

*Bending the Curve: Options for Achieving Savings and
Improving Value in U.S. Health Spending*

December 17, 2007

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Karen Davis, Ph.D., is president of The Commonwealth Fund, a position she assumed on January 1, 1995. Dr. 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 Bloomberg 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 1977–1980, the first woman to head a U.S. Public Health Service agency. Prior to her government career, Dr. 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 Ph.D. in economics from Rice, which recognized her achievements with a Distinguished Alumna Award in 1991. Dr. Davis is the recipient of the 2000 Baxter-Allegiance Foundation Prize for Health Services Research. In the spring of 2001, she received an honorary doctorate in humane letters from Johns Hopkins University. She 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 Consequence*, 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; the Geisinger Health System Board of Directors; and the Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center Advisory Committee for the Center for Women's Health. Dr. Davis 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); an AcademyHealth distinguished fellow; a member of the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured; and a former member of the Agency for Healthcare Quality and Research (AHRQ) National Advisory Committee.

James J. Mongan, M.D., chairs the Commonwealth Fund Commission on a High Performance Health System. Dr. Mongan is president and chief executive officer of Partners HealthCare, a position he assumed on January 1, 2003. He is also professor of health care policy and professor of social medicine at Harvard Medical School. From 1996–2002, Dr. Mongan served as president of Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH), the largest and oldest teaching affiliate of Harvard Medical School. Before his tenure at MGH, he served for 15 years as executive director of the Truman Medical Center in Kansas City and as dean of the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine. Prior to that, he spent 11 years in Washington, DC. He served as a staff member of the Senate Committee on Finance for seven years, working on Medicare and Medicaid legislation, and he served in the Carter administration as deputy assistant secretary for health and then at the White House as associate director of the domestic policy staff. Dr. Mongan is a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences. He has served on the board of trustees of the American Hospital Association and the Kaiser Family Foundation and was a member of the Prospective Payment Assessment Commission established by Congress. A native of San Francisco, Dr. Mongan received his undergraduate education at the University of California, Berkeley and Stanford University and his medical degree from Stanford University School of Medicine. He completed his internship at Kaiser Foundation Hospital in San Francisco and served two years in the public health service.

Cathy Schoen, M.Sc., 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 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, Ms. 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, D.C. 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, DC. She has served on various Institute of Medicine, federal and state advisory committees. She 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.