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Quote of Note

"In this book, NEHI has compiled nearly 500 specific detailed examples of overuse, underuse, and misuse in our health care system. For the first time, we have a single resource for all the best evidence on clinical waste."

-Cleve Killingsworth CEO, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts

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Dear Members and Friends,

NEHI's Fifth Anniversary year started with a bang! This newsletter will bring you up to date and impart our excitement over bringing positive change to health care. Many thanks to all our members, partners and friends for their support and involvement making our unique collaboration possible.

All the Best,

Wendy Everett,
ScD President

Impact



NEHI and the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative (MTC) hit a policy home run with the Feb. 14 release of a groundbreaking study on how to prevent medication errors in Massachusetts hospitals. Our joint recommendation to reduce errors by requiring hospitals to computerize the way physicians order drugs and tests drew immediate and influential support from key policymakers in both the public and private sectors. The study, [Saving Lives, Saving Money: The Imperative for Computerized Physician Order Entry in Massachusetts Hospitals](#), was produced by NEHI and MTC. At the release event, Dr. Robert Mandel of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts announced that they would require hospitals to use CPOE by 2012 in order to participate in quality incentive programs.

Others voicing support for the CPOE initiative included Dr. JudyAnn Bigby, Secretary of Health and Human Services for Gov. Deval Patrick; Lynn Nicholas,

President of the Massachusetts Hospital Association; and Sen. Richard Moore, Senate Chairman of the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing.

More information on [The Study](#), [Photos from the Event](#), and the extensive [Media Coverage](#) can all be found at the [NEHI Website](#).

Looking Ahead



NEHI held its first Board of Directors meeting of 2008 on February 21st at Genzyme Center in Cambridge. With the recent launch of our CPOE report and several other exciting projects underway, the meeting provided direction and guidance as NEHI enters its Fifth Anniversary year. The Board emphasized the importance of NEHI continuing to use objective research to drive change in health care. Our independent research, combined with our unique convening of diverse stakeholders, makes NEHI a trusted catalyst for change. Based on the guidance of our Board of Directors, NEHI will continue to find ways to expand our impact beyond the New England region. We also welcome our newest members to the Board: Michael Collins, MD, Interim Chancellor of the University of Massachusetts.

Medical School; Matthew Eyles, Vice President of Public Policy at Wyeth Pharmaceuticals; and Eve Slater, MD, Senior Vice President for Worldwide Policy at Pfizer.

To See Photos from the Board of Directors Meeting [Click Here](#).

Visibility



Wendy Everett spent much of her time in the first quarter of this year speaking about NEHI's research initiatives. On February 9th she spoke at the Leadership Group national retreat about *The Boston Paradox* report and the indicators of health and health care in Greater Boston. On February 12th, Wendy was a member of an expert panel on health care for New England Cable News' "[Call to Revolution: Crisis and Opportunity in Boston](#)." And on February 14th she helped lead the discussion at the release of NEHI and MTC's new CPOE report. On March 31st, Wendy spoke to the Institute for Healthcare Improvement's office practice summit in Ft. Worth-Dallas about disruptive innovation in ambulatory care.

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NEHI Meets With Secretary Leavitt

On March 27th, NEHI President Wendy Everett and Vice President Jason Lee participated in a meeting of select community health care leaders with U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Michael O. Leavitt. The session focused on the role of local collaboratives working to deliver better care at a lower cost.

NEHI Co-Sponsors CBI Forum

On April 2nd, NEHI co-sponsored the [MIT Center for Biomedical Innovation](#)'s forum on the role of government in health innovation. The forum featured Julie Gerberding, MD, MPH, the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

NEHI Helps Organize Social Security Hearing

NEHI is working with U.S. Commissioner of Social Security Michael J. Astrue to organize a hearing to shorten the waiting period for Social Security benefits for patients with terminal illnesses. The hearing will take place Monday April 7th at 7 Cambridge Center.

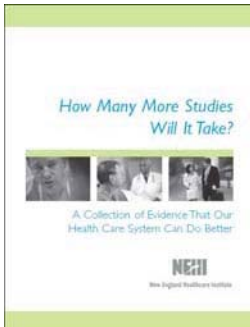
NEHI Co-Sponsors Biz/Bio 2008

NEHI is a sponsor of [2008 Biz/Bio: Economic Prosperity Through Scientific Discovery](#). The event will take place on April 30th at the Hynes Convention Center in Boston.

NEHI Co-Sponsors Chicagoland Forum on Chronic Disease

NEHI is co-sponsoring the forum [An Unhealthy Midwest: The Economic Burden of Chronic Disease](#) at the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce. Wendy Everett is going to speak at the May 13th event, which focuses on the impact of preventable chronic disease and ways that it can be lessened.

Health Reform



NEHI just published the first ever compendium on waste and inefficiency in health care. The study: [How Many More Studies Will It Take? A Collection of Evidence that Our Health Care System Can Do Better](#), reflects a review of 1,500 peer reviewed articles documenting waste and what we can do to reduce it.

In addition to the compendium, NEHI also published two companion pieces: [Waste and Inefficiency in the U.S. Health Care System](#) and [Improving Physician Adherence to Clinical Practice Guidelines](#).

Next steps for NEHI include disseminating our waste reports nationally, examining causes of nonurgent emergency department use and strategies for change, and exploring comparative effectiveness research as a means to improve quality and reduce health care costs.

Many experts believe that up to 30 percent of U.S. health care expenditures are wasteful and could be eliminated without reducing quality of care. Since 2006, with support from a number of grantors, NEHI has been working to frame the issues in an effort to document where the waste is, how it occurs, and how much it costs.

Funding



NEHI received a \$90,000 grant from [The Boston Foundation](#) to establish a new statewide leadership task force to promote health and wellness policies in Massachusetts. This grant funds the third phase of NEHI's Healthy People-Healthy Economy Initiative, which in 2007 produced [The Boston Paradox: Lots of Health Care, Not Enough Health](#). That Report warns that the rising tide of preventable chronic illness is a threat to both our health and our economy



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