

First Impressions Report for 2015 Health Policy Scholars  
June 30, 2015  
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Thank you for the opportunity to attend the ACS/Heller School Leadership Program in Health Policy and Management. It was a terrific week because of the organization, structure, content, and faculty. Three things stood out above everything. The first was Jon Chilingirian serving as the course director. He has an enviable ability to teach and engage the audience. He (and Linda Purrini) ensured that everything ran smoothly which was much appreciated. The second most outstanding aspect of the course was the opportunity to meet and discuss health policy and leadership issues with other surgeons who are interested and invested in this topic. The attendees brought useful and different perspectives to the course. They were engaged with the discussions and thus enhanced everyone's learning. The third thing that stood out was the course content. The topics covered were varied but quite useful. Discussions about leadership, management, finance, and health policy were fantastic.

Jon Chilingirian led several sessions and they were filled with terrific insights as well as evidence-based information. He brought many concepts about leadership that will be invaluable for me. I particularly enjoyed the discussion on strategic thinking in health care because he talked about stakeholders, SWOT analysis, clarifying perceptions and assumptions, and fair process. As a surgeon/leader, these topics are so relevant to everything we do. It was great to have the classroom discussion and then be able to break out into small groups to put the concepts to use.

Another important aspect of this course were the nitty-gritty discussions about managing clinical issues as well as finances. Being able to look at a process and identify the bottlenecks will be very useful for

my practice. Additionally, Brenda Anderson's session on managerial accounting was excellent. She really helped me understand income statements and balance sheets. She also gave great insights into capital investments and returns on the investments. Jody's talk on relational coordination was also excellent. She showed us how relational coordination could really improve quality of care while maximizing the efficiency. Stuart Altman's dissertation on health policy was priceless. He has seen it all up close and remains as connected to it as anyone alive.

In summary, my initial impression of the course is that it was time well-spent. I learned that I do not know much about leadership and health policy management and that I want to learn more.