

## **SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES**

### **Joel C. Cantor**

Director, Center for State Health Policy; Professor, Public Policy  
Rutgers University

Joel C. Cantor, Sc.D., is the director of the Center for State Health Policy and professor of Public Policy at Rutgers University. Dr. Cantor's research focuses on issues of health care regulation, financing, and delivery. His recent work includes studies of health insurance market regulation, state health system performance, and access to care for low-income and minority populations.

Dr. Cantor has published widely on health policy topics, and serves on the editorial board of the policy journal *Inquiry*. He is a frequent advisor on health policy matters to New Jersey state government and was the 2006 recipient of Rutgers University President's Award for Research in Service to New Jersey. Dr. Cantor received his doctoral degree in health policy and management from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

### **Carolyn M. Clancy**

Director  
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

Carolyn M. Clancy, M.D., was appointed director of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) on February 5, 2003. Prior to her appointment, Dr. Clancy had served as AHRQ's acting director since March 2002 and previously was director of the Agency's Center for Outcomes and Effectiveness Research (COER).

Dr. Clancy, who is a general internist and health services researcher, is a graduate of Boston College and the University of Massachusetts Medical School. Following clinical training in internal medicine, Dr. Clancy was a Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania. She was also an assistant professor in the Department of Internal Medicine at the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond before joining AHRQ in 1990.

Dr. Clancy holds an academic appointment at George Washington University School of Medicine (Clinical Associate Professor, Department of Medicine) and serves as senior associate editor, *Health Services Research*. Dr. Clancy has served on multiple editorial boards (currently *Annals of Family Medicine*, *American Journal of Medical Quality*, and *Medical Care Research and Review*). Dr. Clancy has published widely in peer reviewed journals and has edited or contributed to seven books. She is a member of the Institute of Medicine and was elected a Master of the American College of Physicians in 2004. Her major research interests include various dimensions of health care quality and patient, including women's health, primary care, access to care services, and the impact of financial incentives on physicians' decisions.

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### **Karen Davis**

President

The Commonwealth Fund

Karen Davis, PhD is president of The Commonwealth Fund, a national philanthropy engaged in independent research on health and social policy issues.

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 is 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).

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### **Cathy Schoen**

Senior Vice President  
The Commonwealth Fund

Cathy Schoen, M.S., is senior vice president at The Commonwealth Fund, 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 of surveys, research, and policy initiatives to track health system performance.

Previously Ms. Schoen was on the research faculty of 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. Earlier, she served as staff to President Carter's national health insurance task force. Prior to federal service, she was a research fellow at the Brookings Institution. She has authored numerous publications on health policy and insurance issues, and national/international health system performance, including the Fund's 2006 National Scorecard on U.S. 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.

### **Sandra Shewry**

Director  
California Department of Health Services

Sandra Shewry was appointed director of the California Department of Health Services by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in March 2004. The California Department of Health Services is one of the largest departments within state government with a budget of \$39 billion and 6,000 employees. The mission of the California Department of Health Services is to protect and improve the health of all Californians. The programs under Ms. Shewry's leadership include public health protection including emergency preparedness and disease-prevention, the licensing of health facilities, and the State's Medicaid Program (Medi-Cal).

Prior to joining CDHS in 2004, Sandra Shewry was the Director of Health at the National Governor's Association's Center for Best Practices where she worked on a broad range of health financing, service delivery, and policy issues.

Ms. Shewry served as the Executive Director of the California Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board, and was responsible for development and implementation of California's high risk pool (MRMIP), a subsidized pregnancy coverage program (AIM), a small employer purchasing cooperative (The HIPC), and the state's S-CHIP (Healthy Families).

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Ms. Shewry has over 20 years experience in California State government. She began her state career with the California Department of Health Services as a health planning analyst and later served as an assistant secretary at the Health and Welfare Agency.

Ms. Shewry earned graduate degrees in Public Health and Social Welfare from the University of California at Berkeley.

### **Alan R. Weil**

Executive Director  
National Academy for State Health Policy

Alan R. Weil, J.D., M.P.P., has been executive director of the National Academy for State Health Policy since September of 2004. Previously, Mr. Weil served for seven years as director of the Assessing the New Federalism project at the Urban Institute, one of the largest privately funded social policy research projects ever undertaken in the United States. He has also held a cabinet position as executive director of the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing; was health policy advisor to Colorado Governor Roy Romer; and was assistant general counsel in the Massachusetts Department of Medical Security. He is the editor of two books: *Welfare Reform: The Next Act* and *Federalism and Health Policy*, and has authored chapters in a number of books and published articles in journals including *Health Affairs* and *Inquiry*. Mr. Weil was an appointed member of President Clinton's Advisory Commission on Consumer Protection and Quality in the Health Care Industry, which drafted the patient's bill of rights. He is a member of the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured, the Commonwealth Fund Commission on a High Performance Health System, and serves on advisory committees for three Robert Wood Johnson Foundation projects. He is a member of the board of directors of the National Public Health and Hospitals Institute, and of the editorial board of *State Health Watch*. Mr. Weil is a graduate of the University of California at Berkeley, and received his M.P.P. degree from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and his J.D. from Harvard Law School.