

Betsy McCaughey, Ph.D.

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Betsy McCaughey is a patient advocate and former Lt. Governor of New York State. In 2004, she founded and is now Chairman of the Committee to Reduce Infection Deaths (also known as RID), a nationwide educational campaign to stop hospital-acquired infections. In five years, RID has made hospital infections a major public issue. It has provided compelling evidence that preventing infection improves hospital profitability as well as saving lives, and RID has won legislation in over 25 states for public reporting of infection rates. RID has become synonymous with patient safety and clean hospital care.

Betsy McCaughey's research on how to prevent infection deaths has been featured on *Good Morning America*, the *CBS Morning Show*, ABC's *20/20*, and many other national programs.

Betsy McCaughey is the author of over three hundred scholarly and popular articles on health policy, infection, medical innovation, the economics of aging, and Medicare. Her writings have appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *New Republic*, *Policy Review*, *Forbes Magazine*, *New York Law Journal*, *Los Angeles Times*, *U.S. News & World Report*, and many other national publications. Her 1994 analysis of the dangers of the Clinton health plan in *The New Republic* won a National Magazine Award for the best article in the nation on public policy. She has been profiled in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *New York Magazine*, *The Washington Post*, and other publications.

Prior to entering the health policy field, Betsy McCaughey earned a Ph.D. in constitutional history from Columbia University. She is the author of two books on that subject. She has taught at Vassar College and Columbia University, and she produced prize-winning studies while at two think tanks, the Manhattan Institute and later the Hudson Institute.

From 1995 to 1998, she served as Lt. Governor of New York State. She focused on health issues, and her bills became models for legislation in many states and in Congress.

EDUCATION

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, Ph.D. 1976

- Dissertation defended with distinction
- Richard B. Morris Prize
- Bancroft Dissertation Award
- John Jay Fellowship

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, M.A. 1972

VASSAR COLLEGE, B.A. 1970

- General and Departmental Honors
- Woodrow Wilson Fellowship
- Herbert H. Lehman Fellowship
- Honorary Vassar Fellowship

PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

- 2009-present: Founder and CEO of Defend Your Healthcare
- 2003-present: Founder and Chairman of Committee to Reduce Infection Deaths
- 1998-2002: Senior Fellow, Hudson Institute
- 1994-1998: Lt. Governor of New York State
- 1992-1994: John M. Olin Fellow, Manhattan Institute
- 1989-1992: Senior Scholar, Center for the Study of the Presidency
- 1986-1988: Guest Curator, The New York Historical Society
- 1983-1984: Post-Doctoral Fellow, National Endowment for the Humanities
- 1979-1983: Lecturer, then Assistant Professor Columbia University
- 1977-1978: Visiting Assistant Professor, Vassar College

POST-DOCTORAL AWARDS AND PRIZES

- Post-doctoral Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities
- John M. Olin Fellowship
- H. L. Mencken Award
- National Magazine Award for "No Exit," a critique of the Clinton Health Plan
- Annual Prize from the American Society of Anesthesiologists

BOOKS

- *The Obama Health Law: What It Says and How to Overturn It* (Encounter Broadside, 2010)
- *Government by Choice: Inventing the United States Constitution* (Basic Books, 1987) with Preface by Chief Justice Warren Burger, Ret., and Foreword by Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan
- *From Loyalist to Founding Father: The Political Odyssey of William Samuel Johnson* (Columbia University Press, 1980).

ARTICLES

Betsy McCaughey is the author of over 300 articles on health policy, hospital infection, medical innovation, and national politics. Her recent writings can be found on two websites: www.hospitalinfection.org and www.defendyourhealthcare.com. She is published frequently in The Wall Street Journal, The New York Post, Investor's Business Daily, and many other national outlets. She has received a National Magazine Award for the best article in the nation on public policy, and H.L. Mencken Award, and numerous other recognitions.

HIGHLIGHTS OF PUBLIC APPEARANCES

- Launch of RID Texting Campaign, July 12, 2011
- Featured speaker on hospital infection, VAAD REFUAH Healthcare Consumer Advocacy Group, June 26, 2011
- Public release of RID educational video, "How to Save Your Life in Six Minutes," May 10, 2011
- American Institute of Architects Training Video on Hospital Infection Prevention, May 2, 2011
- WNBC New York, Nightly News at 11 PM, Feature on Hospital Infection Prevention, April 19, 2011

- News 12 New Jersey, 12 To Your Health, Feature on Hospital Infection Prevention, April 9, 2011
- Johnson & Johnson Annual Training Meeting, Keynote Speaker, Irving, TX, March 1, 2011
- Pharmacy One Virtual Webinar *Latest Research on Hospital Infection Prevention*, for 1000 physicians and nurses, August 11, 2010
- Hospital Infection Guest Expert on nationally syndicated television show *The Doctors*, January 13, 2010
- Presentation on Hospital Infection, hosted by Committee to Reduce Infection Deaths, New York, NY, November 18, 2009
- Featured Speaker, Hospital Associated Infection Consensus Group, Chicago, IL., October 8, 2009
- Keynote Speaker, Patient Advocates 2009 Conference, Auburn, ME, October 7, 2009
- State University of New York-Downstate Medical Center Grand Rounds, Brooklyn, NY, September 3, 2009
- Keynote Speaker, Long Island Jewish Medical Center Staff Society Annual Meeting, Manhasset, NY, May 7, 2009
- Keynote Speaker, International Association of Healthcare Central Service Material Management (IAHCSMM), Orlando, FL, May 4, 2009
- (SHEA) Society of Healthcare Epidemiology Association of America's 19th Annual Scientific Meeting, San Diego, CA, March 20, 2009
- Empire State Chief Nursing Officers Council Meeting, Syracuse, NY, March 6, 2009
- Featured Speaker, Federation of American Hospitals Annual Conference, Washington, DC, March 3, 2009
- WMHT "Health Link" Panel on Hospital Risks, Albany, NY, February 17, 2009
- Keynote Speaker, Park View Hospital Systems Annual Infectious Disease Conference, Fort Wayne IN, January 21, 2009
- Featured Speaker, APIC Annual Conference, Denver, Colorado, June 17, 2008.
- Keynote Speaker, "New Research and Compelling Economic Data in Support of Infection Prevention," Stanford Group Health Conference, NY, NY, June 16th, 2008
- PBS "Second Opinion" Panel on Hospital Infections, Rochester, NY, May 3rd, 2008
- Guest Speaker, "New Research and Compelling Economic Data in Support of Infection Prevention," Lotos Club, New York, NY, April 17, 2008.
- Guest Speaker, Association of Health Care Journalists, Washington, D.C., March 28th, 2008
- Vassar Brothers Hospital Grand Rounds, Poughkeepsie, NY, March 26, 2008
- Keynote Speaker Greater New York Hospital Association C. difficile collaborative for 38 hospitals in the municipal area, March 7, 2008.

- Baxter Healthcare Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, January 21, 2008
- 19th Annual Piper Jaffray Healthcare Conference, New York, NY, November 27, 2007
- The 42nd Annual Region I Conference of the American Society of Microbiology, Harvard Medical Center, Cambridge, Massachusetts, November 2, 2007
- Eighth Congress of the International Federation of Infection Control, Budapest, October 2007
- Thomas Jefferson University Medical Center Nursing Infection Control Education Day, Philadelphia, October, 2007
- Association of Professionals in Infection Control Annual Conference, San Jose, CA, June 25, 2007
- The MRSA and Families Network International Conference, Trinity College, Dublin, June, 2007
- National Teaching Institute & Critical Care Exposition (annual gathering of ICU nurses), Atlanta, May 22, 2007
- Hospital Infection Forum (co-sponsored by PALL Corporation), Long Island, NY, March 8, 2007
- Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, New Jersey, February 20, 2007.
- Grand Rounds, New York-Presbyterian Medical Center, January 8, 2007.
- Grand Rounds, University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, November 1, 2006.
- Grand Rounds, Maimonides Medical Center, Brooklyn, NY, September 27, 2006.
- "News from the Infection Prevention Front," Live Webcast, Infection Control Today, September 5, 2006.
- Illinois Hospital Association Quality Leadership Conference in Chicago, May 23-24, 2006.
- APIC 2006 Futures Summit in Savannah, April 2006
- Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America's 16th Annual Scientific Meeting, March 2006
- Testimony on Hospital Infection Reporting, Connecticut State Legislature, March 6, 2006
- "The Human and Financial Costs of Hospital Infections," Live Webcast, Infection Control Today, February 28, 2006
- "Unnecessary Deaths," 2nd Annual Minimizing Healthcare-Associated Infections Conference in Las Vegas, February 27, 2006
- "The Most Effective Strategies for Preventing Nosocomial Infections," 3rd Annual Patient Safety Conference at the UPENN School of Nursing, December 2, 2005
- "The Compelling Case for Reducing Infection," Manhattan Institute, March 31, 2005
- "Preventing Hospital Infection: Saving Lives, Reducing Costs," Harvard Club, March 11, 2005
- "The War Against Infection," Keynote, National Conference of Insurance Legislators, February 4, 2005

- “Making Hygiene a Central Part of Medicine,” Forum on Hospital Infection, Harvard Club, December 7, 2004
- “Improving the World’s Best Health Care,” Rotary Club at the Princeton Club, November 16, 2004
- “The Future of Medicine,” Weill Cornell Medical College Reunion, October 2, 2004
- “Reforming the Malpractice System: Ethical and Empirical Considerations,” Long Island Jewish Hospital, sponsored by the Medical Society of the State of New York, June 13, 2003
- “Preparing Medicare for an Aging Society,” House of Representatives Briefing Sponsored by the Alliance for Aging Research, Cannon Caucus Room, March 17, 2003
- “Scientists are Saving Medicare and Protecting Us from Disease,” Luncheon speaker at the Advanced Medical Technologies Association Meeting, Chicago, February 23, 2002
- Keynote Speaker, “Operating Ambulatory Surgery Centers and Surgical Hospitals,” Healthstream Continuing Medical Education event, Chicago, September 27, 2002
- “Scientists are Solving the Problem of Aging,” Jonathan Edwards College, Yale University, April 10, 2001
- Medical Innovation and What It Will Mean To Us,” Williams Club of New York, February 8, 2001
- “Almost as Good as Cocoon,” Fifty New Yorkers luncheon speaker at Alliance Capital, January 25, 2001
- Dinner keynote speaker, “Why There Is No Medicare Crisis,” Alliance for Aging Research, May 22, 2000
- Keynote luncheon speaker at “Medicine Briefing: Research at Risk” for U.S. Congress and U.S. Senate Staff and Members, Senate Caucus Room, April 13, 2000