Letter from the Editors

Jacob Harper  
American University Washington College of Law

Katherine Chau  
American University Washington College of Law

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Recommended Citation
Welcome to the Spring 2013 volume of the *Health Law & Policy Brief*. In this issue, we reflect on the rapidly evolving regulatory framework in both the healthcare and pharmaceutical industries, as well as examine a number of public policy concerns related to maintaining health for our nation's citizens.

As the United States witnesses the cavalier march of healthcare costs to levels previously unseen, both political and industry leaders are looking for innovative ways to contain those costs and reverse this troubling course. In the delivery of healthcare services, the emphasis is on better care coordination, enhanced communication between providers, and value-based purchasing by the federal government. Likewise, the pharmaceutical industry is dealing with an ongoing struggle between brand-name and generic drugs, as the government attempts to encourage research and development by brand-name manufacturers while reducing often exorbitant drug costs through generic substitution. Adding to the complexity of the pharmaceutical industry is the unique role of biologics and their sensitive manufacturing processes, as well as the recently implemented Physician Payment Sunshine Act, which requires drug manufacturers to report payments to physicians in an effort to increase transparency in the sector.

Consequently, the time is ripe for law and public policy students and practitioners alike to engage in critical analyses of our current healthcare regime and develop creative solutions to some of these pressing problems. It will take the collective effort of many minds to develop real, long-lasting, and workable routes toward correcting the U.S. healthcare system. The pages that follow represent but a small sliver of the intensive thought these matters will require.

On behalf of the *Health Law & Policy Brief* Editorial Board, we would like to specially thank our staff members, whose tireless effort toward reviewing and editing these pieces ensures that we continually produce relevant, high-quality articles on health law issues. This volume would not be possible without their hard work and dedication. For questions or information about the *Health Law & Policy Brief*, please visit our new website at www.healthlawpolicy.org.

Best,

Jake & Katherine