

# International Health Care Leaders Convene in Berkeley and Barcelona for “Advanced Health Leadership Forum”

*Senior health care leaders from countries around the world gathered in Berkeley last January for the “Advanced Health Leadership Forum” (AHLF), a joint offering from University of California, Berkeley, and the Center for Research in Health and Economics (CRES), Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain.*



Left: Leonard D. Schaeffer, Wellpoint, Inc. Below (left to right): Guillem Lopez-Casasnovas, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona; Richard Scheffler, UC Berkeley School of Public Health; Bruce Bodaken, Blue Shield of California.

AHLF is a certificate-based international health program in which participants learn health program in which participants learn policies and management approaches that work; find out which approaches have been tried without success; and learn about current innovations. The program also teaches strategies for effective policy implementation and management. The curriculum consists of two seven-day sessions held six months apart, the first in Barcelona and the second in the San Francisco Bay Area. In consultation with faculty, participants select a project based on “real world” country or company issues, and continue to work with faculty advisors during the six-month interim.

The first session of AHLF, which took place in Barcelona in July 2004, focused on policy. January 2005’s session in Berkeley focused on key management techniques, leadership training, and strategies for assuring quality and health system change. The diversity of participants and speakers was key to the interactive discussions and to the overall success of the program.

The 22 participants hailed from England, the United States, Spain, Korea, the Netherlands, Germany, Estonia, and South Africa. Their employers included health maintenance organizations, the National Health Service, health ministries, public and private hospital organizations, insurance companies, pharmaceutical companies, and health care research foundations.



Expert faculty were drawn from UC Berkeley, UC San Francisco, and six universities in Europe. Guest speakers included **Harvey Fineberg, M.D., Ph.D.**, president, U.S. Institute of Medicine; **Leonard D. Schaeffer**, chairman, Wellpoint, Inc; **Bruce Bodaken**, president, chairman, and CEO, Blue Shield of California; **John Kitzhaber, M.D.**, two-term governor of Oregon; **Molly Joel Coye, M.D., M.P.H.**, founder and CEO, Health Technology Center Institute for the Future; **Kenneth W. Kizer, M.D., M.P.H.**, president and CEO, National Quality Forum; **David Lawrence, M.D.**, retired chairman, Kaiser Permanente; and additional executives from Kaiser Permanente, the United Kingdom’s National Health Service, WHO, the World Bank, and the European Union.



The originators of the program, **Dean Stephen M. Shortell** and **Professor Richard M. Scheffler** of the UC Berkeley School of Public Health and **Professors Guillem Lopez-Casasnovas** and **Pere Ibern** of the Universitat Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona, will launch the second cycle in Barcelona July 15–22, 2005, immediately following the “Fifth World Congress” of the International Health Economics Association. Part Two of the second cycle will take place in San Francisco January 6–13, 2006.

For more information, see <http://www.ahlf.upf.edu> or e-mail [ahlf@berkeley.edu](mailto:ahlf@berkeley.edu). 