to healthcare relating to obesity; and health disparities relating to HIV/AIDS at Historical Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

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We hope you enjoy our third Issue of Advance Directive.

Sincerely,

Jana E. Harris
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