

# DRC

## Annual Research Meeting

### **Disability Research and Policy: New Evidence and Promising Ideas**

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2013**

#### **PRESENTERS**

#### **9:45–10:00 a.m.: Opening Remarks**



**David Stapleton** is a senior fellow at Mathematica and directs the Center for Studying Disability Policy. He is also the area leader for the firm's studies of Social Security Administration (SSA) programs. Since 1991, his research has focused on the impacts of public policy on the employment and income of people with disabilities. Stapleton has leadership roles on the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Center of Excellence for Disability Research, SSA's Benefit Offset National Demonstration (BOND) evaluation, SSA's Ticket to Work evaluation, three National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers,

SSA's Substantial Gainful Activity demonstration project, and the Department of Labor's Disability Employment Initiative evaluation. He has a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

#### **10:00–11:45 a.m.: TRENDS IN DISABILITY CLAIMS AND BENEFIT RECEIPT**

##### **Moderator:**



**Gina Livermore**, a senior researcher at Mathematica, is an authority on health insurance and employment policy issues for people with disabilities. Livermore has conducted research on the prevalence of long-term poverty and material hardship among this population. Her work also focuses on improving the quality of national disability data and has included studying the limitations of and suggesting improvements for the national disability data system. Livermore has a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

#### **Chronic Disease, Functional Status Limitations, and Social Security Disability Payments**



**Jay Bhattacharya** is an associate professor at the Stanford University School of Medicine and a research associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER). His work is focused on health economics and outcomes research and examines constraints that vulnerable populations face in making decisions that affect their health status, as well as the effects of government policies designed to benefit these populations. Dr. Bhattacharya holds an M.D. and a Ph.D. in economics from Stanford University.

## Understanding the Increase in DI Spending



**Jeffrey Liebman** is the Malcolm Wiener professor of public policy at the Harvard Kennedy School, where he teaches courses in public sector economics and American economic policy. He is a research associate at NBER, where he is the associate director of both the retirement and disability research centers. In his research, Liebman studies tax and budget policy, social insurance, poverty, and income inequality. He has recently established the Social Impact Bond (SIB) Lab at the Kennedy School to study how governments can foster social innovation and improve the results they obtain with their social spending. The SIB Lab is helping 10 state and local governments develop pay-for-success projects. Liebman received his M.A. and Ph.D. in economics from Harvard.

## Exploring the Growth of the Child SSI Caseload



**Nora Gordon** is an associate professor of public policy at Georgetown University. Her research interests center around the economics of education, including fiscal federalism, desegregation, and political economy. She has studied the causes and consequences of school desegregation, intergovernmental grants, school district consolidation, and the current and historical federal role in elementary and secondary education. Gordon is also a research associate at NBER and holds a Ph.D. in economics from Harvard University.

## 12:30–2:30 p.m.: EARLY INTERVENTION AND EMPLOYMENT

### Moderator:



**David Wittenburg**, a senior researcher at Mathematica, provides research support to Disability Research Consortium (DRC) work on youth and young adults with disabilities. Wittenburg has written extensively and testified before Congress on the challenges facing SSI youth in transitioning to independence. He has served on the editorial board of the *Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation* for the past eight years and is a member of the National Academy of Social Insurance. Wittenburg holds a Ph.D. in economics from Syracuse University.

### Discussant:



**David A. Wise** is the John F. Stambaugh professor of political economy at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government and a research associate with NBER, where he directs a large project on the economics of aging and health care. In addition to his current work focused on issues related to population aging, Wise's past research includes analysis of youth employment, the economics of education and schooling decisions, and methodological econometric work. Wise holds a Ph.D. in economics and an M.A. in statistics from the University of California, Berkeley.

## **Firm-Level Early Intervention Incentives: Which Recent Employers of Disability Program Entrants Would Pay More?**



**David Mann** is a researcher at Mathematica and an affiliate of the Center for Studying Disability Policy. His primary research interests include the labor force participation, human capital accumulation, and benefit receipt of youth and adults with disabilities. He also has expertise in disability reform and evaluating managed care programs that serve people with chronic care needs. Mann has led several studies examining the education, employment, and earnings outcomes of young adults with childhood onset disabilities. He has also co-authored papers developing and analyzing approaches for reforming the nation's disability support system that could both achieve fiscal objectives and improve outcomes for people with disabilities. Mann holds a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Pennsylvania.

## **Antecedents of Voluntary and Involuntary Job Separations of Workers with Psychiatric Disabilities**



**Judith Cook** is a tenured professor of psychiatry in the University of Illinois at Chicago's Department of Psychiatry, where she directs the Center on Mental Health Services Research and Policy. Cook leads several DRC research projects related to workers with chronic conditions. She designs and implements innovative programs to enhance the health and behavioral health of vulnerable populations. She works with federal, state, and local authorities on behavioral health service system redesign and alternative financing strategies. Her recent work focuses on randomized controlled trials of evidence-based practice treatments for serious mental illness and outcomes of individuals with co-occurring mental illness and chronic medical conditions. Cook holds a Ph.D. in sociology from Ohio State University.

## **Outcomes of Youth and Young Adults Seeking VR Services**



**Todd Honeycutt** is a health researcher at Mathematica whose work focuses on the outcomes and effectiveness of vocational rehabilitation (VR) agencies and statistics related to transition-age youth with disabilities. Honeycutt is deputy director of the evaluation of a demonstration project to improve the outcomes of SSDI beneficiaries served by state VR agencies. In addition, Honeycutt has worked on SSA's YTD. He has a Ph.D. in health systems and policy from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey.

## **The Effect of the SSI Children's Program on Parental Labor Supply and Long-Term Outcomes of Enrolled Children**



**Manasi Deshpande** is a Ph.D. candidate in economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Her research interests include the interaction between social insurance and labor markets and the effects of social insurance on consumption and well-being. Before graduate school, she was a policy advisor at the White House National Economic Council and a research assistant at The Hamilton Project at Brookings. She received a B.A. in economics, mathematics, and the Plan II Honors Program (humanities) from The University of Texas at Austin.