

The Commonwealth Fund 2006 International Health Policy Survey  
Press Briefing  
November 2, 2006

**Speakers**

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**ANDREW 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. He has recently been named the director of a University of California MultiCampus Research Institute, which will perform research and policy analysis in order to improve the performance of California's Medicaid program. Bindman has published numerous studies and reports on access to primary medical care, health outcomes associated with barriers to such care, and the evolving role of primary care physicians and safety net providers. 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. 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 20 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. Bindman serves on the Coordinating Committee of The Commonwealth Fund's International Program in Health Policy and Practice and chairs the Packer Policy Fellowships Selection Committee.

**CAROLYN M. CLANCY, M.D.**, serves as director for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). Prior to this appointment on February 5, 2003, she served as director of its Center for Outcomes and Effectiveness Research, and prior to 1997, as director of AHRQ's Center for Primary Care Research. Clancy, a general internist and health services researcher, has research interests that include women's health, primary care, access to care, and the impact of financial incentives on physicians' decisions. Active in multiple professional organizations, she has been recognized as a leader within the Society of General Internal Medicine. Clancy also holds an academic appointment as clinical associate professor, Department of Medicine at George Washington University School of Medicine, and serves as senior associate editor of *Health Services Research*. She is a member of multiple editorial boards, including the *American Journal of Medical Quality*, *Annals of Family Medicine*, and *Medical Care Research and Review*, and has published widely in peer-reviewed journals and edited or contributed to seven books. Following clinical training in internal medicine, 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 prior to joining AHRQ (then named the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research) in 1990. She is a member of The Commonwealth Fund's Coordinating Committee for its International Program in Health Policy and Practice. Clancy is a graduate of Boston College and the University of Massachusetts Medical School.

**PHILIP DAVIES** joined the Australian Government's Department of Health and Ageing as a deputy secretary in 2002 and brings to the role more than 25 years' international experience in health care policy and management. As a member of the Department's Executive he has had responsibility for policy development and program management in a variety of areas including medical and pharmaceutical benefits, health workforce, e-health, rural health, Aboriginal and

Torres Strait Islander health, and private health insurance. He is a member of the Executive Committee of the Health Services Research Association of Australia and New Zealand, served on the Board of the National Blood Authority, and chaired the Australian Government's Gene Technology Standing Committee. In December 2005 Davies was also appointed as transitional director of the Joint Agency Establishment Group tasked with setting up the proposed Australia New Zealand Therapeutic Products Authority. After graduating in mathematics, Davies worked for five years with the Department of Health and Social Security in London before joining Coopers and Lybrand (now PricewaterhouseCoopers) as a health care management consultant. In 1991 he transferred to Auckland, New Zealand and in 1995 he became a partner in the firm's consultancy practice in Christchurch, New Zealand. In 1997 Davies joined the New Zealand Ministry of Health as a deputy director-general, leading the development of policy and legislation underpinning the most recent reorganization of New Zealand's health system in 2000. He then spent 18 months as a senior health economist with the World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva before moving to Australia. Davies holds a master's degree in management science and operational research. He is also an honorary fellow of the Health Services Research Centre at the Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand, and has provided consultancy advice on health policy to the World Bank and WHO.

**KAREN DAVIS** 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 1977–1980, 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, 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. 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. In 2006, she was selected for the AcademyHealth Distinguished Investigator Award for significant and lasting contributions to the field of health services research. 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 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.

**FRANK FEDYK** is Acting Assistant Deputy Minister of the Health Policy Branch, Health Canada. Within his current responsibilities, Fedyk gives overall policy leadership in Health Canada, with a focus on health care reform, intergovernmental health affairs, and national health insurance. As director general of Intergovernmental Affairs Directorate, he is responsible for

providing strategic advice on federal–provincial relations, the administration of the *Canada Health Act* and the vitality of official languages for minority communities. Trained as both an economist and chemist, Fedyk has spent most of his professional career at Health Canada dealing with a wide range of policy issues. Fedyk studied economics at McMaster University.

**THE HONORABLE PATRICIA HEWITT, MP**, was appointed Secretary of State for Health in May 2005. From 2001 to 2005, she was Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, the longest-serving holder of that post since the late 1950's, and Cabinet Minister for Women. Before entering the Cabinet, she was Minister for Small Business and e-Commerce at the Department of Trade and Industry and, previously, Economic Secretary to the Treasury. Hewitt has been the Member of Parliament for Leicester West since 1997. She played a leading role in the reform of the Labour Party, both as press secretary and then policy co-coordinator to the then-leader of the Opposition, Rt Hon Neil Kinnock, and then as deputy director of the leading centre-left think-tank, the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR). In 1993 Hewitt wrote *About Time: The Revolution in Work and Family Life*. As Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, she worked with business, trade unions and equality groups to give parents more choice about how to balance work and family responsibilities. While at IPPR, she also served as deputy chair of the Commission for Social Justice, whose report (*Social Justice*, 1994) made a major contribution to new Labour thinking. Before entering Parliament, Hewitt worked as director of research for the Andersen Consulting (now Accenture). Hewitt was born and brought up in Australia. She was educated at the Canberra Girls' Grammar School and Newnham College, Cambridge University.

**THE HONORABLE PETE HODGSON**, New Zealand Minister of Health, was born in Whangarei in 1950 and educated at Whangarei Boys' High School before training as a vet at Massey University. He practiced as a vet in Canterbury in the early 1970s and in England in the early 1980s. He has also worked as a veterinarian and secondary teacher, mostly of physics, in Dunedin and has owned or managed a range of small businesses. He joined the New Zealand Labour Party's Dunedin North branch in 1976 and became the secretary of the Castle Street Branch. In 1977 he became the campaign manager for Stan Rodger's successful campaign for the 1978 General Election. In the 1980s, he was employed by the Labour party as a marginal seats organizer and later became part of the Labour Party's strategy committee and the PM's advisory committee. In 1990 he was nominated as the Labour Party Candidate for Dunedin North. Hodgson has been the MP for Dunedin North since 1990. In 1999 he was appointed Minister of Energy, Fisheries, Forestry, Research Science and Technology, and Minister for Crown Research Institutes; Associate Minister of Economic, Industry and Regional Development, and Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade as part of the first Labour-led government. He was given responsibility for Timberlands West Coast Ltd; for the government's Oceans Policy project, and for maximizing the opportunities to New Zealand from the *Lord of The Rings* film project. He became Convenor of the Ministerial Group on Climate Change. Going into the second term of the Labour-led Government elected in 2002, Hodgson retained his Energy, Fisheries, Research Science and Technology; Crown Research Institutes; Economic, Industry and Regional Development; and Climate Change responsibilities. In February 2004 Hodgson became Minister of Transport and relinquished the Fisheries and Science portfolios. In December 2004 Hodgson was appointed Minister of Commerce, Minister for Land Information, and Minister of Statistics, as well as Associate Minister of Health. In the third term of the Labour-led Government from October 2005, Hodgson is Minister of Health and has relinquished all other responsibilities.

**JOHN K. IGLEHART** is founding editor of *Health Affairs*, a bimonthly policy journal published since 1981 by Project HOPE. He serves on the Coordinating Committee of The Commonwealth Fund's International Program in Health Policy and Practice. A national correspondent for the *New England Journal of Medicine* since 1981, Iglehart has written more than 100 papers as part of *NEJM*'s regular essay "Health Policy Report." From 1979 to 1981, he was a vice president of the Kaiser Foundation Health Plan and directed its Washington office. Iglehart held a variety of editorial positions from 1969 to 1979, including the editorship at the

*National Journal*, a privately published weekly journal on federal policymaking. He has been a member of the Institute of Medicine since 1977 and served on its governing council for six years (1985–91). He is also an elected member of the National Academy of Social Insurance and has served on the boards of AcademyHealth, the American Board of Medical Specialties, and the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates.

**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 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.

**THE HONORABLE ULLA SCHMIDT** was appointed Federal Minister of Health for Germany on January 18, 2001, appointed first Federal Minister of Health and Social Security on October 22, 2002, and since November 22, 2005, served as the Federal Minister of Health. Schmidt has been a member of the Social Democratic Party (SPD) since 1983. In addition, she is a member of the IG Bergbau, Chemie und Energie (the Miners', Chemical and Power Plant Workers' Union), the Arbeiterwohlfahrt (Workers' Welfare Association), the Kinderschutzbund (Child Protection Association), and the Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund (Workers' Samaritan Organization). Her social involvement and commitment to social policy have been consistent features throughout her entire career. In 1968 she completed Abitur (school-leaving and university entrance qualification) at the Städtisches Einhardgymnasium in Aachen. Until 1976 she studied psychology at the Rheinisch-Westfälische Technische Hochschule in Aachen, as well as studied at the Pädagogische Hochschule in Aachen as a teacher for primary and lower secondary schools, student teacher at the study seminar in Aachen for primary and lower secondary schools. From 1976 to 1985, she served as a teacher at the school for slow learners in Stolberg and during this time (from 1980 to 1984) studied at and graduated from the Open University of Hagen as a teacher for the instruction of slow learners and rehabilitation of maladjusted pupils. From 1985 to 1990, she was a teacher at the school for remedial teaching in the county of Aachen, Department for Integration, while also serving as a member of the local staff council, the district staff council and the joint staff council for teachers at special schools at the Ministry for Education and Cultural Affairs of the Land of North Rhine-Westphalia. Since 1983, Schmidt has been a member of the SPD and performed various functions on the local and supralocal party level, such as chairperson of the local branch of Richterich (area of Aachen), member of the executive committee of the Aachen subdistrict, member of the SPD party council, town councillor of Aachen, spokesperson on housing policy of the Aachen SPD Group, vice chairperson of the SPD subdistrict Aachen-Stadt. Since 1990 she has been a member of the German Bundestag. Until her appointment as the Federal Minister of Health, Schmidt performed a wide range of activities in various bodies, such as member of the Managing Board of the SPD parliamentary group; chairperson of the working group set up by the

SPD parliamentary group in the Bundestag on the equality of women and men; deputy member of the Committee on Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth; deputy member of the Committee on Labour and Social Affairs; first substitute and then regular member of the Mediation Committee; spokesperson of the project group entitled "Family Policy in the 21st Century;" spokesperson of the ad hoc working group on 'Sexual Violence against Children;" representative of the SPD in the ZDF (Zweites Deutsches Fernsehen) television council; and deputy chairperson of the SPD parliamentary group for the areas of Labour and Social Affairs, Women, Families and Senior Citizens.

**CATHY SCHOEN** is senior vice president for research and evaluation at the Commonwealth Fund, a private, non-profit foundation based in New York City. At the Fund she is a member of the executive management team and also serves as the research director of the Fund's Commission on a High Performance Health System. Her work includes strategic oversight and management of the Fund's survey work and research initiatives to track health system performance. From 1998 through 2005, she served as the executive director of the Commonwealth Fund Task Force on the Future of Health Insurance and oversaw policy analyses and studies related to coverage and access. 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, directed The Commonwealth Fund's program on coverage and access, and served as the director of special projects and research methods at the UMASS Labor Relations and Research Center. During the 1980s, she directed the Service Employees International Union's research and policy department in Washington, D.C., with a focus on health insurance, pensions and federal and state public policies related to health care and social services. 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 related to payment issues, Medicaid, and low-income populations. Prior to federal service, she was a research fellow at the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C. Schoen has served on various federal, and state advisory committees, including multiple Institute of Medicine committees. She holds an undergraduate degree in economics from Smith College and a graduate degree in economics from Boston College. She is the author of numerous articles, book chapters and reports on health insurance and access, international health systems, equity, labor, and social policy issues and co-authored the book *Health and the War on Poverty*. Her recent publications include studies comparing health care experiences in the United States with those of other nations, with a focus on access, quality and cost performance.

**MARTIN VAN RIJN** has been director-general, health care at the Dutch Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport since March 2003. As director-general, van Rijn is responsible for the national health care insurance system and especially the introduction of the health care insurance act on January 1, 2006, the policy and financing of hospitals, primary care and medicines policy. He is also responsible for consumer (patient) policy and the development of information and communication technology in health care. The Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport in the Netherlands is responsible for formulating and executing national policies on public health, health care, long term care and sports. The Ministry has 3,800 full-time jobs, of which 1,200 are in policy and staff functions. The Ministry has an annual budget of 12.5 billion euro and is also responsible for a total of 47.5 billion euro of health care expenditures in The Netherlands, financed by mandatory insurance premiums. From 2000 to 2003 he held the position of director-general, management and personnel policy at the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations. From 1980 to 2000 he worked on several positions at the Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and Environment, the last 5 years as deputy director-general of housing. He holds a master's degree in economics at the Erasmus University Rotterdam. During the last year of his study, van Rijn worked as a researcher for the Department of Economic Affairs.