

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

“Can We Contain Health Care Costs Without Compromising Quality?”

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KATHERINE BAICKER is professor of health economics in the Department of Health Policy and Management at the Harvard School of Public Health. She is also a research associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research. From 2005-2007, Professor Baicker served as a Senate-confirmed member of the President’s Council of Economic Advisers. Earlier, she served on the faculty of the Economics Department at Dartmouth College, the Center for the Evaluative Clinical Sciences and the Department of Community and Family Medicine at Dartmouth Medical School, and in the Harris School of Public Policy at the University of Chicago. Professor Baicker's research interests include health economics, welfare and public finance, with a focus on the financing of health insurance, spending on public programs and fiscal federalism. Her research has been published in journals such as the *American Economic Review*, *Health Affairs*, the *Journal of Public Economics*, and the *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, and has been featured in the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, *Business Week* and on National Public Radio. She received her B.A. in economics from Yale and her Ph.D. in economics from Harvard.

PETER ORSZAG is director of the Congressional Budget Office, a post he assumed in January 2007. Before joining the CBO, Dr. Orszag was the Joseph A. Pechman senior fellow and deputy director of economic studies at The Brookings Institution where he served as the director of the Hamilton Project, director of the Retirement Security Project and co-director of the Tax Policy Center. He served as special assistant to the president for economic policy and senior economic adviser at the National Economic Council from 1997-1998. He has co-authored numerous books, including *Protecting the Homeland 2006/7* (2006), *Aging Gracefully: Ideas to Improve Retirement Security in America* (2006) and *Saving Social Security: A Balanced Approach* (2004). His main areas of research have been Social Security budget policy, pensions, macroeconomics, tax and budget policy and higher education policy. Dr. Orszag graduated *summa cum laude* in economics from Princeton and also obtained a M.Sc. and a Ph.D. in economics from the London School of Economics.

CATHY SCHOEN is senior vice president for research and evaluation at The Commonwealth Fund and research director for The Commonwealth Fund Commission on a High Performance Health System, overseeing the commission’s surveys and Scorecard Project. From 1998 through 2005, she directed the fund’s Task Force on the Future of Health Insurance. Before joining the Commonwealth Fund in 1995, Ms. Schoen was research associate professor on the faculty of the University of Massachusetts School of Public Health and director of special projects and research methods at the Labor Relations and Research Center of the University of Massachusetts Amherst. She has authored numerous publications on policy issues, insurance and health system performance (national and international), and co-authored the book *Health and the War on Poverty*. She has also served on many federal and state advisory committees and Institute of Medicine committees. Ms. Schoen holds an undergraduate degree in economics from Smith College and a graduate degree in economics from Boston College.