

## LBJ Centennial Conference: Medicare, Past, Present and Future Participant Bios

### Opening Keynote

**Peter R. Orszag:** Peter R. Orszag is the seventh Director of the Congressional Budget Office (CBO). His four-year term began on January 18, 2007. Before joining CBO, Dr. Orszag was the Joseph A. Pechman Senior Fellow and Deputy Director of Economic Studies at the Brookings Institution. While at Brookings, he also served as Director of The Hamilton Project, which provides a platform for scholars to offer proposals for promoting broad-based economic growth; Director of the Retirement Security Project, which focuses on promoting retirement security; and Codirector of the Tax Policy Center, a joint venture with the Urban Institute providing analysis of tax issues.



In previous government service during 1997 and 1998, Dr. Orszag served as Special Assistant to the President for Economic Policy and Senior Economic Adviser at the National Economic Council. In 1995 and 1996, he was Senior Adviser and Senior Economist at the President's Council of Economic Advisers. His first appointment with the Council was as a staff economist in 1993 and 1994.

Dr. Orszag graduated *summa cum laude* in economics from Princeton University and obtained an M.Sc. and a Ph.D. in economics from the London School of Economics, which he attended as a Marshall scholar. He has coauthored a number of 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), and coedited *American Economic Policy in the 1990s* (2002). His main areas of research have been pensions, Social Security, budget policy, higher education policy, homeland security, macroeconomics, and tax policy—topics on which he has published widely in academic journals.

### Lessons from the Past: Enacting Major Policy Change

**Judy Feder:** Judy Feder is a Professor of Public Policy and, from 1999-2008, served as Dean of the Georgetown Public Policy Institute. She is currently a candidate for Congress in Virginia's 10th Congressional District.



Judy is one of the nation's leaders in health policy--most particularly, in efforts to understand and improve the nation's health insurance system. A widely published scholar, her three decades of policy research began at the Brookings Institution, continued at the Urban Institute, and, since 1984, has flourished at Georgetown University. Her expertise on the uninsured, Medicare, Medicaid, and long-term care is regularly drawn upon by members of Congress, Executive officials, and the national media.

Feder has also held leadership policy positions, both in the Congress and in the Executive Branch. As staff director of the congressional Pepper Commission (chaired by Senator John D. Rockefeller IV), Feder is widely credited with setting the stage for the health reform debate of the 1990s. In 1993, she was appointed to the Department of Health and Human Services, where she worked to expand health insurance coverage, effectively manage Medicare and Medicaid, and assure the safety of food and drugs.

Feder is an elected member of the Institute of Medicine, the National Academy of Public Administration,

and the National Academy of Social Insurance; a former chair and board member of AcademyHealth; a board member of the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy and the Center for American Progress Action Fund Committee. She is also a member of the National Research Council's Standing Committee on Research and Evidentiary Standards, the Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Fellowships Program Advisory Board, and the Hamilton Project's Advisory Council.

Feder is a political scientist, with a B.A. from Brandeis University (1968) and a Master's (1970) and Ph.D. (1977) from Harvard University.

**Gail Wilensky:** Gail Wilensky, an economist, and a Senior Fellow at Project HOPE (an international health education foundation) analyzes and develops policies relating to health care reform and to ongoing changes in the health care environment.



Dr. Wilensky is a Commissioner on the WHO's Commission on the Social Determinants of Health, is co-chair of the Department of Defense task force on the Future of Military Health Care, is Vice Chair of the Maryland Health Care Commission and serves as a trustee of the Combined Benefits Fund of the United Mineworkers of America and the National Opinion Research Center. She is an elected member of the Institute of Medicine and has served two terms on its governing council. She is a former chair of the board of directors of Academy Health, a former trustee of the American Heart Association and a current or former director on numerous other organizations. She is also a director on several corporate boards. From 1990 – 1992, she was Administrator of the Health Care Financing Administration, directing the Medicare and Medicaid programs. She also served as Deputy Assistant to President (GHW) Bush for Policy Development, advising him on health and welfare issues from 1992 to 1993.

From 1997 to 2001, she chaired the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, which advises Congress on payment and other issues relating to Medicare, and from 1995 to 1997, she chaired the Physician Payment Review Commission. From 2001 to 2003, she co-chaired the President's Task Force to Improve Health Care Delivery for Our Nation's Veterans, which covered health care for both veterans and military retirees. In 2007, she served as a Commissioner on the President's Commission on Care for America's Returning Wounded Warriors.

Dr. Wilensky testifies frequently before Congressional committees, acts as an advisor to members of Congress and other elected officials, and speaks nationally and internationally before professional, business and consumer groups. She received a bachelor's degree in psychology and a Ph.D. in economics at the University of Michigan.

**Roger Wilkins:** Past chairman of the Pulitzer Prize Board, Roger Wilkins came to George Mason with broad experience in public affairs. During the Johnson administration, Wilkins served as assistant attorney general. In a distinguished journalism career, he has written for both *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*, and he was associate editor of *The Washington Star*. While on the editorial page staff of *The Washington Post*, he shared a Pulitzer Prize in 1972 for Watergate coverage with Woodward, Bernstein and Herblock. His highly acclaimed autobiography, *A Man's Life* (1982), was reprinted in 1991, and he was co-editor with Fred Harris of *Quiet Riots* in 1988. Among an array of public service activities, he served as past chair of the Board of Trustees



of the Africa America Institute and is a member of the Board of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. He is publisher of NAACP's journal *Crisis* and has served on the Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia and on the District of Columbia Board of Education.

He teaches two upper-level interdisciplinary courses. The first traces our nation's racial history beginning with our Colonial foundations down to the issues we currently confront, and the second examines how the technologies of journalism and communication have transformed American Presidential politics over the last 75 years. In a freshman seminar, he uses great literature to compare how culture has shaped individuals across time and societies. In an Honors course he uses literature, works of philosophy, and essays to examine the nature and the impacts of cultural arrangements that mold contemporary Americans. Wilkins holds a law degree from the University of Michigan. His book *Jefferson's Pillow; The Founding Fathers and the Dilemma of Black Patriotism* was published in 2001 and won the 2002 NAIBA Book Award for Adult Non-Fiction. Dr. Wilkins was featured in an article in the *Mason Gazette*: <http://gazette.gmu.edu/articles/8748> .

### **Present Challenges and Persistent Disparities:**

**John Rother:** John Rother is the Director of Policy and Strategy for the AARP. He is responsible for the federal and state public policies of the Association, for international initiatives, and for formulating AARP's overall strategic direction. He is an authority on Medicare, managed care, long-term care, Social Security, pensions and the challenges facing the boomer generation. Prior to coming to AARP in 1984, Mr. Rother served eight years with the U.S. Senate, first 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 Generations United, the National Health Care Quality Forum, the American Board of Internal Medicine Foundation, National Academy on Aging, Civic Ventures. He is a frequently quoted in the news, and regularly presents at conferences and congressional briefings. Throughout 1996, Mr. Rother was on special sabbatical assignment to study the consumer implications of the managed care revolution and the economic challenges facing the boomer generation. John Rother is an honors graduate of Oberlin College and the University of Pennsylvania Law School.



**Fernando Torres-Gil:** Fernando Torres-Gil, PhD, is an expert in the fields of health and long-term care, the politics of aging, social policy, ethnicity, and disability. He is the author of six books and more than 80 articles and book chapters. In recognition of his many academic accomplishments, he was elected a Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America (1985) and the National Academy of Public Administration (1995). He served as President of the American Society on Aging (1989-1992) and is a member of the National Academy of Social Insurance. Previously, he was a Professor of Gerontology and Public Administration at the University of Southern California and continues as an Adjunct Professor of Gerontology at USC.



He served as the first-ever Assistant Secretary for Aging in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). As the Clinton Administration's chief advocate on aging, Dr. Torres-Gil played a key role in promoting the importance of aging, long-term care, and disability issues, in consolidating federal programs for older persons, and in helping baby boomers redefine retirement in a post-pension era.

He sits on the Board of Directors of Elderhostel, The National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, the AARP Andrus Foundation, The California Endowment and The

Los Angeles Board of Airport Commissioners (LAWA).

**Barbara B. Kennelly:** National Committee President and CEO Barbara B. Kennelly has spent 25 years in public service at local, state and federal levels, including 17 years as a member of the U.S. Congress. A former ranking member of the House Ways and Means Committee's Subcommittee on Social Security, Mrs. Kennelly was the first woman to serve as Chief Majority Whip and she was Vice Chair of the House Democratic Caucus. She was also the first woman to serve on the House Committee on Intelligence. Throughout her career, Mrs. Kennelly has advocated for Social Security, Medicare and other health and retirement issues. After leaving Congress, she served as Counselor to the Commissioner of the Social Security Administration. Mrs. Kennelly served on the 2005 White House Conference on Aging. In 2006, Mrs. Kennelly was appointed to the Social Security Advisory Board by Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi. Mrs. Kennelly resides in Hartford, Connecticut and Washington DC.



### **Medicare Policy Challenges Facing the Next President:**

**Karen Davis:** Karen Davis is president of The Commonwealth Fund, a national philanthropy engaged in independent research on health and social policy issues.

Dr. Davis is a nationally recognized economist, with a distinguished career in public policy and research. Before joining the Fund, she served as chairman of the Department of Health Policy and Management at The Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, where she also held an appointment as professor of economics. She served as deputy assistant secretary for health policy in the Department of Health and Human Services from 1977–1980, and was the first woman to head a U.S. Public Health Service agency.



Prior to her government career, Ms. Davis was a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C., a visiting lecturer at Harvard University, and an assistant professor of economics at Rice University. A native of Oklahoma, she received her Ph.D. in economics from Rice University, which recognized her achievements with a Distinguished Alumna Award in 1991. Ms. Davis is the recipient of the 2000 Baxter-Allegiance Foundation Prize for Health Services Research. In the spring of 2001, Ms. Davis received an honorary doctorate in humane letters from John Hopkins University. In 2006, she was selected for the AcademyHealth Distinguished Investigator Award for significant and lasting contributions to the field of health services research in addition to the Picker Award for Excellence in the Advancement of Patient Centered Care. Ms. Davis has published a number of significant books, monographs, and articles on health and social policy issues.

She serves on the Overseer's Committee to Visit the School of Public Health, Harvard University; the Board of Visitors of Columbia University, School of Nursing, and is on the Board of Directors of the Geisinger Health System. She was elected to the Institute of Medicine in 1975, has served two terms on the IOM governing Council (1986-90 and 1997-2000), and was a member of the IOM Committee on Redesigning Health Insurance Benefits, Payment and Performance Improvement Programs. She is a past president of the AcademyHealth (formerly AHSRHP) and an AcademyHealth distinguished fellow; a member of the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured and a former member of the Agency

for Healthcare Quality and Research (AHRQ) National Advisory Committee. She also serves on the Panel of Health Advisors for the Congressional Budget Office.

**John C. Goodman:** John C. Goodman, Ph.D. is the President and CEO of the National Center for Policy Analysis. He founded the NCPA in 1983 and has served as President since the center's inception. *The Wall Street Journal* called Dr. Goodman "the father of Health Savings Accounts," and *National Journal* declared him "winner of the devolution derby" because his ideas on ways to transfer power from government to the people have had a significant impact on Capitol Hill.

Dr. Goodman is the author of nine books, including *Lives at Risk: Single-Payer National Health Insurance Around the World*; *Leaving Women Behind: Modern Families, Outdated Laws*; *Economics of Public Policy*, a widely used college textbook, and *Patient Power: Solving America's Health Care Crisis*, the condensed version of which sold 300,000 copies and is credited with playing a pivotal role in the defeat of the Clinton administration's plan to overhaul the U.S. health care system.



He has authored numerous editorials in *The Wall Street Journal*, *USA Today*, *Investor's Business Daily*, *Los Angeles Times*, *The Dallas Morning News*, *Houston Chronicle*, *The San Diego Union-Tribune*, and many others.

Dr. Goodman regularly appears on television, including PBS' *The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer*, CNN, CNBC and the Fox News Channel. He was a debater on several of William F. Buckley Jr.'s *Firing Line* shows, and has appeared on a number of two-hour prime time debates, including debates on the flat tax, welfare reform and Social Security privatization.

He regularly briefs members of Congress on economic policy issues and frequently testifies before congressional committees. He is author/co-author of more than 50 published studies on such topics as health policy, tax reform and school choice. Dr. Goodman has an active speaking schedule and has addressed more than 100 different organizations on public policy issues. He received the prestigious Duncan Black award in 1988 for the best scholarly article on public choice economics.

Dr. Goodman received a Ph.D. in economics from Columbia University. He has taught and done research at several colleges and universities including Columbia University, Stanford University, Dartmouth University, Southern Methodist University and the University of Dallas.

**Chris Jennings:** Chris Jennings is the president of Jennings Policy Strategies (JPS), a nationally-respected health policy and advocacy consulting firm in Washington, D.C. He is a more than two decade-long health policy veteran of the Congress, the White House, and the private sector. JPS, Inc. provides policy analysis, strategic guidance and coalition building services to clients who share a commitment to affordable, accessible and accountable health care. Clients include consumer groups, labor organizations, businesses, public employers, health plans and foundations, including the Clinton Global Initiative where he served as Chair of the Global Health Working Group in 2006.



Prior to founding JPS, Inc., Mr. Jennings served in the White House as the Senior Health Care Advisor to President William Jefferson Clinton at the Domestic Policy and National Economic Councils. During his tenure there, Mr. Jennings made significant contributions toward the enactment of major, bipartisan health legislation including the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, the Mental Health Parity Act, the Food and Drug Administration Modernization

Act, the Work Incentives Improvement Act, and the doubling of funding for research at NIH and the tripling of funding for international AIDS programs for prevention, care, treatment and health infrastructure. He also made significant contributions to the development of policy setting the stage for future debates on a range of coverage expansions for the uninsured, for long-term care and for prescription drug coverage for Medicare beneficiaries. Recognizing his work at the White House, the National Journal designated Mr. Jennings as one of Washington's 100 most influential individuals throughout the entire Federal government.

In 1993 and 1994, he served as the Senior Advisor to Administrator of the then Health Care Financing Administration. In this capacity, he served concurrently as the congressional liaison for First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton providing assistance for her testimony before five committees and staffing her for hundreds of meetings with members of Congress as she advocated for affordable, quality health insurance for all Americans.

Prior to joining the Clinton Administration, Mr. Jennings served as Committee staff for three United States Senators (Glenn, Melcher, and Pryor) over the course of almost ten years on Capitol Hill. As Deputy Staff Director of the Senate Aging Committee for Chairman David Pryor (D-AR), he staffed the Senator before the Finance Committee and the "Pepper Commission." He also coordinated Senator Pryor's legislative initiatives on health insurance affordability and access, long-term care, rural health, and prescription drug coverage and cost containment.

### **Dinner Keynote**

**Mark B. McClellan:** Mark B. McClellan, M.P.A., M.D., Ph.D., is a Senior Fellow and Director of the Engelberg Center for Healthcare Reform, and Leonard D. Schaeffer Director's Chair in Health Policy at the Brookings Institution. He is also a former administrator for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and former commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) The Engelberg Center is studying ways to provide practical solutions for access, quality, and financing challenges facing the U. S. health care system. A doctor and economist by training, he is developing and implementing ideas to drive improvements in high-quality, innovative, affordable health care.



While at the FDA and CMS, McClellan developed and implemented major reforms in health policy, including the Medicare prescription drug benefit, the FDA's Critical Path Initiative, and public-private initiatives to develop better information on the quality and cost of care. McClellan's professional experience includes: associate professor of economics and of medicine, Stanford University, 1995-present; administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, 2004-2006; commissioner of Food and Drugs, 2002-2004; member, President's Council of Economic Advisers and senior director for Health Care, White House, 2001-2002; member, Institute of Medicine, 2003-present; research associate, National Bureau of Economic Research, 1995-2001, 2006-present; national fellow, Hoover Institution, Stanford University, 2000-2001; director, Program on Health Outcomes Research, Center for Health Policy and Center for Primary Care and Outcomes Research, Stanford University, 1999-2001; associate editor, Journal of Health Economics, 1998-2001; and deputy assistant secretary for Economic Policy, U.S. Department of the Treasury, 1998-1999. McClellan holds a Ph.D. in economics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, an M.D. from Harvard University-Massachusetts Institute of Technology Division of Health Sciences and Technology, an M.P.A. from Harvard University and a B.A. from the University of Texas at Austin.