

2026 SPRING NEWSLETTER

CEVR

Center for the Evaluation of Value
and Risk in Health

*Institute for Clinical Research
and Health Policy Studies*

TuftsMedicine
Tufts Medical Center

Director's Letter

In a new Health Affairs Scholar paper, CEVR researchers and Harvard doctoral student Hanxuan (Astrid) Yu **analyzed** almost 7,000 cost-effectiveness studies and found that cost-effectiveness analyses in “most-favored nation” countries use considerably more stringent cost-effectiveness thresholds than the US — and have become even more conservative over time.

In other recent work, we analyzed the use of **clinical outcome assessments** in payer drug coverage decisions, and the **communication of launch prices** by drug companies.

Happy Spring!

Peter Neumann, ScD

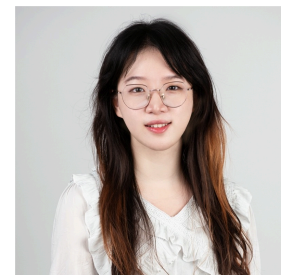
Director, Center for the Evaluation of Value and Risk in Health
Institute for Clinical Research and Health Policy Studies
Tufts Medical Center



FEATURED RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS

Cost-Effectiveness Thresholds Used in the United States vs Most-Favored Nations (*Health Affairs Scholar*)

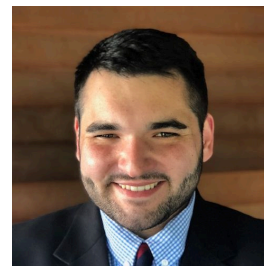
Efforts to align US drug prices with “most-favored nation” countries would also import how those countries define value in healthcare.



Hanxuan (Astrid) Yu, MEd

The Timeliness of Health Plan Drug Coverage Policy Changes to FDA Label Revisions *(Health Affairs Scholar)*

Approximately 30% of policies already aligned with label changes, but plans took a median 30 weeks to update other policies and were faster to respond to narrowed labels.



Dan Enright, MS

FDA Approvals of Specialty Drugs, 2000-2024 *(Health Affairs Scholar)*

The FDA has approved significantly more specialty therapies over time, suggesting a sustained shift toward complex, high-cost treatments.



Sophie Knox,
MPharm, BSc

Use of Clinical Outcome Assessments in Specialty Drug Coverage Policies *(Journal of Managed Care + Specialty Pharmacy)*

Health plans vary in their use of clinical outcome assessments in drug coverage policies, and infrequently use patient-reported outcomes.



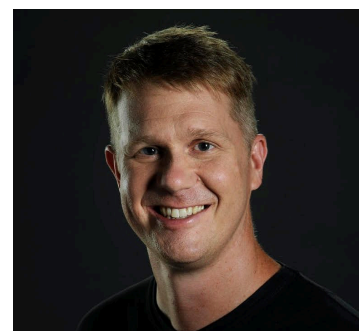
Julia Rucker, MSW, MPH

Communication of Launch Prices by Drug Companies, 2022-2024 *(American Journal of Managed Care)*

Proactive disclosure of drug launch prices remains uncommon.

The ‘Pharm-To-Table’ Movement For Prescription Drugs: Promising Or Performative? *(Health Affairs Forefront)*

We examined the promise and limitations of direct-to-patient drug sales in the US pharmaceutical market.



Brian Reid, MS

Do Medicare's IPAY 2027 Negotiated Drug Prices Reflect Value For Money? *(Health Affairs Forefront)*

Our analysis of Medicare's 2027 negotiated drug prices finds uneven alignment with value-based benchmarks, with most negotiated prices below estimated value for money.



Peter Neumann, ScD and
Josh Cohen, PhD

When Do Published Cost-Effectiveness Analyses Include Societal Costs? An Empirical Analysis, 2013–2023 *(Medical Decision Making)*

Most published CEAs exclude societal costs, but the practice varies by country, disease, and target population.



Meng Li, PhD

The Unintended Consequences of the Inflation Reduction Act on Biosimilar Market Incentives and Medicare Savings *(Health Affairs Scholar)*

Selecting biologics with near-term biosimilar competition for IRA negotiations may produce short-term savings but forgo greater long-term savings achievable through competition.



Molly Beinfeld, MPH

[Click for More Research and Analysis](#)

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

James Chambers and Melanie Whittington Forecast Specialty Drug Coverage in 2026

James Chambers, PhD, MPharm, joined Senior Fellow Melanie Whittington, PhD, Head of the Leerink Center for Pharmacoeconomics, to discuss trends in utilization management for specialty drugs and how payers are approaching new biosimilars. Click to [listen](#).



James Chambers PhD, MPharm



Tara Lavelle, PhD

Tara Lavelle Discusses Newborn Genomic Screening on the Nemours Well Beyond Medicine Podcast

Tara Lavelle, PhD and Jonathan Davis, MD, Vice Chair of Pediatrics at Tufts Medical Center joined the Nemours Children's Health Well Beyond Medicine Podcast to discuss their research showing that rapid genomic screening for critically ill infants can save money versus standard testing. Click to [listen](#) or [watch](#).

Fariel LaMountain Receives BU School of Public Health Innovative Practicum Award

Fariel LaMountain, a CEVR research assistant, leveraged the [CEA Registry](#) to examine whether global research priorities align with disease burden, and characteristics of CEAs that predict the likelihood of cost-saving findings. The [award](#), established in 2024, recognizes work that is novel, creative, and influential.



Fariel LaMountain, BA

CEVR at ISPOR 2026

CEVR faculty and researchers will present their research during several discussions and poster sessions at [ISPOR 2026](#) in Philadelphia, PA. Additional CEVR presentations can be found [here](#).

Monday, May 18

Issues Panel

10:30 - 11:30: [Value-Based Pricing for CMS Drug Price Negotiation: Mission Impossible?](#)

- Neumann P, Cohen J

Workshop

4:45 - 5:45: [The Metrics Behind the Money: Case Studies and Insights From Bridging Health Economics and Investment](#)

- Whittington M, Li M

Tuesday, May 19

Issues Panel

10:30 – 11:30: [Are Drug Prices Rising Too Fast? Rethinking Inflation Benchmarks Through the Lens of Value, Access, and Innovation](#)

- Campbell J

Wednesday, May 20

Issues Panel

10:00 – 11:00: [From Debate to Dialogue: Building Consensus on Prior Authorization Reform](#)

- Chambers J

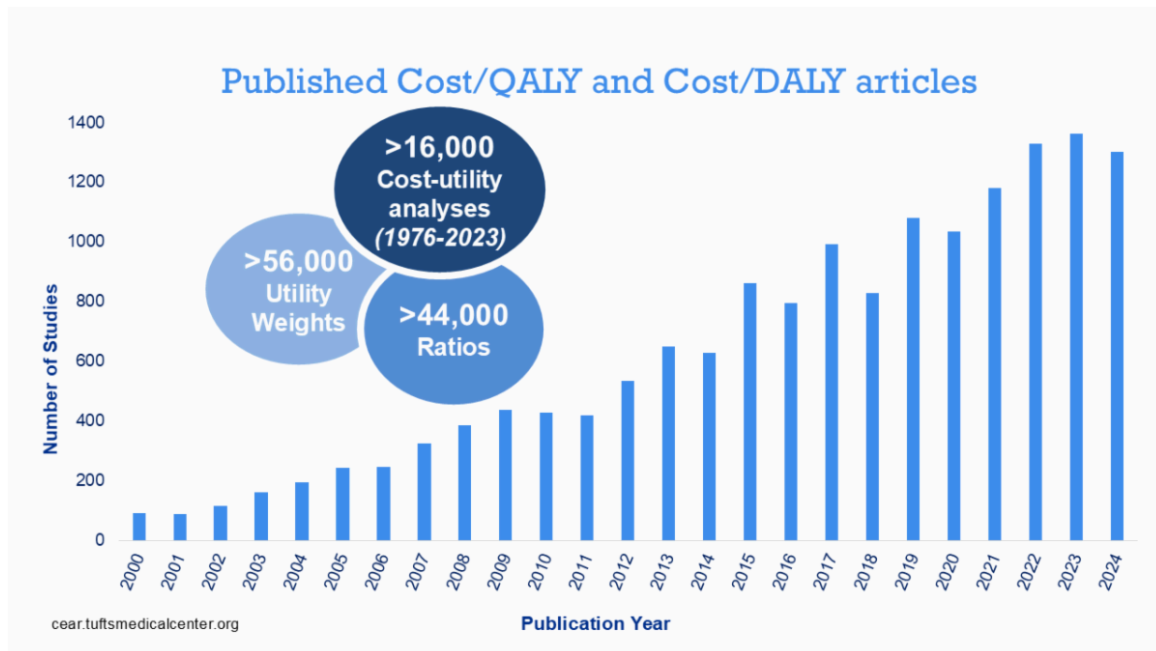
CEA REGISTRY UPDATE

The CEA Registry is a powerful tool containing more than 16,000 cost-utility studies, an intuitive dashboard, and advanced search capabilities. Visit our website for more [information](#).



Patricia Synnott, PhD

CEA Registry by the Numbers



[Email to Request a Demo](#)

2025 Paper of the Year Awards

In April, CEVR announced the two winners of its annual CEA Registry Paper of the Year award.

- The Paper of the Year award went to Isabelle Rao and Margaret Brandeau's paper "[Modeling health and economic outcomes of providing stable housing to homeless adults with opioid use disorder.](#)"
- The Best CEA Registry Application went to Xujun Gu et al's paper, "[Use of Large Language Models to Extract Cost-Effectiveness Analysis Data: A Case Study](#)"

Read more about the winners and runner-up on CEVR's [website](#).

Register for the Tufts' HEOR Certificate Program!

Featuring CEVR's Peter Neumann, Josh Cohen, Meng Li, Dan Ollendorf, Sean Tunis, and Jon Campbell, among other HEOR experts.

Applications due August 1

Learn more [here](#)



Health Economics and Outcomes Research (HEOR) Certificate Program
At Tufts University School of Medicine, Boston

The banner features a night view of the Boston skyline with illuminated buildings. At the bottom, there are three logos: Tufts University, Tufts CTSI (Center for Translational Science Institute), and CEVR (Center for the Evaluation of Value and Risk in Health).

SPEC UPDATE

SPEC DATABASE

Specialty Drug Evidence & Coverage



James Chambers, PhD,

The Tufts Medical Center SPEC Database offers unique insights into commercial payer coverage of specialty drugs and the evidence base payers report reviewing in their decision-making processes.

SPEC converts publicly available specialty drug payer coverage decisions into structured, analysis-ready data.

SPEC includes:

523 specialty drugs and products
162 product manufacturers
16,634 current coverage decisions
161,000+ archived coverage decisions
535,000+ citations
1,168 drug-indication pairs

**>210 million
covered lives**

Visit SPEC

Drugs Recently Added to SPEC

- Anzupgo
- Brinsupri
- Dawnzera
- Exdensur
- Itvisma
- Jaythari
- Kygevvi
- Myqorzo
- Redemplo
- Romvimza
- Ryoncil
- Tarpeyo
- Turalio
- Voyxact
- Waskyra
- Zycubo

PHOTOS AND EVENTS

CEVR Annual Meeting

Ching Hsuan-Lin and Dan Ollendorf lead the world-famous CEVR Annual Meeting Walk in downtown Boston. Click [here](#) for more Annual Meeting photos.

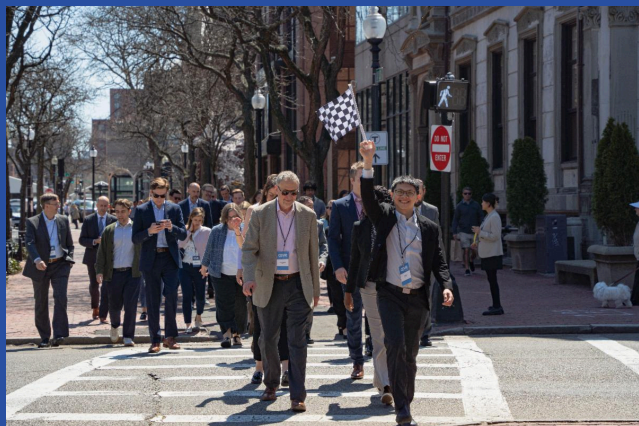


Photo credit: Angela Lin



Peter Neumann interviews Dr. Tom Lee, CMO of Press Ganey and author, about his new book "Social Capital in Health Care."

Photo credit: Angela Lin

Melanie Whittington, Brian Reid, and Dan Ollendorf discuss recent health policy developments during a lightning roundtable.



Photo credit: Ching-Hsuan Lin



Peter Neumann interviews Dr. Reshma Kewalramani, CEO of Vertex Pharmaceuticals.

Photo credit: Ching Hsuan-Lin

Sophie Knox discusses her research on FDA specialty drug approvals from 2000-2024 with an attendee.



Photo credit: Angela Lin

Celebrating Colleagues



The CEVR team celebrates Priyanka Ghule during her last day as a CEVR fellow.

Photo credit: Xiaoyan Wang

[Visit our Website](#)

CEVR



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