

Steven D. Findlay, MPH



Employment History

Managing Editor, *Consumer Reports Best Buy Drugs*

Consumers Union

August 2004 – Present

Consumers Union is the non-profit publisher of *Consumer Reports* magazine. *Best Buy Drugs* is a grant-funded public education project administered by Consumers Union. The project's goal is to help consumers make wise and cost-effective choices when they need prescription drugs. The project's Web site is www.CRBestBuyDrugs.org. Responsibilities include:

Overseeing production of reports on classes of prescription drug (e.g. - painkillers, antidepressants, high blood pressure drugs, statins)

Overseeing production of print materials derived from drug class reports

Overseeing and managing the project's Web site

Assisting in planning and implementation of the project's public outreach campaign in five states

Assisting in planning and implementing press and media strategy

Assisting in forging partnerships with public and private sector entities to help educate the public about the project and Web site, and distribute *Best Buy Drugs* materials

Director of Research and Policy

National Institute for Health Care Management Foundation

November 1999 – August 2004

The NIHCM Foundation is a non-profit research and educational group in Washington D.C. (www.nihcm.org). Responsibilities and achievements included:

Conducting in-house research and policy analysis on a variety of health care topics

Overseeing commissioned research

Coordinating the publication and release of research papers

Writing research papers, issue briefs, and articles for professional journals

Writing and giving testimony to Congress, state legislative panels, and federal agencies

Managing all aspects of an \$800,000 five-year grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Supervising junior staff and interns on projects

Obtaining \$500,000 in grant funding for research and other projects

Conceiving of, planning and organizing conferences and Capitol Hill briefings

Handling media inquiries and interviews

Coordinating and overseeing essay series *Expert Voices*.

Areas of research and focus: health insurance coverage, costs and the uninsured; pharmaceutical spending trends; prescription drug pricing and access issues; direct-to-consumer (DTC) advertising of prescription drugs; the diffusion of innovations in health care and link to quality improvement; promoting preventive health services; putting health care quality information in consumer's hands.

Senior Policy Analyst

National Coalition on Health Care

April 1998 – November 1999

The Coalition is a non-profit member organization comprised of large businesses, labor unions, consumer, religious and provider groups (www.nchc.org). It advocates for health system reforms, conducts research and convenes health care stakeholders. Responsibilities and achievements included:

Initiating and overseeing research studies conducted through a \$_____ grant from the Kellogg Foundation

Coordinating the publication and release of research papers

Supervising junior staff and assistants on projects

Training state operatives and advocates on health policy issues

Facilitating the publication of commissioned research in professional journals

Writing in-house studies, issue papers and fact sheets

Launching a health care quality initiative — Accelerating Change Today (ACT), a joint project with the Institute for Health Care Improvement (IHI)

Writing successful grant application (\$650,000) to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) that supported ACT for 2 years

Conceiving of and editing first ACT report on best practices to address medical errors

Formulating policy positions and writing position statements

Writing legislative testimony and monitoring health care legislation in Congress

Conducting issue-based lobbying

Handling media inquiries and interviews

Areas of research and focus: health insurance coverage and the uninsured; tax policy pertaining to employer-sponsored health coverage; health care costs and expenditures; medical errors; Medicare reform; quality of care issues.

Health Policy Reporter

USA TODAY

December 1996 – April 1998

Served as the newspaper's first full-time health policy reporter, writing primarily for the News section but also for the Money and Life sections. Responsible for both daily and feature stories covering all aspects of health care and health policy. Coverage focused on the growth of managed care, health insurance coverage and the uninsured, Medicare, health care fraud, legislative initiatives, and the hospital industry. Continue to this day to write op-ed articles for the newspaper.

Washington Editor

Business & Health Magazine

Medical Economics, Inc.

October 1992 – December 1996

B&H was a monthly trade magazine covering the world of employer-sponsored health benefits, health insurance

and health policy for a readership (45,000) of human resource, managed care, insurance, hospital and health care executives. The magazine was shuttered in 2001. Responsibilities divided between generating story ideas, assigning and editing stories written by freelancers and other B&H staffers, writing feature stories, writing a regular monthly column on health policy developments in the states, and writing a column on health policy developments in Washington. Tracked closely the advent and ultimate demise of President Clinton's health reform effort 1992 to 1994, and HIPAA in 1996. Two of my B&H stories won trade journalism awards. Continued to write occasional features and columns for the magazine through 1999.

Associate Editor

Medicine and Health Care

U.S. News & World Report

August 1987 – September 1992

Covered medicine and health care at this national news weekly. Responsible for breaking stories and features. Wrote or co-authored some 20 cover stories on topics ranging from physical fitness to heart disease, medical testing, and HIV/AIDS. Helped conceive of and launch the magazine's now annual "Best Hospitals" cover story. Won three awards for U.S. News Stories.

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Medical Reporter

USA TODAY

June 1983 – July 1987

Covered medicine and health care for this then-new national newspaper. Helped shape the way the paper covered the beat. Responsible for breaking stories and features. Stories frequently appeared on page I. Covered the emergence and growth of HIV/AIDS.

Editor

International Medical News Service

September 1981 – June 1983

Served as managing editor of this fledgling news service based in Washington, D.C. The service was owned and operated by the Medical Tribune Company. It supplied a weekly package of syndicated news and features to some 50 English language newspapers and specialty magazines in the U.S. and 12 other countries. Responsible for assigning and editing all stories, supervising staff of two and working with freelancer writers.

Staff Writer

International Medical News Group

July 1979 – September 1981

Covered clinical and policy-oriented news developments and wrote feature stories for seven monthly trade publications targeted at physicians. Publications included *Internal Medicine News*, *Psychiatry News* and *Family Practice News*. Areas of concentration included health care

budget issues, clinical and social issues pertaining to reproductive health, infertility, psychiatry, and the emergence of new psychiatric medications.

Staff Writer

National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health
January 1979 – June 1979

Six-month paid internship in the Office of Cancer Communications. Responsibilities included responding to press calls, writing press releases and explanatory brochures aimed at consumers. Major accomplishment was working with a team of researchers and writers on an authoritative report on diet and cancer; report was a seminal document on the issue and later used as basis for a series of NCI brochures.

Education

Masters Degree in Public Health – MPH

Johns Hopkins University
Focus of Study: Health Policy
Degree Awarded: May 1995

Masters Degree Program in Science Journalism

University of Maryland, College Park
One year of two year program; degree incomplete
1978 – 1979

Bachelor of Science -- BS

University of Colorado, Boulder
Majors: Molecular Biology, Psychology
Degree Awarded: May 1976

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