

## The Forgotten Middle: Exploring Life Expectancy Outcomes among the Lower-Middle Class

### Speaker Biographies

**Jack Chapel** research is focused on understanding the social determinants of health and identifying strategies to reduce health disparities. Jack has worked in academic research institutions, such as the Schaeffer Center for Health Policy and Economics, and in government agencies, including the Department of Labor and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. He received his BS in Economics from Tulane University in 2015.

**Jung Hyun Choi** is a senior research associate with the Housing Finance Policy Center at the Urban Institute. She studies urban inequality, focusing on housing, urban economics, real estate finance, and disadvantaged populations in the housing market. Before joining Urban, Choi was a postdoctoral scholar at the University of Southern California Price Center for Social Innovation, where her research examined innovative housing and social policies to enhance quality of life for low-income households. Choi holds a PhD in public policy and management from the Price School of Public Policy at the University of Southern California.

**Wendell Primus** was the Senior Policy Advisor on Health and Budget issues to Speaker Nancy Pelosi for 18 years. In that capacity, he was the lead House staffer in developing the Affordable Care Act. He also played a major role in the SGR legislation in 2015 and various budget agreements. The drug pricing legislation that was part of the Inflation Reduction Act was his proudest staff accomplishment. He also worked closely with Rep. Karen Bass on the Families First Child Welfare Act. Prior to this appointment in March 2005, Primus was the Minority Staff Director at the Joint Economic Committee for two years. He also was Director of Income Security at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities where much of his work was centered on Unemployment Insurance. He served in the Clinton administration at the Department of Health and Human Services before his resignation. Prior to his appointment at HHS, he was Chief Economist for the House Ways and Means Committee and Staff Director for the Committee's Subcommittee on Human Resources. At Ways and Means, he worked on the 1983 Social Security Amendments and numerous budget reconciliation bills affecting Medicare in the 1980s. He was also profiled in the New York Times for his work on the 1990 Budget agreement. Primus received his Ph.D. in economics from Iowa State University.

**David Rehkopf** is an Associate Professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Population Health and in the Department of Medicine in the Division of Primary Care and Population Health at Stafford University. Rehkopf research is on understanding the mechanisms and processes linking socioeconomic disadvantage over the life course with social inequities in health.

**John W. Rowe** is the Julius B. Richmond Professor of Health Policy and Aging at the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health. Previously, from 2000 until late 2006, Rowe served as Chairman and CEO of Aetna, Inc., one of the nation's leading health care and related benefits organizations. Before his tenure at Aetna, from 1998 to 2000, Rowe served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Mount Sinai NYU Health, one of the nation's largest academic health care organizations. From 1988 to 1998, prior to the Mount Sinai-NYU Health merger, Rowe was President of the Mount Sinai Hospital and the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York City. Before joining Mount Sinai, Rowe was a Professor of Medicine and the founding Director of the Division on Aging at the Harvard Medical School, as well as Chief of Gerontology at Boston's Beth Israel Hospital. He was Director of the MacArthur Foundation Research Network on Successful Aging and is co-author, with Robert Kahn, Ph.D., of *Successful Aging* (Pantheon, 1998). Currently, Rowe leads the MacArthur Foundation's Network on An Aging Society. Rowe

was elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a member of the National Academy of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences. He was Chairman of the Board of Overseers of Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health and Harvard Medical School and continues to serve on those Boards as well at the Board of the Columbia University Irving Medical Center. He previously served on the Board of Trustees of the Rockefeller Foundation, was a founding Commissioner of the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (Medpac), and Chair of the Boards of Trustees of the University of Connecticut and the Marine Biological Laboratory.

**Tisamarie Sherry** leads ASPE's Office of Behavioral Health, Disability and Aging Policy in advancing policies and programs that support the health, well-being, independence, productivity, and long-term care needs of people with mental and substance use disorders, people with disabilities, and older adults. Sherry is a health economist and general internist whose previous experience includes working as a policy researcher at the RAND Corporation, and as a primary care physician. Sherry received her A.B. in molecular biology and public policy from Princeton University, her M.D. and Ph.D. in health policy (concentrating in economics) from Harvard University, and completed residency training in internal medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital.

**Erwin Tan** is a director at AARP Thought Leadership. His areas of expertise include geriatric and integrative medicine, health longevity, volunteering, and perceptions of aging.

**Sarah Rosen Wartell** is the third president of the Urban Institute since it was founded in 1968. During her tenure, Urban celebrated a milestone anniversary by moving into a state-of-the-art research and convening facility and launched its Next50, a strategy to advance upward mobility, equity, and shared prosperity by bringing the power of knowledge to help changemakers accelerate solutions. Under Wartell's leadership, Urban aims to leverage cutting-edge technology and data science, understand and confront structural racism, and deliver timely, relevant, and actionable research to communities, capitals, board rooms, and wherever innovators are pursuing bold ideas. Previously, Wartell was deputy assistant to the president for economic policy and deputy director of the National Economic Council. She also worked in various roles at the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. After government service, Wartell was the founding chief operating officer and then executive vice president of the Center for American Progress. Her work focused on the economy and housing markets, and she directed the Mortgage Finance Working Group and the Doing What Works government performance program. Before her tenure in government, she practiced law with the Washington, DC, firm Arnold & Porter. Wartell currently serves on the boards of Enterprise Community Partners and the Georgetown Day School, Bank of America's National Community Advisory Council, and the Sadie Collective's Advisory Board. She previously served on the boards of the Low-Income Investment Fund, the Center for Urban Science and Progress at New York University, and the Corporation for Enterprise Development (now known as Prosperity Now). Her areas of expertise include community development, consumer finance, asset building, and housing finance. Wartell has a bachelor's degree with honors in urban affairs from the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs. She has a law degree from Yale Law School.