WASHINGTON, D.C., April 6, 2020 – William C. Hsiao, Ph.D., the K.T. Li Professor of Economics at the Harvard School of Public Health, has been named the 2020 recipient of the William B. Graham Prize for Health Services Research. The Baxter International Foundation and the Association of University Programs in Health Administration (AUPHA) will present the Prize to Hsiao in a virtual format later this summer, at a date to be announced.

The Prize, which has been awarded since 1986, recognizes the contributions of health services researchers who have had a significant impact on the health of the public in one of three primary focus areas: health services management, health policy development, or healthcare delivery. An independent committee of past winners, distinguished academics, and internationally recognized researchers selects the recipient each year.

“The impact of Dr. Hsiao’s work is as equally felt in the United States as it is around the globe. He has designed, supported, and evaluated the impact of health care models across numerous countries,” said Nir Menachemi, Ph.D., MPH, Fairbanks Endowed Chair, professor and department chair of health policy and management at Indiana University and the Graham Prize selection committee chair. “In addition, he has translated his findings in support of improvements in the United States. Dr. Hsiao is undoubtedly one of the best at what he does, and it is a privilege to recognize his many contributions.”

“I am totally surprised by this honor. My research work that has had any influence on reforming national health systems was produced by teams of dedicated experts from different disciplines. I humbly accept the Graham Prize on behalf of my teams,” said Dr. Hsiao. "Moreover, I am heartened that the Association of University Programs in Health Administration and the Baxter International Foundation give recognition to health system policy research that improves the delivery of healthcare."

“Dr. Hsiao’s leadership and expertise has made a meaningful difference for health systems globally—positively impacting the people and patients they serve,” said Veronica Arroyave, executive director of the Baxter International Foundation. “We thank Dr. Hsiao for his work and are honored to
support his recognition through this Prize, which celebrates Baxter’s mission to save and sustain lives and commemorates the legacy of one of Baxter’s former CEOs and chairmen, William Graham.”

Hsiao’s health policy research program spans across less developed nations. One of his earliest contributions was developing a rational basis to set physician fees - the Resource-based Relative Value Scale (RBRVS). Many hospitals in the USA and around the world, including China, currently set physicians’ bonuses for salaried doctors on this basis. Hsiao later developed an analytical model for national health systems, the Control Knob model, which is being taught and used worldwide. Eight nations commissioned Hsiao and his team to design major reforms of their national health systems. Hsiao used his model to analyze the strengths and weaknesses of those nations’ health systems, then recommend major reforms; four nations adopted his recommended reforms. The president of Taiwan awarded Hsiao the Presidential Brilliant Star Medal for his contribution.

Currently, Hsiao conducts research to improve health care financing and delivery in India and China. He has also recently turned his attention to the United States. The state of Vermont commissioned him to design a single-payer system. A few months ago, California Governor Gavin Newsom appointed him as a member of the Governor’s Commission on Healthy Californians for All, whose task is to recommend viable reforms for the state of California.

About the William B. Graham Prize for Health Services Research

Since 1986, the Baxter International Foundation and the Association of University Programs in Health Administration have awarded the William B. Graham Prize for Health Services Research to recognize researchers who have made major contributions to the health of the public through innovative research in health services. The Prize honors the late William B. Graham, longtime chairman and CEO of Baxter International Inc., and is internationally regarded as the premier recognition for individuals conducting health services research. The Prize includes an award of $25,000 to the individual and $25,000 to a non-profit institution that supports the winner’s work. Past recipients have included Peter Pronovost, M.D., Elizabeth Bradley, Ph.D., David Blumenthal, M.D., John Iglehart, and Uwe Reinhardt, Ph.D.

About the Prize Sponsors

Every day, Baxter and the Baxter International Foundation strive to make a meaningful difference in the lives of people who depend on the company’s products, and in the communities where employees live and work. The Foundation helps advance Baxter’s mission to save and sustain lives by partnering with organizations around the world to increase access to healthcare for the underserved, develop the next generation of innovators who will lead the way in advancing healthcare and to create a positive, long-lasting impact in communities globally. For more information, please visit Baxter's Corporate Responsibility page.
AUPHA is a global network of colleges, universities, faculty, individuals, and organizations dedicated to the improvement of healthcare delivery through excellence in healthcare management and policy education. Its mission is to foster excellence and innovation in health management and policy education, and scholarship. It is the only non-profit entity of its kind that works to improve the delivery of health services – and thus the health of citizens – throughout the world by educating professional managers at the entry level. AUPHA’s membership includes the premier baccalaureate, master’s, and doctoral programs in health administration education in the United States, Canada, and around the world. For more information, please visit www.aupha.org.