

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

The Next 100 Days: Some Final Hurdles to Health Reform September 3, 2009

RISA LAVIZZO-MOUREY (rlavizz@rwjf.org – Contact: Adam Coyne, Director of Public Affairs -- ACoyne@rwjf.org – 877-843-7953) is the president and CEO of The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. She was a leader in academic medicine, government service and her medical specialty of geriatrics before joining RWJF in 2001 as senior vice president and director of the health care group. A practicing physician with business credentials and hands-on experience developing national health policy, she was drawn to The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation by the opportunity, as she puts it, to “alter the trajectory and to push society to change for the better.” Previously, at the University of Pennsylvania, she was the Sylvan Eisman Professor of Medicine and Health Care Systems and director of Penn’s Institute on Aging. In Washington, D.C., she was deputy administrator of what is now the Agency for Health Care Research and Quality. She is a member of the Institute of Medicine of The National Academies. Dr. Lavizzo-Mourey earned her medical degree from Harvard Medical School, and an M.B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School. She completed a residency in internal medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston; was a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar at the University of Pennsylvania; and trained in geriatrics at Penn. Always a physician as well as an agent for wide-scale social change, she still treats patients at a community health clinic in New Brunswick, N.J.

DALLAS SALISBURY (salisbury@ebri.org -- 202-659-0670), president and CEO of the Employee Benefit Research Institute (EBRI), joined EBRI as the chief staff executive at its founding in 1978. Mr. Salisbury has written and lectured extensively on economic security topics, and is interviewed regularly by media. Prior to joining EBRI, he held full-time positions with the Washington State Legislature, the U.S. Department of Justice, the Employee Benefits Security Administration of the U.S. Department of Labor, and the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC). Mr. Salisbury serves on a number of advisory groups and boards. He is currently a member of the Securities and Exchange Commission Investor Advisory Committee, the Board of Advisors to the Comptroller General of the United States, and the Board of Directors of the FINRA Investor Education Foundation. He is a fellow of the National Academy of Human Resources and a member of the board of the NAHR Foundation. He has served on the secretary of labor's ERISA Advisory Council, the presidentially appointed PBGC Advisory Committee, the Board of Directors of the Society for Human Resources Management, the U.S. Advisory Panel on Medicare Education, the Board of Directors of the National Academy of Social Insurance, and numerous other commissions and advisory groups. Mr. Salisbury holds a B.A. degree in finance from the University of Washington and an M.P.A. from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University.

KENNETH THORPE (kthorpe@sph.emory.edu -- 404-727-3373) is the Robert W. Woodruff Professor and chair of the Department of Health Policy & Management in the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University in Atlanta. He was a Vanselow Professor of Health Policy and director of the Institute for Health Services Research. He was previously professor of health policy and administration at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, associate professor and director of the Program on Health Care Financing and Insurance at the Harvard University School of Public Health and assistant professor of public policy and public health at Columbia University.

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Dr. Thorpe has also held visiting faculty positions at Pepperdine University and Duke University. Most recently, he was deputy assistant secretary for health policy in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. In this capacity, he coordinated all financial estimates and program impacts of President Clinton's health care reform proposals for the White House. He also directed the administration's estimation efforts in dealing with Congressional health care reform proposals during the 103rd and 104th sessions of Congress. As an academic, he has testified before several committees in the U.S. Senate and House on health care reform and insurance issues. Professor Thorpe has authored and co-authored more than 60 articles, book chapters and books and is a frequent national presenter on issues of health care financing, insurance, and health care reform at health care conferences and in the media. He also serves as a reviewer on several health care journals. He received his Ph.D. from the Rand Graduate School, an M.A. from Duke University and his B.A. from the University of Michigan.

GAIL WILENSKY (gwilensky@projecthope.org – 301-347-3902) is an economist and senior fellow at Project HOPE and currently serves as president of the Defense Health Board. Her primary areas of expertise involve the policies and politics of health care reform, particularly Medicare and changes in the health care environment. A secondary area of expertise involves military health care. Dr. Wilensky was a member of the 2007 President's Commission on the Care of Returning Wounded Warriors. From 2006 to 2007, she co-chaired the DoD Task Force on the Future of Military Health Care. From 2001 to 2003, she co-chaired the President's Task Force to Improve Health care Delivery for Our Nation's Veterans. From 1997 to 2001, she chaired the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC). She also served as deputy assistant for policy development to President George H.W. Bush, advising him on health and welfare issues. Prior to this, she served as the administrator of the Health Care Financing Administration, overseeing the Medicare and Medicaid programs. Dr. Wilensky is an elected member of the Institute of Medicine and serves as a trustee of the Combined Benefits Fund of the United Mine Workers and the National Opinion Research Center. She is a former chair of the board of directors of Academy Health and a former trustee of the American Heart Association. She is also a former commissioner on the World Health Organization's Commission on the Social Determinants of Health. She received a bachelor's degree in psychology and a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Michigan.