The *Annals of Health Law* is proud to present the Fifth Issue of our online counterpart, *Advance Directive*. Consistent with our goal of promoting student scholarship in the area of health law, this Issue features articles focusing on the cost impact stemming from the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA).

This Issue begins with exploring innovative health care payment models and proposals to control costs. We begin with examining Accountable Care Organizations and determining whether these programs will lower the cost of health care while maximizing the value of health services provided to patients. Next, our authors evaluate the pay-for-performance system to determine whether a payment theory designed to reward physicians for delivering higher quality care as opposed to quantity of services, actually saves costs. Our authors also analyze whether bundled payment programs improve reimbursement for physicians while providing quality care for patients.

The Issue then examines initiatives in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to expand access to health care while limiting medical malpractice claims. Our authors propose increasing grant money for Federally Qualified Health Centers in order to impart quality care upon communities and populations that have limited access to health care. With the increase of availability to health care, our authors propose that medical liability demonstration projects will manage medical liability claims. These projects focus on alternative dispute resolution programs, rapid medical error disclosure, and the development of guidelines to reduce lawsuits.
We then address critical components in the new reform affecting pharmaceuticals and cancer patients. Our authors analyze controversies surrounding the provisions in the PPACA shortening the exclusivity period for biologics that may not provide enough incentive for biologic manufacturers to continue investing in innovative drugs. In addition, our authors examine whether new reforms will improve the quality, cost, and availability of treatment for cancer patients or create widespread delays and other negative side-effects for those seeking treatment.

Additionally, the Issue introduces a debate regarding the Preexisting Condition Insurance Plan, which aims to provide insurance coverage to all individuals regardless of adverse medical diagnoses or preexisting conditions. The debate addresses the benefits to individuals with preexisting conditions and the obstacles insurance companies now face under the new reform.

Next, the Issue transitions into examining the response to a growing epidemic – obesity. Our authors analyze the challenge of childhood obesity; new programs to formed to address the issue, including First Lady Michelle Obama’s Let’s Move! Campaign, statewide and employer programs and their responses, and the impact of obesity on rising health care costs.

Finally, the Issue compares the costs and access of health care treatment in the United States with other countries. Our authors explore the differences between the cost-effectiveness of the newly reformed healthcare system in the U.S. and the national healthcare plan in Canada from a consumer perspective. Additionally, they propose several advantages for medical tourism as an effective potential for significant cost savings.

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Executive Board members, Megan Stiarwalt, Drew McCormick, and Mallory Golas, for their editorial assistance. The Annals membership deserves particular recognition for writing timely, thoughtful articles and for editing the work for their peers. Finally, we extend our warmest appreciation to the Beazely Institute for Health Law & Policy and our faculty advisors, Professor Lawrence Singer, Professor John Blum, and Megan Bess for their continued support, encouragement, and mentorship. We hope you enjoy our fifth Issues of Advance Directive.

Sincerely,

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