

24th International Conference

The International Society for Quality in Health Care

30 September to
3 October 2007
Westin Hotel,
Copley Place,
Boston USA

GREAT PLENARY LEADERS



Karen Davis

Karen Davis, PhD, is President of The Commonwealth Fund, a US philanthropy engaged in independent research on health and social issues. Dr. Davis, a nationally recognized economist, has had a distinguished career in public policy and research. She served as deputy assistant secretary for health policy in the US Department of Health and Human Services from 1977-1980, and has the distinction of being the first woman to head a US Public Health Service agency. Previously, Dr. Davis was a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution in Washington, DC, a visiting scholar at Harvard University, and an assistant professor of economics at Rice University. She is a former president of Academy Health.



Richard Alvarez

As President and Chief Executive Officer of Canada Health Infoway, Richard Alvarez has been a catalyst for accelerating the development of electronic health records in Canada. Prior to his role at Infoway, Mr. Alvarez was President and Chief Executive Officer and ex-officio Board Member of the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI). Previously, Mr. Alvarez held senior provincial government positions in Alberta. Mr. Alvarez is also past Chair of the National Health Information Council and a past recipient of Canada's Who's Who in Healthcare Award.



Ara Darzi

Professor Ara Darzi holds the Chair of Surgery Imperial College London where he heads the Division of Surgery, Oncology, Reproductive Biology and Anaesthetics. He is an Honorary Consultant Surgeon at St. Mary's Hospital NHS Trust, and holds the Paul Hamlyn Chair of Surgery at the Royal Marsden Hospital. Ara Darzi is now Undersecretary for Health in the new leadership in the British Government.

Professor Darzi's main clinical and academic interest is in minimal invasive therapy, including imaging and biological research together with investigating methods to measure core competencies of surgery objectively. He has published widely in the field of minimally invasive therapy.

Professor Darzi and his team are internationally renowned for their innovative work in the advancement of minimal invasive surgery and in the development and use of allied technologies including surgical robots and image-guided surgery.



Hamish Fraser

Hamish Fraser is an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School with appointments in the Division of Social Medicine and Health Inequalities at the Brigham and Women's Hospital and the Informatics Program at Boston Children's Hospital. Since 2000 he has been the Director of Informatics and Telemedicine at Partners In Health, a healthcare NGO based in Boston. He trained as a physician and holds a master's degree in Artificial Intelligence/Knowledge Based Systems from Edinburgh University. He completed a fellowship in medical informatics split between the MIT Clinical Decision Making Group and the Divisions of Clinical Decision Making and Cardiology at the Tufts-New England Medical Center in Boston.



Martin Roland

Martin Roland has combined family practice with a series of academic posts, at London, then Cambridge, and, since 1992 at Manchester. He is Director of the National Primary Care Research and Development Centre, based at the University of Manchester. His main research interests relate to quality of care, with a particular focus on developing ways of measuring and improving the quality of primary care.

His academic work has enabled him to make particular contributions to professional development in general practice. He was an adviser to the UK government on the new pay for performance scheme which now forms a major part of the remuneration of family practitioners in the UK.



Donald M. Berwick

Donald M. Berwick is President and Chief Executive Officer of the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) in the USA. Dr. Berwick is also Clinical Professor of Pediatrics and Health Care Policy in the Department of Pediatrics at the Harvard Medical School and Professor of Health Policy and Management at the Harvard School of Public Health. He is also a pediatrician, Adjunct Staff in the Department of Medicine at Boston's Children's Hospital, and a Consultant in Pediatrics at Massachusetts General Hospital. Dr. Berwick has published over 130 scientific articles in numerous professional journals, is a member of several editorial boards, and an elected member of the Institute of Medicine.



Richard Granger

Richard Granger is the Director General of IT for the NHS in the UK. Prior to taking up this post in October 2002, he was a partner at Deloitte Consulting. Before taking on the challenge of modernising IT for the NHS he worked on the successful procurement and delivery of a number of large scale IT programmes, the most recent of which was the Congestion Charging Scheme for London.



Antoine Geissbuhler

Professor Antoine Geissbuhler is a Professor of Medical Informatics, Chairman of the Department of Radiology and Medical Informatics at Geneva University, Director of the Division of Medical Informatics at Geneva University Hospitals, Switzerland, and President of the Health-On-the-Net Foundation Council. Following a post-doctoral fellowship in medical informatics at the University of Pittsburgh and Vanderbilt University, he became associate professor of biomedical informatics and vice-chairman of the Division of Biomedical Informatics at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.



David W. Bates Conference Chair

Dr. Bates is Chief, Division of General Medicine, Brigham and Women's Hospital, and is a practicing general internist. He also serves as Medical Director of Clinical and Quality Analysis for Partner's Healthcare Systems. He is a Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and Professor of Health Policy and Management at the Harvard School of Public Health. David Bates has been elected to the Institute of Medicine, the American Society for Clinical Investigation, and the American College of Medical Informatics. Trained as a clinical epidemiologist, his primary interest has been the use of computer systems to improve patient care, especially drug safety.



Richard Grol

Professor Richard Grol is Director of the Centre for Quality of Care Research (WOK), which is linked to the universities of Nijmegen and Maastricht in the Netherlands, aiming at research and development in the field of quality improvement, evidence-based practice and guidelines, quality assessment and indicators.

He is advisor of the Dutch College of GPs, and was president of the European Association on Quality in Family Practice for 10 years till 2002.



Mark Chassin

Mark Chassin is to lead The Joint Commission (formerly JCAHO) as its next President. He is currently the Edmond A. Guggenheim Professor of Health Policy and Chairman of the Department of Health Policy at Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York, and Executive Vice President for Excellence in Patient Care at The Mount Sinai Medical Center. He is a board-certified internist and practiced emergency medicine for 12 years. His background also includes service in the U.S. federal government and many years of health services and health policy research. He is a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences and co-chaired its National Roundtable on Health Care Quality.