

The Commonwealth Fund: State Children's Health Scorecard
Speaker Biographies
May 27, 2008

Karen Davis, President

The Commonwealth Fund

Karen Davis is president of The Commonwealth Fund, a private foundation that aims to promote a high performing health care system that achieves better access, improved quality, and greater efficiency, particularly for society's most vulnerable, including low-income people, the uninsured, minority Americans, young children, and elderly adults.

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 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, and was the first woman to head a U.S. Public Health Service agency.

Prior to her government career, Ms. Davis was a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C., 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 University, which recognized her achievements with a Distinguished Alumna Award in 1991. Ms. Davis is the recipient of the 2000 Baxter-Allegiance Foundation Prize for Health Services Research. In the spring of 2001, Ms. Davis received an honorary doctorate in humane letters from John Hopkins University. In 2006, she was selected for the AcademyHealth Distinguished Investigator Award for significant and lasting contributions to the field of health services research in addition to the Picker Award for Excellence in the Advancement of Patient Centered Care.

Ms. 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 is on the Board of Directors of the Geisinger Health System. She was elected to the Institute of Medicine in 1975, has served two terms on the IOM governing Council (1986–90 and 1997–2000), and was a member of the IOM Committee on Redesigning Health Insurance Benefits, Payment and Performance Improvement Programs. 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 and a former member of the Agency for Healthcare Quality and Research (AHRQ) National Advisory Committee. She also serves on the Panel of Health Advisors for the Congressional Budget Office (CBO).

**Edward L. Schor, Vice President
The Commonwealth Fund**

Edward L. Schor, M.D., vice president, leads the Fund's Child Development and Preventive Care program. Dr. Schor, a pediatrician, has held a number of positions in pediatric practice, academic pediatrics, health services research, and public health. Immediately prior to joining the Fund in 2002, he served as medical director for the Iowa Department of Public Health, Division of Family and Community Health. Earlier in his career, Dr. Schor was medical director of The Chesapeake Health Plan in Baltimore, director of the division of general pediatrics at the University of New Mexico, program director for Medical Education and Improving Functional Outcomes and Well-Being with the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, and director of the Functional Outcomes Program at the New England Medical Center. He received post-doctoral training in social and behavioral sciences and has a special interest in the social determinants of child health and family functioning.

Dr. Schor is editor of the book *Caring for Your School-Age Child*, and has chaired both the Committee on Early Childhood, Adoption and Dependent care and the national Task Force on the Family for the American Academy of Pediatrics. He also has served on the Maternal and Child Health Bureau Child Health Survey Technical Panel, consulted for the National Center for Infancy and Early Childhood Health Policy, and co-chaired the IHCI/National Initiative for Children's Healthcare Quality on the topic of improving health care for children in foster care. He received the 2006 John C. MacQueen Award from the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs. Dr. Schor has been a member of the faculties of several major university medical schools and schools of public health. He has also served on the editorial boards of a number of pediatric journals.