

The Commonwealth Fund: IHP Survey
Speaker Biographies
November 12, 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).

Robin Osborn, Vice President and Director, International Program in Health Policy and Practice

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Robin Osborn, vice president and director of The Commonwealth Fund's International Program in Health Policy and Practice, has responsibility for the Fund's annual international symposium, annual international health policy surveys and comparisons of health systems data, the Commonwealth Fund-Nuffield Trust international conferences on quality (Pennyhill Park/Ditchley), the Fund's International Working Group on Quality Indicators, the Harkness Fellowships in Health Care Policy, and the Packer Policy Fellowships, and represents the Fund on the Bertelsmann International Health Policy Reform Network. Prior to joining the Fund in 1997, Osborn was director of fellowship programs and memberships at the Association for Health Services Research, where she directed the Picker/ Commonwealth Scholars Program and served as deputy director of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Investigator Awards in Health Policy Research Program. While living in the United Kingdom from 1986 to 1992, she held management positions at BUPA, the largest private health insurer in the United Kingdom, with responsibility for developing managed care programs. Her previous positions include managing director of the Miller Institute for Performing Artists at St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center; executive director of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Greater New York's corporate foundation, The Health Services Improvement Fund; special assistant to the vice president of Blue Cross and Blue Shield for the division charged with cost containment, quality, pilot benefits and health services research; and assistant director of Bronx Municipal Hospital Center, a 1,400-bed, public safety net hospital. She earned a bachelor of science with honors at Tufts University and a master of business administration from Columbia University.

Cathy Schoen, Senior Vice President

The Commonwealth Fund

Cathy Schoen is senior vice president at The Commonwealth Fund. She is a member of the Fund's executive management team and research director of the Fund's Commission on a High Performance Health System. Her work includes strategic oversight and management of surveys, research and policy initiatives to track health system performance. From 1998 through 2005, she directed the Fund's Task Force on the Future of Health Insurance. Prior to joining the Fund in 1995, Ms. Schoen taught health economics at the University of Massachusetts' School of Public Health and directed special projects at the UMASS Labor Relations and Research Center. During the 1980s, she directed the Service Employees International Union's research and policy department. In the late 1970s, she was on the staff of President Carter's national health insurance task force, where she oversaw analysis and policy development. Prior to federal service, she was a research fellow at the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C. She has authored numerous publications on health policy issues, insurance, and national/international health system performance and co-authored the book, *Health and the War on Poverty*. She holds an undergraduate degree in economics from Smith College and a graduate degree in economics from Boston College.