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Dr. Showstack has been a valued member of the Philip R. Lee Institute for Health Policy Studies (Institute) since 1976 and for more than 30 years has played an important role in the development of the Institute as a leader in health policy/health services research.

Dr. Showstack trained in sociology (UCSF) and health administration and planning (UC Berkeley). He has over 30 years experience in the study of health care systems and outcomes. His research focuses on assessing the costs and effectiveness of medical care and the organizational factors associated with health care outcomes. He has also performed a number of evaluations of health care organizations and programs and is an expert in the design of evaluation tools, in multivariate statistics, and in data management and analysis. Dr Showstack continued to be an active researcher while Assistant Vice Chancellor/ Chief Information Officer (AVC/CIO) (see below), including collaborating on studies of the costs of infertility and the characteristics of users of emergency services.

From 1996 to 2006, Dr. Showstack was Associate Director for Administration of the Institute. He also was a faculty member of the UCSF Center for Clinical and Translational Informatics, served on the Executive Committee of the UCSF Clinical and Translational Informatics Graduate Program, and was a faculty member and the initial director of the Biomedical Informatics component of UCSF's Clinical and Translational Science Institute.

Because of Dr. Showstack's expertise in research methods, information systems, and informatics, in 2005 Executive Vice Chancellor Washington asked him to lead the development of a strategic planning process for research and education information systems. This effort resulted in the formation of the UCSF Academic Information Systems Board (AISB) and the completion of strategic plans for research and education information systems, which is part of the overall UCSF Strategic Plan. An additional major result of this effort was the creation of the Office of Academic and Administrative Information Systems (OAAIS) in July 2006, with Dr. Showstack assuming the full-time role of AVC/CIO.

As AVC/CIO, Dr. Showstack directed OAAIS, the major information systems office for the UCSF Campus. During Dr. Showstack's tenure as AVC/CIO, OAAIS made major improvements in core infrastructure services (including the implementation of a major upgrade to the data network, the opening of a new campus data center, the expansion of email and calendaring services, and others). Even more significant, however, has been his leadership in strategic planning for academic information systems and the implementation of major new systems to facilitate the development and conduct of research and education at UCSF. These efforts include new electronic systems for the submission of proposals to the federal government, the faculty promotion and advancement process, the online submission and review of CHR (IRB) protocols, and the implementation of MyResearch (a virtual research desktop) and the Integrated Data Repository.

Philip R. Lee Institute for Health Policy Studies University of California, San Francisco

The Institute was founded by Philip R. Lee, MD, in 1972 as the Health Policy Program within the UCSF School of Medicine with support from The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and UCSF. The Health Policy Program was the first in the nation to bring together a multidisciplinary group of faculty (medicine, law, ethics, and pharmacology) committed to creating an innovative health policy unit on the campus of a major academic health sciences center.

Dr. Lee and other founding faculty members—Lewis Butler, LLB, Michael Parker, JD, Albert Jonsen, PhD, and Milton Silverman, PhD—were committed to providing accurate, relevant, and timely information to members of Congress and their staff, senior officials in federal agencies, California legislators, state and local health departments, health care administrators, private sector decision-makers, community-based organizations, and the public. These early leaders were also committed to building a foundation for health policy on the UCSF campus that emphasized collaborative research, teaching health professions students, and training and mentoring future health policy leaders and health services researchers, including clinician/researchers.

In 1981, the Board of Regents of the University of California designated the Institute as an organized research unit in the School of Medicine, strengthening the Institute's ability to collaborate with departments and schools on the UCSF and other campuses. In September 2007, the Institute was renamed as The Philip R. Lee Institute for Health Policy Studies in Dr. Lee's honor. Following Dr. Lee's directorship (1972-93), Harold Luft, PhD, served as the Institute's Acting Director and then second Director (1993-2007), and Claire Brindis, DrPH, served as Acting and then Interim Director, and in June 2009 was appointed as the Institute's third Director.

Today the Institute is one of the nation's premier centers for health policy and health services research. We conduct research on the health care system and health care reform, child health, adolescent health, reproductive health, chronic illness, work and health, HIV/AIDS, prescription drug policies, substance abuse, research integrity, and biomedical communications. The Institute has approximately 100 faculty, research and administrative staff, and fellows. Institute faculty have appointments in departments within the Schools of Medicine, Nursing, and Pharmacy, and faculty and research staff include physicians, health services researchers, policy analysts, psychologists, political scientists, health economists, sociologists, anthropologists, epidemiologists, pharmacologists, and those trained in public health.