

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

### **Rates of Change: Putting 2015 Insurance Premiums into Context**

June 27, 2014

**Dr. Jonathan Gruber** is a Professor of Economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he has taught since 1992. He is also the Director of the Health Care Program at the National Bureau of Economic Research, where he is a Research Associate. He is an Associate Editor of both the Journal of Public Economics and the Journal of Health Economics. In 2009 he was selected to the Executive Committee of the American Economic Association. He is also a member of the Institute of Medicine, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the National Academy of Social Insurance. Dr. Gruber received his B.S. in Economics from MIT, and Ph.D. in Economics from Harvard University. Dr. Gruber's research focuses on the areas of public finance and health economics. He has published more than 140 research articles, has edited six research volumes, and is the author of *Public Finance and Public Policy*, a leading undergraduate text, and *Health Care Reform*, a graphic novel. In 2006, he received the American Society of Health Economics Inaugural Medal for the best health economist in the nation aged 40 and under. During the 1997-1998 academic year, Dr. Gruber was on leave as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Economic Policy at the Treasury Department. From 2003-2006 he was a key architect of Massachusetts's health reform effort, and in 2006 became an inaugural member of the Health Connector Board, the main implementing body for that law. In that year, he was named the 19<sup>th</sup> most powerful person in health care in the United States by Modern Healthcare Magazine. During the 2008 election he was a consultant to the Clinton, Edwards, and Obama Presidential campaigns. During 2009-2010 he served as a technical consultant to the Obama Administration and worked with both the Administration and Congress to help craft the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. In 2011 he was named "One of the Top 25 Most Innovative and Practical Thinkers of Our Time" by Slate Magazine.

**Cori Uccello** is an actuary and the Senior Health Fellow at the American Academy of Actuaries. She serves as the actuarial profession's chief public policy liaison on health issues. In this role, she promotes the formulation of sound health policy by providing nonpartisan technical assistance to federal and state policymakers and regulators. Ms. Uccello currently helps lead the Academy's efforts to provide guidance to federal and state regulators regarding the implementation of various provisions in the Affordable Care Act (ACA), including those related to coverage and market reforms, actuarial value, and risk-sharing mechanisms. She is also actively involved in the Academy's efforts to encourage policymakers to improve Medicare's financial condition and serves as a commissioner on the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC). Prior to joining the Academy, Ms. Uccello was a senior research associate at the Urban Institute, where she focused on health insurance and retirement policy issues. She is a graduate of Boston College and received a master's degree in public policy from Georgetown University.

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**Elizabeth Hall** is the Vice President of Federal Affairs and Director of the Washington Office for WellPoint, Inc. Ms. Hall and her staff represent the company's positions to Congress, the Administration, Washington-based organizations and coalitions. Until October 2010, she served as the company's Vice President of Public Policy. Prior to joining WellPoint, Inc., Ms. Hall served as the Director of the Office of Legislation at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services at the Department of Health and Human Services. Ms. Hall also spent more than eight years working in the United States Senate in Leadership, Committee and personal office staff positions.

**David Cusano** is a Senior Research Fellow at Georgetown University's Health Policy Institute, where he provides technical expertise and evaluation to States on implementation of the Affordable Care Act. Mr. Cusano spent over four years as in-house counsel for Coventry Health Care, Inc., where he was a lead attorney on health reform matters. He also served as a health insurance specialist with the federal Department of Health and Human Services, where he worked on Affordable Care Act implementation efforts. Mr. Cusano holds a J.D. from Northeastern University School of Law and a B.S. in Nursing from the University of Connecticut.

(Co-Moderator) **Rachel Nuzum** is vice president for federal and state health policy at The Commonwealth Fund, working closely with policymakers at the state and federal level. Ms. Nuzum is responsible for developing and implementing the Fund's national policy strategy for improving health system performance, ensuring that the work of the Fund and its grantees informs the policy process in both the legislative and executive branches of state and federal government. Ms. Nuzum's work also includes fostering public-private collaboration on health system performance improvement with state and federal stakeholders and organizations. Ms. Nuzum has over 15 years of experience working in health policy at the federal, state, and local levels of government, as well as in the private sector. Before joining the Fund in January 2007, Ms. Nuzum was a legislative advisor for Senator Maria Cantwell (WA) on health, retirement and tax issues. Prior to joining Senator Cantwell's office, she served as a David Winston Health Policy Fellow in Senator Jeff Bingaman's (NM) office. In this role, Ms. Nuzum staffed the Senator on the Health, Education, Labor and Pension Committee and the Senate Finance Committee. Before arriving in Washington, D.C., she served former Governor Roy Romer of Colorado in the office of Boards and Commissions and worked as a health planner in west central Florida. She holds a B.A. in political science from the University of Colorado and an M.P.H. in Health Policy and Management from the University of South Florida. She is on the faculty of Georgetown University's Graduate School of Nursing and Health Professions and is on the board of the Winston Health Policy Fellowship.