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Conference Proceedings

At the Talon Room in Osprey Commons & the UNF -Adam W. Herbert University Center

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Panel: A Healthcare Partnership: From Research to Reality

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ABSTRACT

Over the past decade, healthcare researchers have spent hundreds of millions of dollars in sequencing the first human genome. In addition, there is significant research in the use of stem cells to regenerate specialized tissue for treatment of individual patients. This session will address the use of this research to bring “Individualized Healthcare” to the patient. Specifically, this Panel will discuss the use of Human Genomics and other stem cell therapies to regenerate organs and treat pressure ulcers. The appropriate use of these new clinical technologies provide opportunities for significant improvements in healthcare quality as well as improvements in preventive health services. Following discussion of the technology, the Panel will discuss an Academic partnership where Graduate Capstone Students do a “Comprehensive Business Plan” designed to bring new healthcare services to the market place. The growth of “Individualized Healthcare” requires collaborative relationships between researchers, clinicians and healthcare leadership as process-focused care continues to develop. More importantly, new healthcare partnerships facilitate innovation across the continuum of healthcare practice and are a cost effective approach to improving healthcare quality.
How does Capital Control Spur Economic Growth

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ABSTRACT

This paper provides a conceptual and empirical framework for evaluating how capital controls influence economic growth. In a small open economy which relies on successful investment projects to provide capital goods, borrowing short-term loans has two contradictory impacts: it reduces the interest costs of financing investment projects, but leads to larger asset losses in the scenario of short-term debt run. We show that private financing decisions made by domestic investors are distorted towards excessive risk-taking, leading to ineffective capital formation, thus capital control policies, particularly, regulations on short-term loans, can be socially beneficial as they alter the debt composition, promote capital formation, to achieve higher output level. Finally, using a panel dataset covering 80 countries from 1995 to 2009, we sequentially test three hypotheses and found empirical evidence to support this channel.
Labor Market Reform and Urban Married Women’s Labor Supply in China during 1993-2006: Have Women’s Wage Elasticities Changed During China’s Transition to a Free Market Economy?

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ABSTRACT

China’s labor market has undergone significant change since the early 1990’s when the urban labor market was governed by the communist party in a command and control system where both jobs and wages were set by a centralized employment placement system. During the 1990's China began adopting a more market-oriented model culminating in a major labor market restructuring. Using the China Health and Nutrition Survey (CHNS), our study provides new evidence on the labor supply of married women in urban areas during China’s period of economic reform. As a more market-oriented system is implemented we find evidence that educational attainment is an important predictor of how women labor supply has changed in response to rising real wages. The results show that wage elasticity differs across educational categories and in some instances seems to have risen throughout the transition, possibly signaling greater flexibility in the labor market. In addition, more educated women are choosing to work fewer hours in later years yet participate in the labor market at much higher rates than women with lower levels of education.
ICT’s Role in Reducing Inequality and Poverty

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ABSTRACT

This paper empirically analyzes the effects that information and communication technology (ICT) infrastructure has on inequality and poverty and if ICT infrastructure is more effective than traditional infrastructure at mitigating these problems. Today, the role of ICT infrastructure must be evaluated along with education, healthcare, and other traditional indicators when discerning trends in inequality and poverty. An analysis is performed on over 170 countries from least developed countries to developed countries over the years spanning from 2000-2014. Both fixed effect models and random effect models are used due to the presence of panel data. The results on ICT’s effect on inequality are ambiguous with increases in fixed broadband subscriptions increasing poverty, but increases in mobile cellular subscriptions decreasing poverty. The results for mobile cellular subscriptions support the hypothesis that ICT reduces poverty. It was found that traditional infrastructure was more effective than ICT infrastructure in reducing inequality and poverty.
ABSTRACT

Florida households have suffered billions of dollars in losses due mainly to wind-driven rainwater intrusion. Therefore, the effective delivery of salient vulnerability information coupled with practical mitigation options is a formidable, yet essential to homeowners living in hurricane prone communities in Florida and beyond. Confronting the significant upfront costs of mitigation also remains a major obstacle to widespread adoption of resilience-enhancing measures. Therefore, an in-depth online survey was developed for households, using the latest scientific data, models, and risk assessments available. A database consists of contact information for over 400,000 households who had applied to the My Safe Florida Home (MSFH) Program beginning in 2007 was acquired from the State of Florida. A random sample of 40,000 households was selected for a survey study in 2012. In the survey of over 1,700 Florida households, we found broad support for an array of statewide risk reduction initiatives, including stricter building codes and land use policies to enhance coastal resilience. However, financial incentives, and not the presentation of vulnerability information, were shown to encourage individual mitigation activity including low and high-cost roofing and opening protection options to reduce hurricane-related content/interior damages.
ABSTRACT

This paper examines energy development in northeast Colorado, comparing the landscape disturbance created by oil and gas production to wind turbines inside a US National Forest zone. Known as the Pawnee National Grasslands (PNG), this high-plains environment consists of a mosaic of federal, state, private and experimental lands. The PNG contains unique animal species and landscapes, which attracts tourists, possesses rich oil and gas deposits, includes ranching and agriculture, and encompasses a very large wind farm. This patchwork of economic activities has created checkerboard pattern of land-use and land-cover. In this paper we focus on the alterations created by energy development: oil and gas and wind production. Utilizing remote sensing data and geographic information systems (GIS) techniques, we quantify and map the footprint of energy development in this US Forest zone at the landscape level. Initial findings suggest that while the size and scope of oil and gas related disturbances vary in this landscape, wind turbines also generate a substantial footprint that not only reduces the amount of natural vegetation, but also fragments the landscape and disrupts local bat and bird populations.
Exploiting Big Data: A Socio-Technical Perspective

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ABSTRACT

Big Data has been increasingly used by firms in public and private sectors alike across industry to seek new insights and make better, faster and timely business decisions. Big data, which is large pool of data brought together from different heterogeneous sources, has become the basis for competition and growth for individual firms (Davenport, Barth & Bean, 2012; LaValle et. al., 2010), enhancing productivity and creating significant value to the world economy by reducing waste and increasing quality of product and services. With the data collections tools getting better and cheaper, most firms have amazed vast amount of data.

Much of the academic and practitioner literature has focused on the ability to collect, including the variety of data, and the advanced statistical and technological capabilities needed to exploit such data (Zikopoulos & Eaton, 2011). The core argument is that exploiting such data will lead to enhanced understanding of various business functions such as marketing, business process management, finance and other analytical areas (Chen, Chiang, & Storey, 2012).

However, much of the research in this domain in general and information systems literature specifically, shows the importance of a well-balanced socio-technical system to achieve good results from a work system (Alter, 2002; Gupta & Bostrom, 2005). Sociotechnical systems (STS) is an approach to complex organizational work design that recognizes the interaction between people and technology in workplaces (Bostrom & Heinen, 1977).

In this paper, we argue that while much of the focus of big data research has been on the underlying technology and the statistical approaches needed to exploit it, very limited work has been done on the other elements of the socio-technical approach i.e. the interaction between people and technology. The importance of this question has been also been highlighted in practice (Davenport & Harris, 2007; lohr, 2012, Delone & McLean 2003). For an organization to be able to aptly use big data analytics to drive business growth by seeking critical action at the right time, it must be closely linked to business strategy, embedded into overall organizational process and must be easy for end-users to understand (LaValle et. al., 2010).

Thus, the key objective of the paper is to outline a conceptual socio-technical model for big data usage. The focus will be on what kind of knowledge is needed to successfully understand and analyze big data in organizations. Clear and testable hypothesis will be presented for future testing.

The paper has broad implications on implementation of big data techniques including training users. It also provides theoretical contribution in helping explain the equivocal outcomes from big data in practice. Finally, it will also help explain how the promises of big data can be realized in the long term through the interaction of people and technology.
Resource Dependency and Hospital Performance in Hospital Value Based Purchasing

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ABSTRACT

This study utilizes multiple regression analysis and the lens of Resource Dependency Theory to evaluate the effect of the external environment on hospital performance as measured by the Medicare Hospital Value-Based Purchasing (HVBP) program. Results indicate that the Patient Experience of Care Domain is the most sensitive to environmental factors including the availability and accessibility of resources, as well as the uncertainty and complexity of the environment. The Outcome Domain demonstrates some sensitivity to environmental conditions, but is associated more closely with factors relating to resource availability and accessibility. The Process of Care Domain demonstrates minimal sensitivity to environmental conditions, and may be more related to individual hospital characteristics than environmental pressures. Finally, the overall Total Performance Score demonstrates some relationship to access and availability to resources, as well as to environmental uncertainties.
Lean/Six Sigma’s Significant Impact on my Management and Leadership Style

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ABSTRACT

Healthcare, as with any other service operation, requires systematic innovation efforts to remain competitive, cost efficient, and up-to-date. Rapidly changing U.S. health care policy coupled with dramatic decreases in provider reimbursement is causing unprecedented pressure for hospital leadership. Quality, patient experience and financial goals are a wobbly three legged stool and yet meeting them is essential to remain competitive in a dynamic and competitive industry. Successfully navigating these turbulent waters requires a unique style of management; one that includes transparency, autonomy, accountability and visibility. Innovative leadership approaches to truly engage team members are no longer desirable, they are necessary. A background in Lean/Six Sigma, performance improvement and change management is beneficial for leading a successful hospital operation, particularly during these challenging times. This presentation will focus on creative healthcare management approaches and Lean & Six Sigma Thinking as an effective framework for producing results.
Hospital Utilization Patterns After the Implementation of Hospital Value Based Purchasing

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ABSTRACT

This study utilizes multinomial logistic regression analysis and Transaction Cost Economic Theory (TCE) to evaluate the affect hospital performance as measured by the Medicare Hospital Value-Based Purchasing (HVBP) program on the volume of hospitals inpatient and outpatient services. This new business model has created a migration of inpatient services to outpatient. Study results indicate a significant relationship between percent utilization of inpatient vs. outpatient and hospital value-based purchasing score. Furthermore, environmental factors such as the Herfindahl-Hirschman Index, Case Mix Index and system participation were found to significantly impact hospitals ratio if inpatient to outpatient. Graphic representations of the relative risk ratio shows that hospitals in the top 25 percentile in outpatient services have an overall lower HVB Score. The end of the hospital-centric model will change how hospitals participate in their local care delivery system.
ABSTRACT

This study will analyze the leadership practice of various leaders from the health care sector to understand their decision-making processes as it relates to their personal theorizing. Organizations are in need of leaders who approach leadership from a paradigm which supports effective leadership practice (Avey, Wernsing, & Palanski, 2012; Fry & Slocum, 2008; Fry, 2003; Fry & Nisiewicz, 2013; Jurkiewicz & Giacalone, 2004). It is the assumption of the researcher of this study that effective leadership may be connected to a leader’s values which impact their leadership practice and decision-making.

This study relies on a conceptual and theoretical framework based in Cornett’s (1990) Naturalistic Decision Making Model. It is imperative to the development of healthy learning organizations that the relationships influencing a leader’s naturalistic decision-making be explored. At the time of this writing, no naturalistic collective case study research in the health care industry has been completed to relate a leader’s naturalistic decision-making, or personal practical theories (PPTs) as defined by Cornett (1990). Furthermore, understanding has not been explored in a field outside of education regarding the formation of a leader’s PPTs and the relationship between a leader’s experiences and leadership practice (Cornett & Johnson, 2015; Cornett, Yeotis, & Terwilliger, 1990; Cornett, 1990).

Discovering the relationships involved with a leader’s naturalistic decision-making is of great importance to the educational and health care communities. It has the potential to impact human resources policies and training leading to stronger and more effective organizations. Understanding this phenomenon may lead to more reflective and thoughtful decision-making among health care leaders. It has the potential to impact organizational policies, structure, training, commitment, and profits. This may lead to healthier and intrinsically motivated employees and more effective learning organizations (Fry, 2003; Fry & Nisiewicz, 2013).
Old Problems, New Technology But How Do We Implement?

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ABSTRACT

Today’s health care administrators are faced with rising health care cost and attenuating resources as chronic disease continue to plague an aging population. Despite these challenges, healthcare organizations demonstrate a steady investment into health information technology (HIT). Federal programs such as the Health Information Technology and Economic Clinical Health Act (HITECH) and the Accountable Care Act were supported by technology proponents for its potential to increase HIT adoption; thus decreasing cost and increasing quality. However, the challenge for administrators and managers is how do we fully implement technology in needed populations. Health care managers understand that full implementation means clinician and patient buy in and compliance to use the technology as intended. Successful implementation of HIT should consider a change management strategy that emphasizes organizational development and change management.
Scores and More: How a Thriving Volunteer Workforce Can Positively Impact Healthcare!

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ABSTRACT

In this era of HCAHPS and IPPS, improving Press Ganey scores helps maximize payment reimbursement. Volunteer programs help raise customer service scores while supporting the hospital’s mission, vision and values. Proactive volunteer managers align departmental resources with institutional priorities and goals. Dedicated volunteers have the time and interest to provide specialized service excellence. It’s all about training volunteers and staff to function as a team to use every encounter to identify and meet patient and family needs. Volunteers make a significance difference in improving patient healthcare experiences every day throughout the United States. They collectively donate thousands of hours of service annually. In addition to raising millions of dollars through fundraising efforts, volunteers help contain healthcare costs. Volunteers share extra special kindnesses with patients, families, and staff.
Deductibility of Medical Expenses Incurred Abroad

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ABSTRACT

In this paper we examine the IRS treatment of medical expenses incurred by US citizens while living or traveling abroad. The number of US citizens living abroad has increased in the past 20 years along with the number of medical tourists (citizens traveling to other countries to receive medical treatment). The IRS allows for deductions of certain types procedures and costs related to medical expenses in general. While the treatment of medical expenses in other countries is similar to the tax treatment of expenses incurred within the United States, there are some important differences of which taxpayers should be aware. We will begin our study with an analysis of the increases in US citizens living outside the US. We will then explore general medical deductions for US taxpayers, followed by specific tax issues with respect to medical expenses incurred abroad. Lastly, we will discuss some of the methods of paying for treatment with an emphasis on tax reducing strategies.
The Impact of the St. Johns River on Residential Property Values and Tax Revenues

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ABSTRACT

Rivers are traditionally recognized for their environmental protection, recreation value, aesthetic appearance, as well as their commercial value. They also have the potential to create jobs, enhance property values, expand local businesses, attract new or relocating businesses, increase local tax revenues, decrease local government expenditures, and promote a local community. This study will focus on measuring how much the St. Johns River contributes to enhancing the value of property located along and in close proximity to the river. Given that tax revenues are a function of property values, as assessed by the property assessor’s office, given tax codes for the areas under study, along both sides of the Lower St. Johns River Basin, we will estimate the increase in tax revenues associated with proximity to the St. Johns River for Duval, Clay and St. Johns Counties.
ABSTRACT

Crowdfunding is a strategy for raising capital that is becoming increasingly popular in the global economy. It is a new way of providing financial support for creative entrepreneurial activities to promote economic development that were excluded from traditional capital raising processes after the great recession when banks and other financial institutions tightened eligibility requirements for loans and equity funding. This paper addresses a comparison between crowdfunding in the local onshore world using the Case of the One Spark Festival for creators which began in 2012, and has run each year since. In addition, crowdfunding at the global scale will be analyzed using the Case of Regulatory Framework Development for debt and equity financing through a web-based platform for offshore finance in the Isle of Man. The paper presents a new conceptual framework grounded in the theory of Evolutionary Economic Geography and is a work in progress using preliminary data.
Marketing in the United States and in Russia: Effects of Intercultural Differences on Strategy Formulation

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ABSTRACT

This paper examines important intercultural differences between the United States (USA) and Russia impacting marketing strategy in the two countries. A brief overview of important intercultural differences between the two countries is first presented, followed by suggested strategic solutions to the problem of marketing in diverse cultural environments.
A Comparative Analysis of E-Marketing Potential in the US, Russia, and France

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this article is to examine the developments in e-marketing in the US, Russia and France. A brief overview of the e-marketing field is presented. The evolution and current state of e-marketing in the three markets mentioned above is investigated; the opportunities and challenges for e-marketing are addressed. The e-marketing potential in the US, Russia and France is discussed.
Enhancing E-Marketing Efficiency Via Revenue Management Technology

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this article is to examine the degree of correlation between e-marketing and revenue management. The brief overview of e-marketing and revenue management evolution is presented. An attempt is made to redefine the concept of the marketing mix from the standpoint of e-marketing and revenue management. Possible synergies between revenue management and e-marketing are analyzed utilizing the suggested framework. The opportunities for enhancing traditional e-marketing tools via revenue management concepts and technology are investigated.
Predictors of Academic Performance Abroad: American Students in Marseille 2010 to 2014

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ABSTRACT

Collegiate study abroad programs are generally believed to enhance the personal development of students and to facilitate the attainment of their long range career goals. While the literature provides fairly consistent evidence that upon return to the home setting students will continue to perform at, or often above, their pre international study levels, questions remain concerning academic performance during the study abroad program itself. Since the study abroad experience is generally more demanding of students in terms of study self-discipline, it is widely believed that students with more international and work experience will be able to more effectively cope with the increased demands on their study time hence will perform at higher academic levels during the study abroad experience. The analysis reported here made use of available data from two different study abroad programs in an initial attempt to examine these beliefs. These study abroad programs involved U.S. undergraduate students from a southern public university studying at a university in Marseille, France for four weeks during the summers of 2010 and 2014. The data do not support the hypotheses that prior work history or international travel are related to academic performance during the study abroad experience.
Economic Evaluations of Medical Simulated Learning Environments

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ABSTRACT

Economic evaluations of the use of medical simulation in nursing curricula to enhance human capital and positively affect clinical and patient outcomes are rare. This work-in-progress paper provides a conceptual model of the use of simulated learning environments (SLEs) in nursing curricula and associated clinical and patient outcomes. In addition, it reviews economic evaluation methods in medical simulation drawing from similar fields, such as aviation. Last, it provides a methodological framework for conducting full economic evaluations of SLE programs, which includes the identification, measurement, valuation and comparison of all relevant economic benefits with economic costs for any competing programs. The framework used in this chapter has applicability to any health care field, in which medical simulations are used as an alternative program, to serve as a guide, or be adopted with ease.
ABSTRACT

With the expansion of primary care services under the Affordability Care Act in the US, there has been a push to improve inter-professional healthcare team collaboration. As such, inter-professional learning is becoming an essential component to health-related undergraduate and graduate training programs. In the summer of 2015, the Public Health Program at the University of North Florida developed a study abroad course that included a ten-day travel program to Switzerland for an interdisciplinary group of health majors in the Brooks College of Health. This case study describes elements of the study abroad course, pre-post findings of students’ ratings for inter-professional learning in a study abroad context, and lessons learned around the effectiveness of study abroad course for tacit inter-professional learning.
The dollar futures market under a significant change in monetary policy: the case of Argentina 2015

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ABSTRACT

After twelve years of monetary policy conducted by the Kirchner presidents and based on stimulating consumption, on appreciation of the peso and all sorts of subsidies and restrictions, the new administration of President Mauricio Macri attempted a return to a free market dollar getting out of the cepo –the clamp- as soon as possible.

Leaving the cepo (the clamp) and the problem of the dollar futures market were a major concern on the agenda of the newly inaugurated president. It was not possible to go from a monetary policy to another without anticipating the consequences and costs involved, essentially having received a central bank with exhausted coffers and an annual inflation rate of over 30%. There was little room for mistakes without hurting the entire economy.

Founded in 1909, ROFEX, Argentina's main financial derivatives market, had to ride between two diametrically opposed models of monetary policy, providing dollar future coverage in a rapidly changing environment plagued by divergent expectations.

This paper addresses the situation from different perspectives: Why did the problem grow so large? Who were the parties involved and what interests did they pursue? How was the country's most important futures market to go back to normal?
Facing an Announced Crisis with a New Government: The Argentine Case

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ABSTRACT

The recent economic and political changes in Argentina has been followed very closely by international community. A new government came to power in December of 2015 and is facing the daunting task of unraveling the economic policies from the previous government while, at the same time, restarting economic growth and confidence in the economic future. In this paper we use a series of variables to understand the situation that the government is facing and to assess the chances of success of the new policies. While the challenges are many, and the international community has welcomed the new policies, there is uncertainty on the future developments, which depend not just on economic policy implementation, but on the ability to reach political agreements with the opposition.
Impacts of the Accountable Care Act on Medicare Beneficiaries Served by Rural Health Clinics: Ambulatory Care Sensitive Condition and Hospital Readmissions, 2007 through 2013

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ABSTRACT

The enactment of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) has been expected to improve the coverage of health insurance, particularly as related to the coordination of seamless care and the continuity of elder care among Medicare beneficiaries. The analysis of longitudinal data (2007 through 2013) in rural areas offers a unique opportunity to examine trends and patterns of rural disparities in ambulatory care sensitive conditions and hospital readmissions within 30 days of discharge among Medicare beneficiaries served by rural health clinics (RHCs) in the eight southeastern states of DHHS Region 4. The purpose of this study is twofold: first, to examine rural trends and patterns of preventive care, ambulatory care sensitive conditions, and hospital readmissions by state and year (before and after the ACA enactment); and second, to investigate how contextual, organizational and ecological factors may influence the variations in health conditions, holding patient characteristics constant by employing a risk adjustment method. The unit of analysis is the RHC year. We used administrative data compiled from multiple sources for the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services for a period of seven years. A generalized estimating equation of twenty predictors was analyzed for the disparities of risk-adjusted rates, comparing the rate of each RHC year to the rate of 2009 (the pre-ACA year). From 2007 to 2010, risk-adjusted readmission rates increased steadily among Medicare beneficiaries served by RHCs. However, the rate declined in 2013. Predictors associated with the decline in hospitalization and re-hospitalization were identified. The increased rates were positively accounted for by the average age of RHC patients, proportion of physicians among the RHC clinical staff, percentage of dually eligible patients, percentage of white patients, and poverty of the patients. Lower rates were associated with the average number of RHC visits, percentage of female patients, and percentage of Hispanic patients. The twenty predictors accounted for 58% of the total variability in the disparities in readmissions. The synergism of multiple contextual, organizational and ecological factors, as shown in this study, should be considered in the design and implementation of intervention studies such as using appropriate incentive plans or penalties to address the problem of potentially avoidable hospital admissions and readmissions through prevention and enhancement of disease management of rural Medicare beneficiaries.
ABSTRACT

The 345th Army Reserve Combat Support Hospital (CSH) implemented the first ever Iraqi nurse training program which directly supports the strategic vision of MNC-I to build civil healthcare capabilities which will set the conditions for success for the Government of Iraq. Currently in Iraq, there is a lack of clinically skilled nurses as many nurses immigrated to other countries during the last 15 years. In Salah Ah Din Providence according to Iraq’s statistics there are 36 physicians to 1 nurse and there are few women as practicing nurses. As the cultural and religious mores, a significant number of Muslim populations look down on female nurses. With this the female nurses fear for their safety. These biases make nurse retention and recruiting difficult for female nurses. Research states that the few nurses remaining in country are qualified to what would be the minimum Nursing Standards of Practice in the United States. There is an identified need to organize continuing education nursing classes and learning labs to increase nursing skills and competencies. After 15 years of sanctions and international isolation, an international presence is the key to helping develop the Nursing profession in Iraq. During one of the PRT meeting, the 25th ID Brigade Surgeon LTC Cordone discussed his recent visit to the local Tikrit Teaching Hospital. He noted in the midst of the physician’s requests for high tech equipment, he noted a lack of nurses in the hospital. He questioned the Iraqi physicians on how they could do their duties as physicians without the assistance of nurses; as nursing care is the core of the medical team and quality patient care.

The Deputy Minister of Health of Salah Ah Din Providence requested an "Emergency and Operating Room Nursing Train the Trainer Continuing Education Course" be offered to increase the emergency and perioperative nursing skills of the Iraqi nurses that do work in the local hospitals. To meet this request, the 345th CSH developed and initiated a course providing the professional expertise. Working with the PRT Health Team, 1st AD, 101st AB and 25th ID, this partnership successfully established the first Nursing Course on COB Speicher Tikrit, Iraq. There were 13 Iraqi nurses attending with 4 females and 9 males. This six week nursing course is offered to nurses in Tikrit and will be offered in the future to all of nurses in Salah Ad Din Province. This Nursing Train the Trainer Program, will build the required self-sufficiency into this continuing education program. The program will further expand the expertise of the Iraqi nursing professionals.
ABSTRACT continued…

The “Emergency and Operating Room Nursing Train the Trainer Program” concluded its first 90 hour program titled, “Partnership in Patient Care,” on December 23, 2008 with thirteen Iraqi nursing students – four females and nine males - completing the course. Held at Forward Operating Base (COB) Speicher, the six-week course was first offered to those nurses that worked at a local Iraqi teaching hospital in the city of Tikrit. Because this emergency nursing training program incorporates the concept of train the trainer, it will build the required sustainability into the education program. In the future, these nurses will in turn teach other Iraqi nurses of Salah ad Din Province and therefore, this program will further expand the expertise of the Iraqi nursing professionals. The training, delivered by 345th Combat Support Hospital nurses and medics covered topics from the basics of assessment to the advanced life support. Books and reference material were provided by the UCLA Operations Medical Libraries and the Salah ad Din Provincial Reconstruction Team, PRT.

To continue the professional sharing collaboration with the Iraqi nurses and physicians the 345th CSH in cooperation with the PRT and Garrison Command developed, built and furnished the fully operational Iraqi Nursing skills Learning Lab in the International Business Iraqi Zone (IBIZ). This skills learning lab, is known as the "Salah Ad Din Victory Health Care Training Center". This facility provides classroom space and a separate skills training lab for the Iraqi nursing program and other necessary Iraqi health care programs. This training center facilitates a safe training and collaboration site for an Iraqi medical and nursing education programs and allows the combat support hospital nurses to share knowledge as consultants. This sharing provides the Iraqis with the most up to date nursing education processes to increase their state of health care. This strategy directly supports capacity building within the Iraqi Healthcare Community and helps in the development of professional capabilities and collegiality in the nursing profession of the Salah Ad Din Province.

The skills practice labs located in the I-BIZ area of COB Speicher is deemed by the Iraqi nursing professionals as a safe location for the education programs. Iraqi women and men will arrive to the COB Speicher checkpoint, proceed through an ID screening and be directly escorted into the secured site. This stays within cultural guidelines for Arab women. When this site is not being used for nurse training this site it will also be used by the Iraqis as a training site for the other medical providers. PRT funding totaled $200,000 for medical training devices and equipment for the nurse education program hands-on skills training lab component. Additional QRF funding of $6,639 was solicited for basic classroom supplies. The facility is expected to be completed by mid March 2009.

The program based on many US certificate programs was developed by COL Hayes and Major Liberti and Major Talarico under the auspices of COL Connelly, all of which are Army Reserve Duty Nurses deployed to the Iraqi theater. The instructors were the Army Reserve Duty Nurses and medics deployed with the Task Force 345th CSH.
Evaluating the Effectiveness of Fast-Tracking on the Post-Surgery Length-of-Stay in Liver Transplantation: A Quasi-Experimental Study

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ABSTRACT

While monitoring in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) after liver transplant (LT) is considered the routine practice by many LT programs in the nation, Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville has adopted fast-tracking, a practice of transferring patients to the surgical ward after LT and eliminating ICU stay based attending surgeon’s assessment, since 2002. This study evaluates the effectiveness of fast tracking in terms of post-LT length of stay (LOS) using both the institutional and national databases during 2011-2013. A quasi-experimental design based on propensity score matching is employed to overcome the issue of unobservable ‘non-treatment’ outcome for the ‘treated’ subjects. We found that the fast-tracking practice reduces the post-LT LOS by at least 2.5 days per fast-tracked patient on average. Our back-of-the-envelope calculation suggests that the reduction in post-transplant LOS translates into substantial cost-saving for Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville. The potential cost-savings may well exceed $39 million across the nation during a two-year period if fast-tracking was adopted nationally.
Hospital Value-Based Purchasing, Market, and Outpatient Medical Imaging Efficiency

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ABSTRACT

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) started to collect data on hospital outpatient imaging efficiency (OIE) in 2009 to reduce unnecessary exposure to contrast materials and/or radiation and prevent wasteful use of Medicare resources. OIE shows how often a hospital provides specific imaging tests for Medicare beneficiaries under circumstances where they may not be medically appropriate. The implementation of the inpatient Hospital Value-Based Purchasing (HVBP) program through CMS since 2013 has provided hospitals with new payment incentives relating to quality and efficiency. However, no systematic study examines the association between hospital inpatient HVBP total performance and OIE, as well as the association between market condition and OIE. This study fills in the gap in the literature by investigating how the inpatient total performance score and market competition affect hospital outpatient imaging efficiency.

Using data from the American Hospital Association (AHA) Annual Survey, the Medicare Hospital Compare (HC), and the Area Health Resources Files (AHRF) database, the multivariate analysis indicates that hospitals with lower inpatient total performance scores are less efficient regarding OIE. In addition, hospitals located in more competitive market are more likely to use outpatient imaging tests, and hence less efficient. Finally, hospital size, ownership, payer mix, and rural location also have significant impact on OIE. The findings from this study provide significant policy and practice implications. On the one hand, hospitals located in more competitive market should consider how to improve their total performance to be better reimbursed by Medicare instead of offering more expensive outpatient imaging services. On the other hand, policymakers should watch the low performed hospitals since these hospitals also tend to provide more unnecessary outpatient imaging tests.
Analysis of Expansionary Monetary Policy: The Price and Income Effects upon the U.S. Economy and Foreign Exchange Rates

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ABSTRACT

The movements in a nation’s foreign exchange rate are traditionally based upon several key economic inputs. Gross Domestic Product (GDP), inflation levels, market interest rates and Government monetary policy are a few of the largest factors that exert influence. This paper analyzes the influence of one of these inputs, monetary policy, and gauges its impact upon the domestic economy and the rates of return expected by investors across different asset classes. It measures the rewards an investor can expect by participating in the market during an expansionary monetary policy period. The research will use the empirical data from expansionary policy periods to interpret the impact upon the foreign exchange rate, using USD/JPY (U.S. Dollar to Japanese Yen) as the consideration rate.

The degree to which monetary policy influences foreign exchange rates is measured empirically by using two economic theories, pricing and income. Price theory centers on the relationship of asset pricing levels and the correlated returns to investors. The cost of money is quantitatively measured and using the price theory, the paper seeks to prove the existence of a negative correlation between the U.S. money supply and interest rate levels. The negative relationship, if proven, is then hypothesized to have a weakening effect upon the US/JPY exchange rate.

Income theory analyzes the impact of monetary policy upon the other two economic factors influencing foreign exchange rates, namely inflation and national production levels. Changes to the nation’s production levels create a counterbalanced effect upon the cost of money, the direction of interest rates and the consequent effect upon foreign exchange rates. It is hypothesized that the income effect will have a strengthening effect upon the US/JPY exchange rate in the later stages of an expansionary policy period.

The pricing and income mechanisms pull in opposite directions on interest rate levels and foreign exchange rates. The paper will analyze the direct impact of each theory on the US/JPY exchange rate and then will take a closer look at the way the two theories offset each other during the entirety of an expansionary monetary cycle. The paper will also set out to define the rewards an investor can expect to gain through his participation in an expansionary policy period across several different asset classes.
Does Foreign Aid from Transnational Organizations Increase FDI?

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ABSTRACT

This paper seeks to evaluate if a complementary relationship exists between foreign aid and foreign direct investment (FDI) in aid-recipient countries. In previous literature, the ambiguous relationship between foreign aid and FDI results from foreign aid’s broad definition that fails to account for whether the foreign aid is invested in complementary or competing types of infrastructure. To avoid ambiguity, this paper solely examines the effects foreign aid in the form of International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) loans, International Development Association (IDA) credits, and Official Development Aid (ODA) has on FDI. Utilizing a panel dataset of over 130 countries for 1970-2014 in a random effect model (REM), it is found that foreign aid from transnational organizations has a complementary relationship with foreign direct investment. This finding has significant policy implication for the future composition of investments and loans in current aid-recipient countries.
Unconventional Monetary Policy and Bank Risk

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ABSTRACT

Our study investigates the relationship between credit easing and bank risk taking. We use quarterly bank holding company data from the first quarter of 2002 until the fourth quarter of 2014. In order to capture microeconomic changes in bank behavior we use unbalanced panel data measuring bank specific characteristics. We implement a panel vector autoregression, using lagged variables as instruments, and a lagged dependent variable as a regressor. This allows us to capture the dynamic changes in bank risk taking, and while also removing Nickel Bias. We separate credit easing out of our monetary policy instrument allowing us to better identify the relationship between credit easing and bank risk. We find that credit easing increases bank risk taking in the form of credit risk.
U.S. Treasury Bonds: The Importance of the United States in the Global Economy

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ABSTRACT

The United States has played a crucial role in shaping the world market structure. The goal of this research topic is to unveil many critical aspects of debt regulation impacting global inflation rates, along with currency exchange rates. From the purchasing of US securities many countries essentially buy into the service that America offers, this service mainly being the consumption of the purchasing countries goods and services. The focus of this paper is on the exchange and trade between the United States and China. We see through many sources of financial data, that China has essentially preferred to run a trade surplus with the United States, along with the Peoples Bank of China manipulating currency demand in order to continue carrying a lesser weighted currency than the American dollar. The topic delves into the reasoning for this behavior, along with foreign investment influencing international trade along with inflation and deflation rates in the world market place.
ABSTRACT

The purpose of this paper is to determine the effect (if any) immigration has on GDP per capita in developed countries, specifically European OECD countries. In order to do this we compiled the data regarding inflows of immigrants, immigrant and native born employment rates, and GDP per capita across several years and several countries. Additionally dummy variables were used to test if the conversion to the Euro or the Great Recession had an effect on GDP per capita. A type of panel data called fixed effects was used to run the regression and correct for multicollinearity and heteroscedasticity. Our conclusion was that immigration has a minor, but statistically significant positive impact on per capita GDP. Additionally the conversion to the Euro had a large, positive impact on per capita GDP.
The Impact of Auditory Congruent Cues on Consumers’ Emotions and Approach Behavior - What Kind of Music Genre do Consumers Prefer When Buying Coffee?

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ABSTRACT

What impact do auditory congruent cues exert on consumer’s emotions and approach behavior at point-of-purchase in a retail setting? The presented research depicts consumer’s emotions and actual behavior in relation to the introduction of auditory congruent cues, as store atmospherics, in a grocery retail store. In the retailing and sensory marketing research a gap exists with respect to how auditory congruent cues as music impact consumer’s emotions and actual behavior in terms of time spent and walking around in store department. In the reported study, the author finds a difference between consumer’s emotions and approach behavior in a conventional store environment and that in a manipulated store environment.
The Impact of Merger Mania on our Market Economy and Economic Progress

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ABSTRACT

Merger mania, over trillion dollar financial activity is not carefully researched in terms of its total impact on the American economy as a whole. The authors take a critical look at the somewhat inadequate research of this critical topic. The general indications of the existing research appears to be that merger mania is blocking entrepreneurial innovation activity that is essential for our economic growth. Furthermore, findings indicate that, in general, merger mania is violating the antitrust laws.
Developing an Innovation Culture

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ABSTRACT

Societies must make progress, ours is no exception. Progress can be realized and accelerated by developing an innovation culture where the society is strongly inclined to create an innovational orientation. This article maintains that at least four major steps need to be taken: eliminating innovation blocks; creating widespread critical thinking; helping entrepreneurs to undertake innovations; and, activating a triple helix.
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