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**NEWS RELEASE**  
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**The Case for a Progressive Tax: From Basic Research to Policy Recommendations**

**NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE—**

Given headlines about Occupy Wall Street Protests and the Super Committee's inability to reach an agreement, what could be timelier than a paper on progressive taxation? Economics Nobel Laureate Peter Diamond of MIT, and John Bates Clark Medalist Emmanuel Saez of UC Berkeley, co-author the article "The Case for a Progressive Tax: From Basic Research to Policy Recommendations," published in the fall 2011 issue of the *Journal of Economic Perspectives (JEP)*. They "explore the path from basic research results in optimal tax theory to formulating policy recommendations."

The authors identify three conditions which must be met for a theoretical result to be used as part of forming policy recommendations and then provide three policy recommendations from basic research that meet the conditions. Diamond and Saez explain why they view previous research indicating a zero marginal tax rate for the top earner in the Mirrlees model, and the zero capital income tax results of Chamley and Judd, and Atkinson and Stiglitz as not policy relevant.

In the appendix, Diamond and Saez compare their interpretations to the conclusions detailed in Gregory Mankiw, Matthew Weinzierl, and Danny Yagan's 2009 paper titled "Optimal Taxation in Theory and Practice," also of the JEP.

The *Journal of Economic Perspectives* is an open access journal, membership is not required. Please find the above article at <http://www.aeaweb.org/issue.php?journal=JEP&volume=25&issue=4>.

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