

**A Speech by the Rt. Hon. Andy Burnham, M.P.  
United Kingdom's Secretary of State for Health**

**Wednesday, November 4, 2009**

**Andy Burnham** was appointed the United Kingdom's secretary of state for health in June. He is the member of Parliament for Leigh in Greater Manchester, elected in June 2001. Secretary of State Burnham has been secretary of state for culture, media, and sport (January 2008–June 2009); chief secretary to the Treasury (June 2007–January 2008); minister of state for delivery and reform at the Department of Health (May 2006–June 2007); parliamentary undersecretary of state for immigration, citizenship, and nationality at the Home Office (2005–06); and parliamentary private secretary to Ruth Kelly, transport secretary (2004) and David Blunkett, home secretary (2003–04). He was also a member of the Health Select Committee (2001–03).

**Professor Sir Liam Donaldson** is the chief medical officer for England—also known as “the nation's doctor”—a post he has held since 1998. He is the United Kingdom's chief adviser on health issues and advises the secretary of state for health, the prime minister, and other government ministers. His reports have covered such vital health care issues as stem cell research, patient safety, and management of chronic disease. Sir Liam also represents the United Kingdom in the World Health Organization, where he has chaired the World Alliance for Patient Safety since its launch in 2004.

**Professor the Lord Darzi of Denham** holds the Paul Hamlyn Chair of Surgery at Imperial College London, where he heads the Department of Biosurgery and Surgical Technology. He also holds the Chair of Surgery at the Institute of Cancer Research. Until recently, he was parliamentary undersecretary at the Department of Health. Professor Darzi leads research on surgery innovation and enhancing the safety and quality of health care. Professor Darzi led the NHS Next Stage Review, which the *Financial Times* called “the world's most ambitious attempt to raise the quality and effectiveness of an entire nation's health care.”

**Dr. Robert Berenson** (moderator) is an Institute fellow at the Urban Institute. From 1998 to 2000, he was in charge of Medicare payment policy and managed care contracting in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. In July 2009, he became a commissioner of the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission. A board-certified internist who practiced for 20 years, Dr. Berenson served as an assistant director of President Carter's domestic policy staff. He was coauthor, with Walter Zelman, of *The Managed Care Blues & How to Cure Them*, and, with Rick Mayes, of *Medicare Payment Policy and the Shaping of U.S. Health Care*.