

What Is Socialized Medicine and Is It Relevant to Health Care Reform?

Wednesday, April 16, 2008

Susan Dentzer (moderator) is the health correspondent at *The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer*. She will become editor in chief of the journal *Health Affairs* on May 1. Prior to joining *The NewsHour* in 1998, she was chief economics correspondent and economics columnist for *U.S. News & World Report* and a senior writer at *Newsweek* covering business news. Dentzer is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, a board member of the International Rescue Committee and the Global Health Council, and an overseer of Dartmouth Medical School. She was the first woman to serve as chair of Dartmouth College's board (2001–2004).

Stan Dorn is a senior research associate in the Urban Institute's Health Policy Center. His research focuses on the Health Coverage Tax Credit, Medicaid, the State Children's Health Insurance Program, auto-enrollment strategies for providing health coverage, and the uninsured. Previously, Dorn was senior policy analyst at the Economic and Social Research Institute, director of the Health Consumer Alliance, director of the Health Division at the Children's Defense Fund, and an attorney in the National Health Law Program's Washington office.

John Holahan is director of the Urban Institute's Health Policy Center. Much of his work has concentrated on the Medicaid program, state health policy, and federalism and health. Holahan has analyzed the growth in Medicaid expenditures and developed proposals for comprehensive Medicaid reforms. He has also developed proposals for broad health system reform, most recently in Massachusetts, investigated the reasons for the growth in the uninsured, and looked at the cost to federal and state governments of coverage expansion proposals.

Len Nichols directs the Health Policy Program at the New America Foundation. Previously, he was vice president of the Center for Studying Health System Change, a principal research associate at the Urban Institute, and the senior advisor for health policy at the Office of Management and Budget during the Clinton reform efforts of 1993–94. Nichols chaired the Economics Department at Wellesley College, where he taught for 10 years; served as a member of the Competitive Pricing Advisory Commission; and has worked as a consultant to the World Bank, InterAmerican Development Bank, and Pan American Health Organization.

Gail Wilensky is a senior fellow at Project HOPE. She is on the World Health Organization's Commission on the Social Determinants of Health and is a member of The National Academies' Institute of Medicine. From 1990 to 1992, she was administrator of the Health Care Financing Administration, directing the Medicare and Medicaid programs. She served as deputy assistant to President George H. W. Bush for policy development, advising him on health and welfare issues from 1992 to 1993. From 1997 to 2001, she chaired Congress's Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, and from 1995 to 1997, she chaired the Physician Payment Review Commission.