Leah Williams (M.D Candidate 2013) and Hayley Dewey (J.D Candidate 2012) presented their poster “Long Term Complications: Inaccuracies in Florida’s Death Certification Process for Long Term Elder Care Facilities,” at the 7th Annual Florida State University College of Medicine Research Fair in the COM Atrium on February 8, 2011. The faculty advisor for this interdisciplinary research project was Marshall Kapp, J.D., M.P.H., Director of the FSU Center for Innovative Collaboration in Medicine and Law. Financial Support was provided by the FSU College of Medicine Department of Geriatrics through a summer research fund established by a gift from Dr. Charles Matthews.

Images from the 7th Annual Florida State University College of Medicine Research Fair in the COM Atrium on February 8, 2011.

(Solution)
We submit the best solution to this problem is to better educate physicians about how to complete death certificates with the most specific, accurate information possible. This education would best be accomplished in medical school but could also be affected by continuing medical education or even local governmental Medical Examiner/Coroner offices.

(Future Research)
Analysis of the actual dollar effect of one year’s worth of skewed Florida death certificate information on funding allocation for a national specific health conditions death certificates after a year.

(Hayley Dewey, Marshall Kapp, J.D, M.P.H, Leah Williams)