Need to change your benefits?  
Harvard open enrollment is Oct. 27–Nov. 9

Open enrollment, the annual period when Harvard employees can make changes to their benefit plans, begins Oct. 27. This year, faculty and staff will find a few important changes to their health care offerings, including a new vision care plan, free preventive health services, and increases in emergency room and office visit co-payments.

Employees have until Nov. 9 to make and review changes to their medical and dental coverage or open a flexible spending account, in which money can be set aside on a pretax basis to cover certain health or dependent-care costs.

Visit HARVie for more information or to make changes, which will be effective Jan. 1, 2012. Read Harvard Gazette article about this year's benefits changes.

Submit ideas, questions for upcoming HSPH Town Hall
Nov. 9, 2:30–3:30 PM
Kresge Cafeteria

The HSPH community is invited to hear Dean Julio Frenk and HSPH's new Executive Dean for Administration Michael Kan discuss the School's finances and efforts underway to better equip the School for the financial challenges it faces by improving efficiencies and diversifying revenue sources. Share your ideas and questions at this informational session.

You may submit questions anonymously in advance online (pin protected) or bring your questions to the session.

Symposium honors 60-year legacy of HSPH's Melvin First
Family, colleagues, and former students traveled from across the world to celebrate the life and career of HSPH Prof. Emeritus Melvin W. First at a memorial symposium on September 30,
2011. First passed away on June 11 at age 96. First led the HSPH program in air cleaning and ventilation for nearly 40 years and was recognized internationally for his research and field applications of air filter theory, operation, and maintenance, and of nuclear air cleaning systems. For the past two decades, he was deeply involved with international air disinfection research aimed at controlling pathogens such as drug-resistant tuberculosis and influenza. Read more

Rosenthal's promotion to professor celebrated at HSPH symposium

Health economics may not be the most glamorous specialty in public health, Dean for Academic Affairs David Hunter told an HSPH audience gathered to celebrate health economist Meredith B. Rosenthal's promotion to full professor, but work such as Rosenthal's that addresses health care costs, quality, and affordability meets a major global need. At an October 11, 2011 symposium in Rosenthal's honor, Hunter joined Arnold Epstein, chair of the Department of Health Policy and Management, and Harvard Medical School Prof. Richard Frank in praising Rosenthal as a research, policy translation, and teaching "triple threat" who works on important problems that make a real difference in people's lives. Read more

Exposure to chemical in plastics before birth linked to behavioral, emotional difficulties in young girls

Exposure in the womb to bisphenol A (BPA)--a chemical used to make plastic containers and other consumer goods--is associated with behavioral problems in young girls, according to a study led by HSPH researchers and colleagues. BPA is found in many consumer products, including canned food linings, polycarbonate plastics, dental sealants, and some receipts made from thermal paper. Most people living in industrialized nations are exposed to BPA. BPA has been shown to interfere with normal development in animals and has been linked with cardiovascular disease and diabetes in people. Read more
Around the School

Harvard TREC Center, NCI-funded research center focused on relationship between obesity and cancer, launches new website