

one because of its potential for significant impact.

that a new framework is needed.

Dr. Fried's team will address this need by first identifying the best evidence on treatment strategies that *(article continues on page 6)*



Terri Fried, MD

Health Survey of Connecticut Residents

Donaghue is working with four other Connecticut-based health foundations to conduct a survey that gauges the quality of health care that Connecticut residents receive. The research, modeled on similar national surveys, will be the first of its kind in Connecticut to examine patient views of health care at the state and county levels. Comparable national data will allow important comparison between Connecticut and the rest of the nation. Results are expected in early 2013 in a report entitled, "The State of Health for the State of Connecticut."

The University of Massachusetts Medical School's Center for Health Policy and Research has been tapped to conduct the \$379,000 study. Researchers will carry out a randomized telephone survey of 4,000 Connecticut adults over a 12-week period in the spring of 2012. The sampling will reflect Connecticut's population demographics and cover the state's eight counties. Interviews will be conducted in English and Spanish.

Much of the survey will focus on patients' experiences with primary care and explore whether patients have a regular doctor, how easily they can make appointments and how well their care is coordinated with specialists or

other providers. Other questions will examine the patient-doctor relationship and how well patients' questions are answered, patient's experiences with medical errors, and whether patients' needs and preferences are respected.

The survey also will explore whether patients receive timely preventative care services, such as PAP smears and blood pressure screenings, and patients' perceptions of the care they receive. Additionally, a series of demographic questions will help identify racial and ethnic disparities in care and health outcomes and the impact of education, income and insurance coverage on the quality of care the patients receive.

Along with Donaghue, the other funders working on this project include:

The Aetna Foundation, Inc. is the independent charitable and philanthropic arm of Aetna Inc. Since 1980, Aetna and the Aetna Foundation *(article continues on page 6)*

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have contributed \$394 million in grants and sponsorships, including \$15.6 million in 2010. As a national health foundation, The Aetna Foundation promotes wellness, health, and access to high-quality health care for everyone; current giving is focused on addressing the rising rate of adult and childhood obesity in the U.S.; promoting racial and ethnic equity in health and health care; and advancing integrated health care.

Connecticut Health Foundation is the state's largest independent, philanthropic organization dedicated to improving lives by changing health systems. Since it was established in July 1999, the foundation has supported innovative grant-making, public health policy research, technical assistance and convening to achieve its mission — to improve the health of the people of Connecticut. Since 1999, CT Health has awarded grants totaling \$44.7 million throughout the state in the following priority areas: improving access to children's mental health services; reducing racial and ethnic health disparities; expanding access to and use of children's oral health services; and supporting advocacy and public policy research to create enduring state-wide change.

The Foundation for Community Health is a private, not-for-profit organization dedicated to improving the health and well-being of the residents of the greater Harlem Valley in New York and the northwest corner of Connecticut. While increasing access to quality health-related services in this very rural area is its top priority, the foundation has focused on the locally identified "critical needs" to improve access to mental health and oral health services, especially for those most vulnerable. Since 2003, the Foundation has distributed over \$4 million dollars. In addition to grant making, the foun-



ation brings people together to solve problems, conducts research, provides technical assistance, supports collaborations, and advocates for policy change.

The Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut is an independent, not-for-profit activist philanthropy whose mission is to serve as a catalyst that engages residents and communities in shaping a health system that provides universal access to quality health care and promotes health in Connecticut. UHCF believes that health care is a fundamental right and sees its work as part of a broader movement for social and economic justice. It supports public policy advocacy and community organizing, research and communications. The Foundation, with its broad-based coalition partners in the statewide grassroots healthcare4-every1 effort — including members from the business, health care provider, labor, clergy, consumer advocacy and philanthropic communities — played a significant role in the successful passage of landmark planning laws for state health reform in 2009 and 2011.