

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

October 10, 2008

**JOHN BERTKO** is an actuary and adjunct staff member at RAND. Previously Mr. Bertko served as the vice president and chief actuary for Humana Inc. He has extensive experience with risk adjustment in all sectors of the health care market including the responsibility for Humana's actuarial use of risk adjusters and consultation on the subject with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. He has also served in several other public policy and risk adjustment advisory roles, including presentations for AcademyHealth, the American Academy of Actuaries task forces, the Society of Actuaries and the American Association of Health Plans. In 1993, Mr. Bertko served as an actuarial auditor of the Clinton health care reform proposal, working with senior administration staff. For the American Academy of Actuaries, he served as a board member from 1994 to 1996, as vice president for the health practice area for the 1995/96 term and as a member of the Actuarial Board for Counseling and Discipline from 1996 through 2002.

**MICHAEL CHERNEW**, Ph.D., is a professor in the Department of Health Care Policy at Harvard Medical School. He received a Ph.D. in economics from Stanford University, where his training focused on areas of applied microeconomics and econometrics. Previously, Dr. Chernew was the director of the Center for Value Based Insurance Design at the University of Michigan and co-editor of the American Journal of Managed Care. He was also co-director of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Scholars in Health Policy Research program at the University of Michigan. One major area of Dr. Chernew's research focuses on assessing the impact of managed care on the health care marketplace, with an emphasis on examining the impact of managed care on health care cost growth and on the use of medical technology. Other research has examined determinants of patient choice of hospital and the impact of health plan performance measures on employee and employer selection of health plans. Dr. Chernew is a member of the Commonwealth Fund's Commission on a High Performance Health System. In 2000 and 2004, he served on technical advisory panels for the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) that reviewed the assumptions used by the Medicare actuaries to assess the financial status of the Medicare trust funds. On the panels Dr. Chernew focused on the methodology used to project trends in long term health care cost growth. In 1998, he was awarded the John D. Thompson Prize for Young investigators by the Association of University Programs in Public Health. In 1999, he received the Alice S. Hersh, Young Investigator Award from the Association of Health Services Research. Both of these awards recognize overall contribution to the field of health services research. Dr. Chernew is a research associate of the National Bureau of Economic Research, and he is on the Editorial Boards of Health Services Research, Health Affairs, and Medical Care Research and Review.

**GARY CLAXTON** is a Vice President and the Director of the Health Care Marketplace Project at the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. The Project provides information, research, and analysis about trends in the health care market and about policy proposals that relate to health insurance reform and our changing health care system. Prior to joining the Foundation, Mr. Claxton worked as a senior researcher at the Institute for Health Care Research and Policy at Georgetown University, where his research focused on health insurance and health care financing. From March 1997 until January 2001, Mr. Claxton served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health Policy at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, where he advised the Secretary on health policy issues including: improving access to health insurance, Medicare reform, administration of Medicaid, financing of prescription drugs, expanding patient rights, and health care privacy. Other previous positions include serving as a consultant for the Lewin Group, a special assistant to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health Policy in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, an insurance analyst for the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, and a health policy analyst for the American Association of Retired Persons.

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**CATHY SCHOEN**, M.Sc., 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.