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Prior to joining the UMBC faculty in 1996, Dr. Stuart worked for the Maryland Department of Health, where she served first as Director of Medicaid Policy and later as Director of Policy and Health Statistics. Here she pioneered applications of Medicaid data for policy and management, and was involved in developing Medicaid policy, risk adjustment, and quality improvement methods.

She served as a member of the National Academy of Science Panel on Performance Measures and Data for Public Health Performance. Since coming to UMBC, her research has focused on international best practices that integrate health care, rehabilitation and social supports to improve chronic disease outcomes.

She is currently working with the Maryland VA Rehabilitation Research and Development Center of Excellence on a project entitled, "Translational research for task oriented exercise in chronic stroke." In addition, she is part of a team, convened under an agreement between the National Institute of Health and its Italian counterpart (ISS), to provide technical assistance to the Italian Adaptive Physical Activity (APA) program in Tuscany.

She has a Doctor of Science in Health Policy and Management from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and a Masters in Community Planning from the University of Maryland.

Her articles have been published in scholarly journals including Journal of the American Medical Association, The Milbank Quarterly, Medical Care, Gerontologist, Chest, and Neurorehabilitation and Neural Repair.