

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

**Tackling Health Care Costs: Finding Common Ground**

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**SHEILA BURKE** is a faculty research fellow at the Malcolm Wiener Center for Social Policy and a member of the faculty at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. She is also a senior public policy advisor at Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz. Ms. Burke joined the Smithsonian Institution in 2000 as undersecretary for American museums and national programs, and in 2004 became deputy secretary and chief operating officer, a position in which she served until September 2007. From 1996 to 2000, she was executive dean and lecturer in public policy at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. Ms. Burke was chief of staff to Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kans., from 1986 to 1996, when he was Senate Minority and then the Majority Leader. In 1995, she was elected as secretary of the Senate, the chief administrative officer of the U.S. Senate. She joined the staff of the Senate Finance Committee in 1978, becoming deputy staff director of the committee in 1982. Ms. Burke served as a member of the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission from 2000 to 2007, and was a member of the board of trustees of the Kaiser Family Foundation. She was chair of the board from 2005 to 2008. Ms. Burke serves on the board of The Chubb Corporation, as well as on the board of regents of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. She is also a member of the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured. She is on the board of visitors of Georgetown University's School of Nursing and Health Studies, is a member of the board of directors of the Association of American Medical Colleges, and a member of the board of The American Cancer Society. She was elected to membership in the Institute of Medicine, National Academy of Sciences, in 2004 and to the National Academy of Public Administration.

**PAUL GINSBURG** is president of the Center for Studying Health System Change (HSC), a nonpartisan policy research organization in Washington, DC. Dr. Ginsburg also serves as the research director of the National Institute for Health Care Reform. He is a noted speaker and commentator on changes taking place in the health care system. His recent research topics have included cost trends and drivers, Medicare physician and hospital payment policy, the future of employer-based health insurance, and competition in health care. Dr. Ginsburg has been named to *Modern Healthcare's* 100 Most Influential People in Health Care list eight times. He received the first annual Health Services Research Impact Award from AcademyHealth, the professional association for health policy researchers and analysts. He is a founding member of the National Academy of Social Insurance, a public trustee of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and served two elected terms on the board of AcademyHealth. Before founding HSC, Dr. Ginsburg was the executive director of the Physician Payment Review Commission (PPRC), created by Congress to provide nonpartisan advice about Medicare and Medicaid payment issues. Under his leadership, the PPRC developed the Medicare physician payment reform proposal that was enacted by Congress in 1989. Dr. Ginsburg previously worked for the RAND Corp. and the Congressional Budget Office. He earned his doctorate in economics from Harvard University.

**LEN NICHOLS** is the director of the Center for Health Policy Research and Ethics (CHPRE) and a professor of health policy at George Mason University. He was the senior advisor for health policy at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) during the Clinton Administration, and has been intimately involved in health reform debates, policy development, and communication

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for over 20 years. He has testified frequently before Congress and state legislatures. After OMB, Dr. Nichols was a principle research associate at the Urban Institute, vice president of the Center for Studying Health System Change and director of the health policy program at the New America Foundation. In addition to his positions at George Mason, Dr. Nichols is on the board of directors of the National Committee for Quality Assurance, a member of the National Committee for Vital Health Statistics, and an advisor to the Patient Centered Primary Care Collaborative and the Virginia Center for Health Innovation. Since focusing his research more on payment and delivery reform, Dr. Nichols became the principle investigator on a five-year evaluation of CareFirst's patient-centered medical home program. He taught economics at Wellesley College from 1980 to 1991. He became an associate professor and chair of the economics department after receiving his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois in 1980.

**RACHEL NUZUM** is vice president for federal and state health policy at The Commonwealth Fund, and works closely with policy makers 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, and 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. She 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, she staffed the senator on the Health, Education, Labor and Pension Committee and the Senate Finance Committee. Before arriving in Washington, DC, 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.

**MARILYN WERBER SERAFINI** has been communications director and health policy advisor at the Alliance for Health Reform since 2012. She was a reporter in Washington, DC from 1985 until 2012, covering Congress, the White House and K Street for various publications. From 2010 to 2012, she was the Robin Toner Distinguished Fellow and a senior correspondent for Kaiser Health News. Her articles appeared in *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, *USA Today*, and other publications. From 1995 to 2010, she was the health care and welfare correspondent for *National Journal* magazine. She wrote extensively about Medicare, Medicaid, the uninsured, health care reform, bioterrorism and pandemic flu, and won a number of awards for articles on these subjects. Ms. Serafini covered the health reform debate during the Clinton Administration and also the one that led to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. She created and moderated *National Journal's* health care blog, and was a senior reporter for *CongressDaily* (now *National Journal Daily*) from 1991 to 1995. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Maryland, and a master's degree in journalism and public affairs from American University.