



# ANNUAL MEETING WATCH

## AHSR 2000 Annual Meeting a Great Success!

Two thousand health services researchers and users of research attended the AHSR 2000 Annual Meeting, "Health Services Research: Shaping the Health System in the New Millennium," in Los Angeles, June 25-27. The meeting included more than a hundred packed sessions centered around 10 themes. There were also poster presentations providing critical networking opportunities, a growing exhibit program, five popular methods seminars held before and after the conference, and more than 40 affiliate meetings.

Sessions included cutting-edge research presentations, lively policy debates, skill and career development workshops, research agendas showcasing current activities and funding priorities, and research resources sessions offering information on current and future data sources.

### New Features

New features at this year's meeting included the following:

- ▶ expanded student outreach, with a student breakfast, interview opportunities and resume reviews;
- ▶ a lunch organized around the 10 major conference themes;
- ▶ abstracts on CD-ROM with direct links to presenters;

- ▶ best paper and article presentations; and
- ▶ a dissertation award.

### Webcast Sessions

With support from the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, five sessions were webcast live and are available on the Kaiser Health Information Network. To view these special sessions, including the opening keynote and the AHSR president's address, visit <http://www.kff.org/kaisernet-work/ahsr.html>.

### Keynote Speaker

Keynote speaker Jeff Goldsmith, Ph.D., president of Health Futures, Inc., and associate pro-



Keynote speaker, Jeff Goldsmith; Academy Board Chair, David Blumenthal; Academy President and CEO, W. David Holms; and Annual Meeting Chair, Arnold Epstein.

fessor of medical education in the School of Medicine at the University of Virginia, spoke on "The Clouded Crystal Ball: Health Care in the New Millennium." Dr. Goldsmith offered his analysis of the direction of health care in the new millennium and explored the effect the Internet has had on health care, particularly in light of the "managed care backlash." He suggested that patients would



As always, the Exhibit Hall offered opportunities for information gathering and networking.

increasingly look to the Internet to answer their health care questions and enter a virtual community of people who share symptoms and illnesses. Goldsmith also noted the immense scale of the American health system and problems in assimilating this outpouring of new knowledge and technological advances.

### Plenaries

Led by popular pollster Robert Blendon, Sc.D., professor of health policy and political analysis in the Harvard School of Public Health and John F. Kennedy School of Government, the closing panel featured discussions of the presidential candidates' proposals, focusing on the critical health care

issues being debated in the campaign.

### Online Services

The evaluations submitted online will be used by the 2001 planning committee to shape next year's agenda. The call for abstracts brochure listing the new themes will be mailed and posted on the Academy Web site in early November. Submissions will be accepted online only. The deadline will be mid-January. ▲

Order Audio Cassettes of the 2000 Annual Meeting from Teach 'Em, 800/225-3775.

Many thanks to the following organizations for contributing to the 2000 Annual Meeting

### Federal Supporters

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Researchers value the chance to discuss findings in poster sessions.