



## **New Cross-National Comparisons of Health Systems: Findings from The Commonwealth Fund International Health Policy Surveys**

**Media Teleconference  
Tuesday, April 4th, 2006  
11:00 a.m., EDT**

### **Speaker Biographies**

**DONALD M. BERWICK, M.D., M.P.P.**, President and CEO, Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI), is one of the nation's leading authorities on health care quality and improvement issues. He is also clinical professor of pediatrics and health care policy at the Harvard Medical School. Dr. Berwick has published over 130 scientific articles in numerous professional journals on subjects relating to health care policy, decision analysis, technology assessment, and health care quality management. His research and commentaries have appeared in *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, *The New England Journal of Medicine*, *The British Medical Journal*, and others. Books he has co-authored include *Curing Health Care, New Rules: Regulation, Markets and the Quality of American Health Care*, and *Cholesterol, Children with Heart Disease: An Analysis of Alternatives*. Dr. Berwick has served as vice chair of the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, the first "Independent Member" of the Board of Trustees of the American Hospital Association, and as chair on the National Advisory Council of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. An elected member of the Institute of Medicine (IOM), Dr. Berwick now serves on the IOM's governing Council. He served on President Clinton's Advisory Commission on Consumer Protection and Quality in the Healthcare Industry. Co-chaired by the secretaries of health and human services and labor, the Commission was charged with developing a broader understanding of issues facing the rapidly evolving health care delivery system and building consensus on ways to assure and improve the quality of health care.

**ANDREW B. BINDMAN, M.D.**, is a professor of medicine, epidemiology, biostatistics, and health policy at the University of California, San Francisco and chief of the division of General Internal Medicine at San Francisco General Hospital, for which he also directs the Primary Care Research Center in the Department of Medicine. Dr. Bindman has published numerous studies and reports on access to primary medical care, health outcomes associated with barriers to such care, and the changing role of primary care physicians and safety net providers in managed care. In 1993, he was selected as one of the first Robert Wood Johnson Generalist Physician Faculty Scholars. In 1996, he was selected as a U.S. Public Health Service Primary Care Policy Fellow. Dr. Bindman has received both the Young Investigator Award and the Article of the Year Award from AcademyHealth. He has practiced and taught in the General Medical Clinic at San Francisco General Hospital for more than 15 years. He was a 2000 Atlantic Fellow and a visiting professor at the University College London studying the United Kingdom's implementation of Primary Care Groups. He is currently leading a Commonwealth Fund supported study comparing primary care practice in the United States, United Kingdom, New Zealand, and Australia. Dr. Bindman serves on the Coordinating Committee of The Commonwealth Fund's International Program in Health Policy and Practice.

**KAREN DAVIS, Ph. D.**, is president of The Commonwealth Fund, a national philanthropy engaged in independent research on health and social policy issues. Davis assumed the presidency of the fourth-oldest private foundation in the country on January 1, 1995. Established by Anna M. Harkness in 1918 with the broad

charge to enhance the common good, the Fund seeks ways to help Americans live healthy and productive lives, giving special attention to those groups with serious and neglected problems. Davis is a nationally recognized economist, with a distinguished career in public policy and research. Before joining the Fund, she served as chairman of the Department of Health Policy and Management at The Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, where she also held an appointment as professor of economics. She served as deputy assistant secretary for health policy in the Department of Health and Human Services from 1977 to 1980, and was the first woman to head a U.S. Public Health Service agency. Prior to her government career, Davis was a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution in Washington, DC, a visiting lecturer at Harvard University, and an assistant professor of economics at Rice University. A native of Oklahoma, she received her doctorate in economics from Rice University, which recognized her achievements with a Distinguished Alumna Award in 1991. Davis is the recipient of the 2000 Baxter-Allegiance Foundation Prize for Health Services Research. In the spring of 2001, Davis received an honorary doctorate in humane letters from John Hopkins University. Davis has published a number of significant books, monographs, and articles on health and social policy issues, including the landmark books *Health Care Cost Containment*, *Medicare Policy*, *National Health Insurance: Benefits, Costs, and Consequences*, and *Health and the War on Poverty*. She serves on the Overseer's Committee to Visit the School of Public Health, Harvard University; the Board of Visitors of Columbia University, School of Nursing; and the Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center Advisory Committee for the Center for Women's Health. She was elected to the Institute of Medicine in 1975 and has served two terms on the IOM Governing Council (1986-90 and 1997-2000). She is a past president of the AcademyHealth (formerly AHSRHP) and an AcademyHealth distinguished fellow; a member of the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured; a current member of the New York City Mayor's Commission on Women's Issues, and a former member of the Agency for Healthcare Quality and Research National Advisory Committee.

**CATHY SCHOEN, M.S.**, is senior vice president for research and evaluation at The Commonwealth Fund and also serves as the research director of the Fund's Commission on a High Performance Health Care System. At the Fund, her work includes strategic advice on the Fund's survey work and research initiatives to track system performance. Before joining the Fund in 1995, Schoen was research associate professor on the faculty of the University of Massachusetts' School of Public Health, where she taught health economics and was also the director of special projects at the Labor Relations and Research Center. During the 1980s, she directed the Service Employees International Union's Research and Policy Department in Washington, DC. She served as staff to President Carter's national health insurance task force, with a focus on payment issues, Medicaid, and low income populations. Prior to federal service, she was a research fellow at the Brookings Institution in Washington, D C. She has served on various Institute of Medicine, and federal and state advisory committees. Schoen holds an undergraduate degree in economics from Smith College and a master's degree in economics from Boston College. She has published numerous articles and reports on health insurance and access, equity, labor, and social policy issues, and co-authored the book *Health and the War on Poverty*. As part of The Commonwealth Fund's International Health Policy Program, her recent publications include international studies comparing U.S. health care experience to other nations.

**The Commonwealth Fund is a private foundation supporting independent research on health and social issues.**