

## Speaker Biographies

### **“Boomers Come of Age: Covering Early Retirees and Other 50-64 Year-olds”**

January 24, 2011

**JOSEPH ANTOS** is the Wilson H. Taylor scholar in health care and retirement policy at the American Enterprise Institute (AEI). He also is a member of the Panel of Health Advisers for the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) and a commissioner of the Maryland Health Services Cost Review Commission. Prior to joining AEI, Dr. Antos was assistant director for health and human resources at the CBO, and he held senior positions in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Office of Management and Budget, and the President’s Council of Economic Advisers. He has written, lectured and testified before Congress on the economics of health policy, including Medicare and broader health system reform, health care financing, health insurance regulation, and the uninsured. His articles have appeared in the *American Economic Review*, *Health Affairs*, *New England Journal of Medicine*, *National Tax Journal*, and other scholarly publications.

**SARA COLLINS** is vice president for affordable health insurance at The Commonwealth Fund. An economist, Dr. Collins joined the Fund in 2002 and has led the Fund’s national program on health insurance since 2005. Since joining Commonwealth, she has led several national surveys on health insurance and has authored numerous reports, issue briefs and journal articles on health insurance coverage and policy. She has provided invited testimony before several congressional committees and subcommittees. Prior to joining the Fund, Dr. Collins was associate director/senior research associate at the New York Academy of Medicine’s Division of Health and Science Policy. Earlier in her career, she was an associate editor at U.S. News & World Report, a senior economist at Health Economics Research, and a senior health policy analyst in the New York City Office of the Public Advocate. She holds an A.B. in economics from Washington University and a Ph.D. in economics from George Washington University. Dr. Collins serves on the Columbia Mailman School of Public Health Advisory Committee and on the board of the Employee Benefit Research Institute.

**RICHARD POPPER** serves as the director of insurance programs at the Office of Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight (OCIO) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. OCIO was created to implement the significant health insurance market reforms under the Affordable Care Act of 2010. Mr. Popper is responsible for administering the new temporary federal high-risk pool (the Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan) and the Early Retiree Reinsurance Program, and establishing new non-profit “CO-OP” health plans by 2014. Previously, he was executive director of the Maryland Health Insurance Plan (MHIP), Maryland’s high-risk pool for uninsurable individuals and their families. MHIP is the third largest among 35 state risk pools, providing 18,292 uninsurable individuals with comprehensive health insurance. The program also offers a separate state pharmaceutical assistance program that subsidizes the premiums and “doughnut hole” drug costs for 22,000 limited income Medicare recipients. Mr. Popper’s earlier positions include: assistant director of the California Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board, which operates California’s high-risk pool and state children’s health insurance program; budget and finance deputy to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors; consultant for KPMG Peat Marwick; budget analyst at the Office of Management and Budget; and insurance underwriter. He graduated from Saint Joseph’s University in Philadelphia, and holds a master of science degree from the Heinz School of Public Policy at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh.

**JOHN ROTHER** is the executive vice president of policy, strategy and international affairs for AARP. He is responsible for the federal and state public policies of the association, and for formulating AARP’s overall strategic direction. He also leads AARP’s active program of international idea exchanges and conferences. Mr. Rother is a frequent speaker on Medicare, managed care, long-term

(over)

care, Social Security, pensions and the challenges facing the boomer generation. Prior to coming to AARP in 1984, he served eight years with the U.S. Senate as special counsel for labor and health to former Senator Jacob Javits (R-NY), then as staff director and chief counsel for the Special Committee on Aging under its chairman, Senator John Heinz (R-PA). He serves on several boards and commissions, including the Alliance for Health Reform, Generations United, the Leadership Council of Aging Organizations, and the National Quality Forum. He also serves on the boards of Pension Rights Center and the American Board of Internal Medicine, and on advisory boards to Kaiser Permanente, Google and several congressional fellowships. In June 2010, Mr. Rother received the prestigious Robert Ball Award for Outstanding Achievements in Social Insurance from the National Academy of Social Insurance, honoring his lifetime of advocacy to strengthen the Social Security and Medicare programs. He is an honors graduate of Oberlin College and the University Of Pennsylvania School Of Law.