



Bhaven Sampat Receives Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Investigator Award

Bhaven Sampat, PhD, assistant professor of Health Policy and Management at Columbia's Mailman School of Public Health, has been selected by the National Advisory Committee of The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's (RWJF) Investigator Awards in Health Policy Research as one of this year's award recipients for his contributions in improving health and health policy. The award provides funding for projects that address some of the most challenging policy issues and concerns facing America today, as well as wide-ranging concerns about the nation's health and healthcare system.

This year, 15 scholars affiliated with leading universities across the country will receive a total of \$3.4 million to support 12 new research projects. Columbia is the most represented institution to receive this highly prestigious award.

Dr. Sampat's project, *The Political Economy of the National Institutes of Health*, analyzes how the scientific community, disease interest groups, Congress, and the media interact to shape NIH allocation decisions. In examining how the NIH makes decisions about where to invest its funds and the effects of those decisions on the health of Americans, the research by Dr. Sampat, who is also a health economist with the School's International Center for Health Outcomes and Innovation Research, will provide a picture of NIH's funding patterns that should help broaden understanding of how research investment decisions are made, their results, and how they might be improved. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is the single largest sponsor of biomedical research in the world, and enjoys a high level of bipartisan political support that is perhaps unrivaled in the health policy arena.

Previous Mailman School recipients of the RWJF Investigator Awards include Lawrence Aber, Lawrence Brown, Ronald Bayer, Amy Fairchild, Mindy Fullilove, Annetine Gelijns, Sherry Glied, Barron Lerner, Gerald Markowitz, Constance Nathanson, Jo Phelan, David Rosner, Sheila Rothman, and Michael Sparer.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the nation's largest philanthropy devoted exclusively to health and healthcare, created the Investigator Awards in Health Policy to enhance the public's understanding of significant problems and policy issues related to health and the healthcare of Americans. Details of the project are available on the Investigator Awards website at <http://www.ihhccpar.Rutgers.edu/rwjf>.