Annual Report 2015

Lucerne, July 2016
Highlights in 2015

The CSS Institute was honored by the visit of Professor Thomas McGuire (Harvard Medical School) for a two day workshop in March.

From left: C. Schmid, L. Kauer, K. Beck (CSS Institute), T. McGuire (Harvard, USA), P. Cola trella (today CEO-elect of CSS)

In September, the institute organized the 2nd Swiss Health Economics Workshop. Just like the first edition, the workshop has been widely recognized and earned many positive feedbacks from the participants.

Impressions from the 2nd Swiss Health Economics Workshop

In addition, the institute hosted the 15th RAN meeting (Risk Adjustment Network) in Solothurn in October. This meeting has gained relevance for Switzerland given the ongoing reform of risk equalization. We used the traditional “sponsor meeting” for an international lecture in risk equalization.

Participants of the 15th RAN-Meeting 2015

Prof. Dr. Wynand P.M.M. van de Ven, appointed honorary chair of the RAN.

We would like to thank all sponsors who made this event possible.

Rating success

We have been surprised by the highly recognized ranking presented by the Neue Zürcher Zeitung. According to this ranking the director of the institute has been rated as the most influential German speaking health economist in Switzerland and ranked 3rd among the economists from the University of Zurich.

Funding

The CSS Institute has been funded mainly by CSS Insurance AG. In order to counter the recently upcoming criticism of private funding of

---

1 Ernst & Young, Visana, CSS, BDO, Helsana, and Polynomials.
scientific research we refer to our principle: „The scientific objectivity and independence of our research is measured in terms of the quality and nature of articles published in peer-reviewed journals.” As an act of transparency of our financing we also show the different sources of our revenues in 2015 in the following figure. A total of CHF 706’000 has been financed by CSS insurance AG (80%), by the Swiss National Science Foundation (12%), by teaching and consulting (5%), and by congress sponsors and congress fees (3%).

### 1 Research focus

One of our research focus was an analysis of „Fit, power, and balance” in the context of risk equalization. This new framework reveals reinsurance as a so far underestimated tool to establish solidarity in a competitive health insurance market. The respective paper has been accepted meanwhile by Health Policy, see list below.

In addition, we continued the research on the interaction of solidarity versus responsibility factors and their influence on appropriate risk equalization. Results have been presented in a hearing of the national parliament's commission which included them in the legal reform proposition.

Another topic was the sustainability of cost saving effects of managed care models. Substantial effects are found for a population part of a managed care plan for ten subsequent years. The resulting paper is under submission.

In another project, we questioned the risk communication for side effects caused by specific hormonal contraceptives (such as Yasmin® and Yaz®). A case with Yasmin® had provoked litigation up to the Swiss federal court. We also estimated the costs of side effects, which might even exceed the price for these pharmaceuticals. However, further research is needed to confirm our finding. If our hypothesis turns out to be true, we would have a situation where profits of private manufacturers are challenged by more expensive side effects financed by the public (through mandatory health insurance premiums) which would be a pareto-suboptimal outcome.
In collaboration with Polynomics (Olten), we continued our sub-project on willingness to pay for life prolongation. This project is part of the National Research Programme 67 „End of Life“ (www.nrp67.ch). We have been surprised to find quite a high willingness to pay for a QALY (CHF 200’000).

During a study trip Christian Schmid had the opportunity to have a closer and disillusioning look at the health care system of Singapore. Its often recommended cost reducing impact might be overestimated.

2 Team
Prof. Dr. Konstantin Beck (KB)
Lukas Kauer, PhD (LK)
Christian Schmid, PhD (CS)
Bettina Vogel, internship until February
Ivan Jivkov, internship June – November

3 Publications
3.1 Peer reviewed publications
Viktor von Wyl, Harry Telser, Andreas Weber, Barbara Fischer, KB. Cost trajectories from the final life year reveal intensity of end-of-life care and can help to guide palliative care interventions, BMJ Supportive & Palliative Care (Published Online First 15 October 2015).

3.2 Various publications
Lukas Kauer (LK), Viktor von Wyl, KB, Transfers in der Grundversicherung. In: CSS Versicherung (Hg): im dialog, 2/15, 4-5.

3.3 Scripts
KB & LK, Qu’est-ce qu’un produit d’assurance? Script for CSS Schulung, January.
KB & LK, Managed Care, Script for CSS Schulung, February 6.
KB & LK, Swiss Social Health Insurance, Script for Universita della Svizzera Italiana, April 14.
KB, LK & CS, Management von Hochkostenfällen, Script for Zürcher Hochschule für angewandte Wissenschaften, July 4.
KB & LK, Versicherungsökonomie, Script for Zürcher Hochschule für angewandte Wissenschaften, September 12.
KB & LK, Managed Competition, Script for phw Bern, October 16.
KB & LK, Managed Care, Script for phw Bern, October 17.

3.4 Submitted publications


CS & KB, Re-insurance in the Swiss Health Insurance Market: Fit, Power, and Balance, accepted by Health Policy.


KB, Naive Haftpflichtklage oder tragischer Regulierungsfehler? Schweizerische Ärztezeitung, accepted.

3.5 Working Papers

Cornel Kaufmann, CS & Stefan Boes, Health Insurance Subsidies, Deductible Choice, and the Demand for Healthcare, unpublished working paper.


LK, Long-term effects of managed care, unpublished working paper.

KB, Beurteilung zweier Gutachten zur leistungsorientierten Vergütung mit Fallpauschalen nach SwissDRG, Study commissioned by UniversityHospital Zurich.

KB, CS & Markus Kälin, Zur Frage der monistischen Spitalfinanzierung, unpublished working paper.

Matthias Schenker, Bernhard Keller & CS, Für mehr Eigenverantwortung und gezielte Solidarität, unpublished working paper.

KB, Le cas Yasmin: question après question, unpublished working paper.

KB, Der Fall Yasmin: Fragen über Fragen, unpublished working paper.

3.6 Referee Reports

KB, European Journal of Health Economics (2), Health Policy (1).

CS: European Journal of Health Economics (2).

4 Teaching

KB, CSS Schulung, Was ist ein Versicherungsprodukt, with LK & Patrick Helbling, CSS Lucerne, January 30.


KB, CSS Schulung, Managed Care with Bernhard Keller und Ute Kunze, CSS Lucerne, February 6.

KB, Soziale Krankenversicherung für economists and actuaries, Bachelor level, Spring Semester, Universität Zürich, weekly lecture from February 18 to May 27.

KB, Swiss Social Health Insurance, Master NET-MEGS 2013-15 der Universita della Svizzera Italiana, April 14.


KB, Versicherungsoekonomie, CAS in Gesundheitsökonomie, Zürcher Hochschule für angewandte Wissenschaften, Winterthur, September 12.

Monika Buholzer & KB, Krankenversicherung – eine Branche im Fokus der Öffentlichkeit, Seminar for actuaries, Universität Basel, Fall semester, September 16 to December 9.

KB, Mathematics for Economists, Master in Health Sciences, Universität Luzern, October 8.

KB, Managed Competition, Executive MBA Medical Manager, Private Hochschule Wirtschaft, Bern, October 16.

KB, Managed Care, Executive MBA Medical Manager, Private Hochschule Wirtschaft, Bern, October 17.

KB, Versicherungsoekonomie, MAS in Versicherungsmedizin, Universitätsspital Basel und Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, November 10.

5 Presentations

KB, Prämienrabatte und Risikoausgleich (Rabais de prime & compensation des risques), Referat für die SGK-Nationalrat Subkommissionssitzung, Bundeshaus Bern, January 14.

KB, Grenzen des Wachstums im Schweizer Gesundheitswesen, Vortrag gehalten im Cercle de la Grande Société für Gesundheitspolitiker und Gesundheitsexperten, Bern, January 22.


LK, Managed Care – Long-term analysis Presentation on the occasion of Prof. Thomas G. McGuire’s on site visit, CSS Institute, Lucerne, March 5.

CS, Fit, Power, and Balance in the Swiss Risk Adjustment System. Presentation on the occasion of Prof. Thomas G. McGuire’s on site visit, CSS Institute, Lucerne, March 5.

KB, Yasmin®: The Problem of Externalities and Suboptimal Decision Making in Social Health Insurance. Presentation on the occasion of Prof. Thomas G. McGuire’s on site visit, CSS Institute, Lucerne, March 6.

KB, Theory of risk adjustment – Did the Europeans take the wrong track? Presentation on the occasion of Prof. Thomas G. McGuire’s on site visit, CSS Institute, Lucerne, March 6.


Bettina Vogel, Consumer’s Preferences in the Swiss Health Insurance Market, CSS, Lucerne, March 11.


KB, Céline versus Yasmin®: Naive Rechtsansprüche oder tragischer Regulierungsfehler? Vortrag gehalten für die Konzernleitung der CSS Gruppe, Luzern, May 19.


KB, Die wichtigsten, aktuellen Themen des CSS Instituts, sanagate, Root D4, August 27.

KB, Naive Haftpflichtklage oder tragischer Regulierungsfehler im Fall Céline versus Yasmin®?, Pressegespräch der CSS Gruppe, August 31.


CS, Re-insurance in the Swiss Health Insurance Market – Fit, Power, and Balance, 2nd Swiss Health Economics Workshop, CSS, Lucerne, September 11.

KB, How to deal with severe side effects – the case of hormonal contraceptives, 2nd Swiss Health Economics Workshop, CSS, Lucerne, September 11.

CS, Discussion: Switching Left-Handers, 2015 Doctoral Workshop, University of Lucerne, September 12.


KB, Cost trajectories from the final life year reveal intensity of end-of-life care, Meeting of the National Fund Program 67, End of life, Sursee, October 2.


KB, A note on preconditions for fair capitation financing, 15th Risk Adjustment Network Meeting, Solothurn, October 29.


CS, Unobserved Out-of-pocket Healthcare Expenditures – Measurement Error in Register Data, CHPE / CSS Research Seminar, University of Lucerne, November 16.

LK, Risiko & Kosten eines Pflegeheimaufenthalts, café dialogue, CSS, Luzern, November 19.


KB, Risikoausgleich – Funktionsweise und Reform 2017, CSS TK Austausch, SUVA-Audi torium Rösslimatte, December 3.

CS, Unobserved Out-of-pocket Healthcare Expenditures – Measurement Error in Register Data, 2. Workshop des dggö-Ausschusses
“Gesundheitsökonomie”, RWI Essen (Deutschland), December 3.


6 Interviews


Boris Kaiser & CS: Selbstdispensation führt zu höheren Medikamentenkosten, Interview mit Silvia Weigel, in: pharmaJournal 03/1.2015.

KB: Interview mit Hanspeter Schmutz, in Zoom – welche Medizin können wir uns noch leisten? Radio ERF, Pfäffikon, July 8, 8pm.


CSS INSTITUTE FOR EMPIRICAL HEALTH ECONOMICS

The CSS Institute was founded by the CSS Group in 2007. Its purpose is scientific research and teaching.

The institute is intended to deliver empirically verifiable answers to questions about how healthcare services can be financed efficiently and how their cost can be distributed fairly.

The institute is funded in part by CSS Insurance AG and – depending on the nature of the research project – in part by third parties, such as the Swiss National Science Foundation.

The scientific objectivity and independence of research is measured in terms of the quality and nature of articles published in peer-reviewed journals.

The opinions expressed by the CSS Institute do not necessarily reflect those of the CSS Group.