



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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**DR. MELISSA BRIGHT AWARDED RESEARCH GRANT FROM ASSOCIATION FOR
COMMUNITY AFFILIATED PLANS, ACADEMYHEALTH**

WASHINGTON—Melissa Bright, Ph.D., M.S., an Assistant Research Scientist at the College of Medicine and the Institute for Child Health Policy at the University of Florida, was awarded a competitive research grant through a new partnership between the Association for Community Affiliated Plans (ACAP) and AcademyHealth.

Dr. Bright’s winning proposal, selected by a panel of distinguished members of academia, will examine how a change in health care financing from fee-for-service to managed care affects health quality for foster youth. Her research, which analyzes quality data from the states of Florida and Texas, will be reported out in the first quarter of 2016.

“We’re pleased to support the careers of talented researchers—especially those who are as talented and invested in their work as Dr. Bright,” said ACAP CEO Margaret A. Murray. “She’s asking some interesting questions about the differences between Medicaid managed care and fee for service, and I look forward to seeing where her research leads early next year.”

ACAP funded Dr. Bright’s grant through the AcademyHealth New Investigator Small Grant Program, which is designed to support the early careers of new health services researchers. This grant program funds innovative, timely, and relevant research and translation activities that advance AcademyHealth’s vision of improving health and health care by generating evidence and moving evidence into policy and practice.

“This program offers a valuable early professional development opportunity to new researchers and funds important and relevant research,” said AcademyHealth President and CEO Dr. Lisa Simpson. “AcademyHealth is proud to partner with ACAP to support relevant and timely research that will help improve health and the performance of the health system.”

Applications for the 2016 New Investigator program are now open; health services researchers less than three years removed from earning a doctoral degree are invited to apply. The ACAP New Investigator grant will be awarded to a proposal which:

- Addresses the benefits of Medicaid managed care for low income populations; or
- Examines managed care for individuals dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid; or
- Studies the interface between Medicaid managed care and subsidized Marketplace coverage for people with low incomes.



More details are available at AcademyHealth's Web site at www.academyhealth.org/newinvestigator. Applications for the 2016 grant cycle are due September 11, 2015.

About ACAP

ACAP represents 59 nonprofit Safety Net Health Plans in 24 states, which collectively serve more than fifteen million people enrolled in Medicaid, Medicare, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and other health programs. For more information, visit www.communityplans.net.

About AcademyHealth

AcademyHealth is a leading national organization serving the fields of health services and policy research and the professionals who produce and use this important work. Together with our members, we offer programs and services that support the development and use of rigorous, relevant and timely evidence to increase the quality, accessibility, and value of health care, to reduce disparities, and to improve health. A trusted broker of information, AcademyHealth brings stakeholders together to address the current and future needs of an evolving health system, inform health policy, and translate evidence into action. For additional publications and resources, visit www.academyhealth.org and follow us on Twitter @AcademyHealth.

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