Elimination of Hepatitis C Virus in the next 25 Years: How Operations Research Can Help

Monday, March 7, 2016 - 4:00pm to 6:00pm
Engineering Lab II, Kellogg Room (118)

The launch of new highly-effective treatments for hepatitis C virus (HCV) and recent updates in HCV screening could substantially reduce the burden of hepatitis C in the United States and worldwide. However, the high cost of these new therapies has drawn criticism from the various stakeholders including state governments, private payers and the World Health Organization. This talk will cover topics encompassing an ongoing debate on the cost of recently approved treatments, the future trends in HCV disease burden, and controlling epidemic by applying interventions in different settings.

Using methods from operations research, this work aims to tackle the following questions:

- Is the current HCV drug pricing justified and do we have enough resources to treat all eligible patients?
- Where do we stand with respect to HCV eradication in the United States?
- What policies do we need to implement to eradicate HCV worldwide?
- How do we optimize our resources to maximize the benefits new treatments have to offer?
Speaker Jagpreet Chhatwal is an assistant professor at Harvard Medical School and a senior scientist at Massachusetts General Hospital. His research focuses on the application of operations research methods to improve clinical decision-making and inform health policies. He leads projects in multiple disease areas including hepatitis C, human papillomavirus, liver cancer, liver transplantation, leukemia, and breast cancer.

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