



**American Hospital
Association**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**KAREN DAVIS TO RECEIVE AHA
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD**

WASHINGTON (April 12, 2012) – The American Hospital Association (AHA) will present its highest honor, the Distinguished Service Award, to Karen Davis, Ph.D., president of The Commonwealth Fund. This award recognizes significant lifetime contributions and service to the nation's health care institutions and associations. Davis will receive the award at a ceremony on Monday, May 7 at the AHA Annual Membership Meeting in Washington.

As hospitals and the nation's health care system have sought innovative approaches to effectively deliver high-quality care services to patients and communities, Davis has been a catalyst for identifying, assessing and disseminating information and tools to build a high-performing delivery system that achieves better access, improved quality and greater efficiency.

“A thought leader in public policy, research and economics, Karen has enriched the nation's health policy discussions ranging from Medicaid and coverage of the uninsured to benefit design and total performance improvement,” said AHA President and CEO Rich Umbdenstock. “We are indebted to her for being a leading voice in the pursuit of a stronger and more accountable health care system.”

The Commonwealth Fund, under Davis' leadership, has emphasized patient-centered medical homes, hospital readmission reduction, health care technology and comparative performance data.

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Davis has led The Commonwealth Fund in its drive to improve the performance of the nation's health care system since 1995. She served as deputy assistant secretary for health policy in the Department of Health and Human Services and was the first woman to head a U.S. public health service agency. Academically, she taught at Rice University in Houston, Texas, Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass. and Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. She was research associate and then senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, a nonprofit public policy organization based in Washington.

Davis is on the board of directors of Geisinger Health System, Danville, Pa., and ProMedica Health System of northwestern Ohio and southern Michigan. She is a member of the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured, an AcademyHealth distinguished fellow and has served on committees of the Institute of Medicine.

Davis earned her bachelor of arts in mathematics and economics and a doctorate in economics from Rice University.

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About the AHA

The AHA is a not-for-profit association of health care provider organizations and individuals that are committed to the health improvement of their communities. The AHA is the national advocate for its members, which includes close to 5,000 hospitals, health care systems, networks, other providers of care and 42,000 individual members. Founded in 1898, the AHA provides education for health care leaders and is a source of information on health care issues and trends. For more information, visit the AHA Web site at www.aha.org.

About The Commonwealth Fund

The Commonwealth Fund is a private foundation that aims to promote a high performing health care system that achieves better access, improved quality, and greater efficiency, particularly for society's most vulnerable, including low-income people, the uninsured, minority Americans, young children, and elderly adults. The Fund carries out this mandate by supporting independent research on health care issues and making grants to improve health care practice and policy. An international program in health policy is designed to stimulate innovative policies and practices in the United States and other industrialized countries.