

Medicare, Beneficiaries, and the Deficit Reduction Debate

Tuesday, June 28, 2011

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Juliette Cubanski, Ph.D., MPP, MPH

Juliette Cubanski is Associate Director of the Program on Medicare Policy at the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation in Washington, D.C. Since joining the Foundation in 2004, Dr. Cubanski has managed a broad portfolio of Medicare policy research and analysis. Dr. Cubanski has helped lead the Foundation's analytic efforts related to the Medicare Part D prescription drug benefit and how the private drug plan marketplace has evolved since its inception in 2006. She has coauthored several reports on the Part D program, including analysis of the coverage gap and assessing changes in plan participation, enrollment, benefit design, and formulary coverage. Her current work focuses on modeling policy options to reform the Medicare program and the distributional impact on beneficiaries. She is also involved in monitoring the implementation of the Medicare provisions in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010, and assessing their implications for beneficiaries. Dr. Cubanski's work also focuses on Medicare's long-term financial condition; the financial burden of health spending among Medicare beneficiaries; and Medicare beneficiaries with disabilities.

Dr. Cubanski earned a Ph.D. in health policy at Harvard University, Master's degrees in public policy and public health from the University of California, Berkeley, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from the University of California at Los Angeles. She is a member of the National Academy of Social Insurance and AcademyHealth.

Gretchen Jacobson, Ph.D.

Gretchen Jacobson is a Principal Policy Analyst with the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation in Washington, D.C. As a senior member of the Foundation's Medicare policy team, Dr. Jacobson has been extensively involved in the Foundation's efforts to analyze the Medicare provisions in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010, monitor their implementation, and assess the implications for people on Medicare. In addition, Dr. Jacobson has helped lead the Foundation's analytic efforts related to beneficiaries enrolled in Medicare Advantage. Dr. Jacobson also conducts research and analysis related to Medicare's high spenders and the dually eligible population.

Prior to joining the Foundation, she worked at the Congressional Research Service, where her work focused on comparative effectiveness research, Medicare prescription drugs, and drug pricing.

Dr. Jacobson has authored numerous policy briefs, reports, and peer-reviewed published articles. She was elected to membership in the National Academy of Social Insurance in 2010 and is also a member of Academy Health. Dr. Jacobson earned her Ph.D. in Health Economics at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, her Masters in Epidemiology from the Harvard School of Public Health, and her Bachelors in Economics and Community Health from Tufts University.

Patricia Neuman, Sc.D.

Patricia Neuman is a senior vice president of the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation and is Executive Director of the Kaiser Family Foundation's Program on Medicare Policy and Director of the Foundation's Project on Medicare's Future. Dr. Neuman is widely regarded as an expert on Medicare policy issues, and leads the foundation's new Kaiser Project on Medicare's Future. She has published numerous articles on topics related to health coverage and financing for the Medicare population, and has been invited several times to present expert testimony before Congressional committees. Before joining the Foundation in 1995, Dr. Neuman served for six years on the professional staff of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Health in the U.S. House of Representatives, and for three years on the staff of the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging working on health and long-term care issues. Dr. Neuman received a Doctorate of Science degree in health policy and management and a Master's of Science degree in health finance and management from the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health in Baltimore, Maryland. She received her Bachelor's degree from Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut.

Bruce C. Vladeck, Ph.D.

Bruce Vladeck is Senior Advisor to Nexera Inc., a wholly-owned consulting subsidiary of the Greater New York Hospital Association, which he joined in June, 2009. His long and varied career has included senior leadership roles in the public, non-profit, academic, and business communities. He is a widely-recognized expert in health care policy and finance, Medicare, Medicaid, long-term care, and health care for the homeless, and a much sought-after speaker and writer in all of those areas.

In the health care community, Vladeck is perhaps most widely known for his tenure as Administrator of the Health Care Financing Administration from 1993 through 1997, a period that encompassed Health Reform, the Contract with America Congress and budget stalemates, and the Balanced Budget Act. Vladeck's time at HCFA was marked by significant innovation in statewide Medicaid programs through demonstration waivers; the development of Medicare prospective payment systems for hospital outpatient services, skilled nursing facilities, and home care agencies; implementation of the first quantitative quality measures for managed care plans; major initiatives to combat fraud and abuse; and significant improvements in beneficiary services. His work at HCFA was recognized in 1995 by a National Public Service Award. He remained closely involved in Medicare policy in 1998-99 as a Presidential Appointee to the National Bipartisan Commission on the Future of Medicare.

After leaving HCFA, Vladeck spent six years at Mount Sinai Medical Center, as Professor of Health Policy and Geriatrics and Senior Vice President for Policy of the Medical Center. In that latter role, he successfully undertook a wide variety of administrative assignments, from managing the medical school's affiliation with New York's public hospital system to acting as interim chair of the Department of Geriatrics.

Vladeck joined Ernst & Young's Health Sciences Advisory Services in 2004. He left that position for sixteen months in 2006-2007 to serve, at the request of Governor Jon Corzine, as Interim President of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey after it had entered into a Deferred Prosecution Agreement with the US Attorney. While at UMDNJ, Vladeck restored fiscal stability to the system, rebuilt its governance, compliance, and internal control processes, and laid the groundwork for restoration of full academic accreditation.

A graduate of Harvard College and the University of Michigan, Vladeck has held full-time faculty positions at Columbia University and Mount Sinai, and has served as adjunct faculty at Rutgers, Princeton, NYU, and the Aquinas Institute of Theology. He is a member of the Institute of Medicine and the New York Academy of Medicine, and serves on the boards of the Medicare Rights Center and Ascension Health, and on the New York City Board of Health.

Gail R. Wilensky, Ph.D

Gail Wilensky is an economist and a senior fellow at Project HOPE, an international health foundation. Her focus has been on strategies to reform health care, with particular emphasis in recent years on Medicare, comparative effectiveness research and military health care. Dr. Wilensky serves as a trustee of the Combined Benefits Fund of the United Mine Workers of America and the National Opinion Research Center, is on the Board of Regents of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS), the Visiting Committee of the Harvard Medical and Dental Schools and the Geisinger Health System Foundation. She recently served as president of the Defense Health Board, a Federal advisory board to the Secretary of Defense, was a commissioner on the World Health Organization's Commission on the Social Determinants of Health and co-chaired the Dept. of Defense Task Force on the Future of Military Health Care. She was the Administrator of the Health Care Financing Administration (now called CMS) from 1990-92 and the chair of MedPAC from 1997-2001.

Dr. Wilensky 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 of numerous other non-profit organizations. She is also a director on several corporate boards. Dr. Wilensky testifies frequently before Congressional committees, serves as an advisor to members of Congress and other elected officials, and speaks nationally and internationally. She received a bachelor's degree in psychology and a Ph.D. in economics at the University of Michigan and has received several honorary degrees.