Biography of Speakers

The Outlook for National Health Care Spending

Wednesday, February 23, 2005

RICHARD FOSTER, FSA, MAAA

As Chief Actuary for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Mr. Foster is responsible for all actuarial and other financial analyses for the Medicare and Medicaid programs. This work involves both the evaluation of the financial status of the programs under present law and the estimation of the financial effects of legislative proposals. In addition, Mr. Foster and the staff of the Office of the Actuary prepare the widely used national health expenditure account data and projections, produce hospital input price index and Medicare Economic Index, and calculate the Medicare+Choice capitation rates for managed care plans. Mr. Foster became Chief Actuary in February 1995; prior to this position, he served as Deputy Chief Actuary for the Social Security Administration for 13 years. He is a Fellow of the Society of Actuaries (1980) and a member of the American Academy of Actuaries, International Actuarial Association, American Statistical Association, American Economic Association, National Academy of Social Insurance, and Senior Executives Association. He has written numerous articles and reports on Medicare and Social Security issues, including "Level of OASDI Trust Fund Assets Needed To Compensate for Adverse Contingencies" in *Transactions of the Society of Actuaries* (1993), "A Stochastic Evaluation of the Short Range Economic Assumptions in the 1994 OASDI Trustees Report" (Actuarial Study No. 109), and "Trends in Medicare Expenditures and Financial Status, 1966-2000" in the *Health Care Financing Review*. Mr. Foster received an M.S. in applied mathematics from the University of Maryland, and a B.A. in mathematics from the College of Wooster.

STEPHEN HEFFLER

Stephen Heffler is Director of the National Health Statistics Group with the Office of the Actuary at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). He is responsible for the historical and projected national health spending estimates produced each year by CMS and for the development and maintenance of the price indexes used to update Medicare payments for hospitals, physicians, skilled nursing facilities, and home health agencies. He earned a B.A. in Economics from the University of Maryland-Baltimore County and a M.B.A. from the University of Baltimore.

JOHN IGLEHART

Since 1981, John Iglehart has been editor of *Health Affairs*, a bimonthly policy journal that he founded under the aegis of Project HOPE. During this same period, Iglehart also served as national correspondent of *The New England Journal of Medicine*, for which he wrote more that 100 essays called Health Policy Report. Although Iglehart still contributes occasionally to *TNEJM*, he resigned its national correspondency at the end of

1996 to devote more time to *Health Affairs*, which increased its frequency of publication from four to six times a year, effective January 1997. *Health Affairs*, a peer-reviewed, multidisciplinary journal, is the largest circulation health policy periodical published in the United States. It has subscribers in 25 foreign countries as well. Before 1981, he was a vice president of the Kaiser Foundation Health Plan and director of its Washington, D.C. office. During the decade 1969 to 1979, he held a variety of editorial positions, including the editorship, at the *National Journal*, a privately published weekly on federal policymaking. Iglehart was elected to membership in the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences in 1977 and served on its Governing Council for six years (1985-1991). He also is an elected member of the National Academy of Social Insurance. He holds a degree in journalism from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and has been a journalist-in-residence at Harvard University.

LARRY LEVITT

Larry Levitt is Vice President for Communications and Online Information of the Kaiser Family Foundation, and Editor-in-Chief of kaisernetwork.org, the Foundation's online health policy information service. Before joining the Foundation, Mr. Levitt was a senior manager with The Lewin Group, where he advised public and private sector clients on health policy and financing issues. He previously served as a Senior Health Policy Advisor to the White House and Department of Health and Human Services, working on the development of President Clinton's Health Security Act and other health policy initiatives. Prior to that, he served as the Special Assistant for Health Policy with California Insurance Commissioner John Garamendi and as a medical economist with Kaiser Permanente. He previously managed new program development for the Massachusetts Department of Medical Security, the agency charged with implementing the universal health care plan in Massachusetts, and served as a senior analyst with the Governor's budget office in Massachusetts, where he helped develop that state's universal health care legislation. He holds a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of California at Berkeley, and a master's degree in public policy from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.

MARILYN MOON, PH.D.

Marilyn Moon is Vice President and Director of the Health Program at the American Institutes for Research. A nationally recognized expert on Medicare, she has also served as a Senior Fellow at the Urban Institute and as a public trustee for the Social Security and Medicare trust funds. Marilyn Moon has written extensively on health policy, both for the elderly and the population in general, and on social insurance issues. From 1993 to 2000, Moon also wrote a periodic column for the *Washington Post* on health reform and health coverage issues. She has served on a number of boards for non-profit organizations and is currently President of the board of the Medicare Rights Center. Moon earned a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Wisconsin--Madison. Previously, she was an associate professor of economics at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, a senior analyst at the Congressional Budget Office, and the founding Director of the Public Policy Institute of the American Association of Retired Persons.

EUGENE STEUERLE

Eugene Steuerle is a Senior Fellow at The Urban Institute and co-director of the Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center. He is also the author, co-author, editor or co-editor of eleven books, and over 150 reports and articles, 600 columns, and 50 Congressional testimonies or reports. His latest book is *Contemporary U.S. Tax Policy*. Among many other positions, he has served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Tax Analysis, President of the National Tax Association (2001-2002), chair of the 1999 Technical Panel advising Social Security on its methods and assumptions, President of the National Economists Club Educational Foundation, and Resident Fellow at the American Enterprise Institute. Between 1984 and 1986 he served as Economic Coordinator and original organizer of the Treasury's tax reform effort, for which one top Treasury wrote that 1986 tax reform "would not have moved forward without your early leadership." In the area of health, Dr. Steuerle serves on the National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics and has published articles on such issues as the financing of health care, the use of mandates, and the economic effect of health insurance subsidies. He has provided Congress with testimony and served as "faculty" at health reform retreats by both the Senate Finance Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee, and made proposals to focus on children and to provide both "carrots and sticks" to encourage health insurance purchase.