



Health Care: Policy Challenges and Practice Implications
Dr. Robert B. Hudson
Gero-Ed Track Kick-Off Keynote

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Brief Overview of Keynote Address

A series of critical health care issues are about to confront both older Americans and those who provide services to them. These include reforming Medicare to recognize the changing health care profile of program beneficiaries, combating efforts to shift health care risks from government and employers to individuals and families, and addressing geriatric care labor shortages that threaten the availability and quality of care for both aging baby boomers and "the silent generation" that has preceded them into old age. In both direct service provision and in aiding families mediate the numbingly complex health care system, social work has a critical role to play. In the name of both effectiveness and efficiency, the importance of social work's contributions must be impressed upon policymakers.

Brief Biography

Robert B. Hudson, Ph.D. is Professor and Chair, Department of Social Welfare Policy, Boston University School of Social Work. His writings on the policies and politics of aging have appeared in *Social Service Review*, *Families in Society*, *Milbank Quarterly*, *International Social Security Review*, and *The Gerontologist*, among other publications. He currently serves as Editor of *Public Policy & Aging Report*, the quarterly publication of the National Academy on an Aging Society. He is a Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America (GSA) and is an elected member of the National Academy of Social Insurance, where he chairs the John A. Heinz Dissertation Award Committee. He has received the Donald Kent Award from GSA and the Arthur S. Flemming Award from the National Association of State Units on Aging. Most recently, he has organized a two-volume reference set for Praeger Perspectives, entitled *Boomer Bust?: Economic and Political Issues of the Graying Society*.