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Board Meeting Public Agenda
August 25, 2023, 9:45 am – 3:30 pm ET

The Future of Mortality, Disability, and Work: Helping to Inform the Social Security Trust Fund Projections

Each year, the Board of Trustees reports to Congress on the current and projected financial and actuarial status of the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI) and Disability Insurance (DI) programs. The Social Security Administration's Office of the Chief Actuary (OCACT), on behalf of the Trustees, projects future OASDI program cost and income based on assumptions about key demographic and economic variables affecting the number of people paying into and receiving benefits from these programs over time. This forum will bring together OCACT in conversation with other experts to consider the implications of recent research and scientific findings on future expectations for a subset of those variables—mortality, disability, and work.

9:45 am **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

Bob Joondeph, Chair, Social Security Advisory Board (SSAB)

10 am **Panel 1: Mortality**

This panel will discuss expectations for future mortality trends in light of issues such as COVID-19 and possible future pandemics, rising deaths from drugs, suicide, and chronic liver disease among the working-age population, and rising pediatric mortality. How long people will live to pay into and receive Social Security in the future is a key consideration for program projections.

Robert Anderson, PhD, Chief, Mortality Statistics Branch, National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
David M Cutler, PhD, Otto Eckstein Professor of Applied Economics, Harvard University
Karen Glenn, FSA, EA, MAAA, Deputy Chief Actuary for Long-Range Actuarial Estimates, OCACT, SSA
Stephen C Goss, ASA, MAAA, Chief Actuary, OCACT, SSA
Christopher JL Murray, MD, DPhil, Director, Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME); Professor and Chair of Health Metrics Sciences, University of Washington
Christopher J Ruhm, PhD, Professor of Public Policy and Economics, University of Virginia
Steven Woolf, MD, MPH, Professor and C. Kenneth and Diane Wright Distinguished Chair in Population Health and Health Equity, Virginia Commonwealth University
Emma Tatem *(moderator)*, Lead Policy Analyst, SSAB

11:30 am **Panel 2: Disability**

This panel will explore factors impacting technological and medical advances and changing workplace flexibilities. OCACT projects the number of people expected to receive disability benefits in the future using three key disability assumptions: incidence, death, and recovery rates. Incidence rates—the proportion of insured workers who file for and are awarded benefits each year based on SSA's definition of disability—have fallen steeply since 2010 to levels well below expected.

Stephen C Goss, ASA, MAAA, Chief Actuary, OCACT, SSA
Allen W Heinemann, PhD, Professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine
Christopher JL Murray, MD, DPhil, Director, IHME; Professor and Chair of Health Metric Sciences, University of Washington
David Shaywitz, MD, PhD, VP Distinguished R&D Fellow, Data & Digital, Takeda; Lecturer, Harvard Medical School; Adjunct Fellow, American Enterprise Institute*
Michael L Stephens, ASA, Acting Deputy Chief Actuary for Short-Range Actuarial Estimates, OCACT, SSA
Conway Reinders *(moderator),* Lead Policy Analyst, SSAB

**Personal capacity; affiliations for identification purposes only.*

1 pm **Break**

2 pm **Panel 3: Work**

This panel will discuss expectations about the changing nature of work and why it is particularly uncertain. People qualify for OASI and DI by contributing to the Social Security Trust Funds through taxes on their earnings from covered jobs. What work will look like is critical to understanding program contributions and costs.

Karen Glenn, FSA, EA, MAAA, Deputy Chief Actuary for Long-Range Actuarial Estimates, OCACT, SSA
Stephen C Goss, ASA, MAAA, Chief Actuary, OCACT, SSA
Stipica Mudrazija, PhD, Assistant Professor of Health Systems and Population Health, University of Washington
Steven W Popper, PhD, Senior Economist and Professor, Pardee RAND Graduate School
Shelly Steward, PhD, Director, Future of Work Initiative, Economic Opportunities Program, Aspen Institute
Emily Roessel *(moderator),* Senior Policy Researcher, SSAB

3:30 pm **Conclusion**

The Social Security Advisory Board is a bipartisan, independent federal government agency established in 1994 to advise the President, the Congress, and the Commissioner of Social Security on matters of policy and administration of the Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance and the Supplemental Security Income programs.

Speaker Bios

Robert Anderson, PhD, has served as Chief of the Mortality Statistics Branch at CDC's National Center for Health Statistics since 2004. He oversees and is responsible for the production, analysis and dissemination of national mortality statistics. In addition to his supervisory duties, he has also worked on issues related to disease classification, improvements in data quality (especially with regard to cause of death reporting), and most recently, quantifying the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on mortality in the United States. He received a BS in sociology from Brigham Young University, an MS in sociology from Texas A&M University, and PhD in Sociology and Demography from The Pennsylvania State University.

David Cutler, PhD, has developed an impressive record of achievement in both academia and the public sector. He served as Assistant Professor of Economics from 1991 to 1995, was named John L. Loeb Associate Professor of Social Sciences in 1995, and received tenure in 1997. He is currently the Otto Eckstein Professor of Applied Economics in the Department of Economics and was named Harvard College Professor from 2014 until 2019. Cutler holds secondary appointments at the Kennedy School of Government and the School of Public Health. Cutler was Associate Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences for Social Sciences from 2003-2008.

Honored for his scholarly work and singled out for outstanding mentorship of graduate students, Cutler's work in health economics and public economics has earned him significant academic and public acclaim. Cutler served on the Council of Economic Advisers and the National Economic Council during the Clinton Administration and has advised the Presidential campaigns of Bill Bradley, John Kerry, and Barack Obama as well as being Senior Health Care Advisor for the Obama Presidential Campaign. Among other affiliations, Professor Cutler has held positions with the National Institutes of Health and the National Academy of Sciences. Currently, Cutler is a Research Associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research, a Member of the Institute of Medicine, and a Fellow of the Employee Benefit Research Institute. He advises many companies and groups on health care.

Cutler was a key advisor in the formulation of the recent cost control legislation in Massachusetts and is one of the members of the Health Policy Commission created to help reduce medical spending in that state.

Cutler is the author of two books, several chapters in edited books, and many published papers on the topics of health care and other public policy topics. Author of *Your Money Or Your Life: Strong Medicine for America's Health Care System*, published by Oxford University Press, this book, and Professor Cutler's ideas, were the subject of a feature article in the *New York Times Magazine*, *The Quality Cure*, by Roger Lowenstein. Cutler's most recent book, *The Quality Cure*, pursues these themes. Cutler was recently named one of the 30 people who could have a powerful impact on healthcare by *Modern Healthcare* magazine, and one of the 50 most influential men aged 45 and younger by *Details* magazine.

Professor Cutler received an AB from Harvard University (1987) and a PhD in economics from MIT (1991).

Karen Glenn, FSA, EA, MAAA, is the Deputy Chief Actuary for Long-Range Actuarial Estimates in the Office of the Chief Actuary at the Social Security Administration (SSA). She is responsible for the demographic and economic assumptions that underlie the 75-year estimates of the cost of the Social Security program as well as for the long-range cost estimates of Social Security. She and her staff are also responsible for estimating the financial effect of proposals to change the Social Security program.

Glenn has served as a key advisor and assistant for the Chief Actuary, consulting and assisting in all technical areas. She has coordinated the production of all work done in conjunction with the Social Security Board of Trustees, including communication of recommended assumptions and development of the annual written report.

Before joining SSA in 2008, Glenn worked for over a decade as a Consulting Actuary on private pension plans. She holds an AB in mathematics from Amherst College and a MA in mathematics from Johns Hopkins University. She is a Fellow of the Society of Actuaries, an Enrolled Actuary, and a Member of the American Academy of Actuaries and the National Academy of Social Insurance. She is a Past President of the Middle Atlantic Actuarial Club.

Stephen C Goss, ASA, MAAA, has been Chief Actuary at the Social Security Administration since 2001. Goss has worked in areas related to health insurance and long-term-care insurance as well as pension, disability, and survivor protection. Steve is a Member of the Society of Actuaries, the American Academy of Actuaries, the National Academy of Social Insurance, the Social Insurance Committee of the American Academy of Actuaries, and the Social Security Retirement and Disability Income Committee of the Society of Actuaries. Goss joined the Office of the Chief Actuary in 1973 after graduating from the University of Virginia with a master's in mathematics. Goss earned a bachelor's in mathematics and economics from the University of Pennsylvania.

Allen Heinemann, PhD, is the Director of the Center for Rehabilitation Outcomes Research at the Shirley Ryan AbilityLab (formerly the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago) and a Professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Emergency Medicine, and Medical Social Sciences at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine. His research centers on health services related to disability and chronic illness, and the psychosocial aspects of disability, with a focus on developing and applying outcome measures in rehabilitation care. With funding from the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research, he has served as co-PI of the Midwest Regional SCI System since 2006, and PI for four Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers on Employment for People with Physical Disabilities (2018-23), Home and Community-Based Services (2020-25), Improving Measurement of Medical Rehabilitation Outcomes (2009-14), and Measuring Rehabilitation Outcomes and Effectiveness (2004-9). His team developed the Rehabilitation Measures Database to help clinicians and scientists select instruments for patient care and research applications. He serves as co-Editor-in-Chief for the *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*.

Heinemann serves on the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine Standing Committee of Medical and Vocational Experts for the SSA's Disability Programs since 2009. Heinemann is a Fellow of both the American Psychological Association and the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine.

Heinemann received a BS in psychology from Washington State University, a doctorate from the University of Kansas, and then completed a postgraduate internship at Baylor College of Medicine in Clinical Psychology. He is Board-certified by the American Board of Rehabilitation Psychology.

Stipica Mudrazija, PhD, is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Health Systems and Population Health at the University of Washington and a

Nonresident Fellow at the Urban Institute. He studies issues related to population aging, intergenerational support, and the health and well-being of older adults in the United States and internationally, and he is an Elected Member of the National Academy of Social Insurance. His research has been supported by the National Institutes of Health, other federal agencies, and major foundations and philanthropic organizations. It has been published in leading peer-reviewed journals and edited volumes and featured in media outlets including *CNBC*, *The Daily Mail*, *The Economist*, *Forbes*, *Reuters*, *The New York Times*, and *The Wall Street Journal*.

Before joining the University of Washington, Mudrazija was a Principal Research Associate at the Urban Institute and an Adjunct Professor at Georgetown University. Previously, he was a Postdoctoral Scholar at the Edward R. Roybal Institute on Aging at the University of Southern California. He also worked as a Junior Analyst in the research department of the Croatian National Bank; a Trainee in the social protection unit of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs, and Inclusion; and a Graduate Research Intern in the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

Mudrazija holds a bachelor’s degree in economics from the University of Zagreb, a master’s degree in public policy from Georgetown University, and a doctoral degree in public policy from the University of Texas at Austin.

Christopher JL Murray, MD, DPhil, is Professor and Chair of the Department of Health Metrics Sciences at the University of Washington and Director of the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME). His career has focused on improving population health worldwide through better evidence. A physician and health economist, his work has led to the development of innovative methods to strengthen health measurement, analyze the performance of health systems, understand the drivers of health, and produce forecasts of the future state of health.

He has led critical analyses during the COVID-19 pandemic to understand its impact on health systems and the population as a whole, and the effectiveness of policy interventions to mitigate it. The White House, European Commission, many governments, and organizations such as WHO EURO, PAHO, and Africa CDC use IHME COVID-19 forecasts and policy scenarios as a trusted source of evidence. Murray also leads the Global Burden of Disease (GBD) collaboration, a systematic effort to quantify the comparative magnitude of health loss due to diseases, injuries, and risk factors by age, sex, and geography over time. The GBD is now a network of over 10,000 scientists and decision-makers from 162 countries who together generate annually updated estimates. He is an Elected Member of the National Academy of Medicine (NAM) and the 2018 co-recipient of the John Dirks Canada Gairdner Global Health Award.

Steven W Popper, PhD, is a Senior Economist at the RAND Corporation and Professor at the Pardee RAND Graduate School. As Associate Director of the Science and Technology Policy Institute (1996–2001), Popper provided analytic support to the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and other Executive Branch agencies. He currently works on decision-making under deep uncertainty, science and technology policy, strategic decision-making foresight and future studies, and security planning. He co-authored the flagship study, *Shaping the Next One Hundred Years: New Methods for Quantitative, Long-Term Policy Analysis* (2003), which provides a methodological framework for decision-making under deep uncertainty that has been applied to an expanding set of policy issues as Robust Decision Making (RDM). His research also focuses on regional economic development and international economics. He has served as a consultant to the World Bank and OECD. He is Past Chair of the Industrial Science and Technology section of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and has served as an external advisor to the Ohio State Battelle Center for Science and Technology Policy, the Shoresh Institution and the Israel Innovation Policy Institute. He was the Founding Director of the RAND Israel Initiative of domestic policy research and is a Founding Officer and the current Chair for Finance of the international Society for Decision Making under Deep Uncertainty. Popper received his PhD in economics from the University of California, Berkeley and a BS *summa cum laude* in biochemistry from the University of Minnesota.

Christopher Ruhm, PhD, is a Professor of Public Policy and Economics at the University of Virginia. He received his doctorate in economics from the University of California at Berkeley in 1984. Prior to joining UVA, in 2010, he held faculty positions at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and Boston University and was a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Brandeis University. During the 1996-97 academic year, he served as Senior Economist on President Clinton's Council of Economic Advisers, where his main responsibilities were in the areas of health policy, aging, and labor market issues. Ruhm is currently a Research Associate in the Economics of Health and

Children's Programs of the National Bureau of Economic Research and a Research Fellow at the Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA) in Germany.

Ruhm's recent research has focused on the role of government policies in helping parents with young children balance the competing needs of work and family life, and on examining how various aspects of health are produced – including excess deaths due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the growth and sources of drug poisoning deaths in the United States, the rise in obesity and the relationship between macroeconomic conditions and health. His earlier research includes studying the determinants of health and risky behaviors, the effects of job displacements and mandated employment benefits, transition into retirement, and the causes and consequences of alcohol and illegal drug policies. He is co-author of *Time Out With Baby: The Case for Paid Parental Leave* (published by *Zero to Three*), *Turbulence in the American Workplace* (published by *Oxford University Press*,) and has 170 pieces published as book chapters; articles in economics, public policy and health journals; or policy outlets. His research has been cited in local, national, and international media outlets such as the *New York Times, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, Money Magazine, USA Today, Business Week, CNN, ABC, CBS, BBC*, and *NPR*.

Ruhm has received external research funding from a diverse set of organizations, including the US Department of Labor, National Science Foundation, several of the National Institutes of Health, the Alfred P Sloan Foundation, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Pivotal Ventures, Russell Sage Foundation, and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. He is currently Associate Editor of the *Journal of Health Economics* and *Southern Economic Journal*, on the editorial board of the *American Journal of Health Economics, Economics Letters,* and the *Journal of Labor Research*, on the Board of Directors of the American Society of Health Economists and a Steering Committee Member of the Southeastern Health Economics Study Group. He was previously President, Vice President, and on the Board of the Southern Economic Association.

David Shaywitz, MD, PhD, is a physician-scientist by training who has focused his career on biomedical innovation, in particular, the opportunities and challenges associated with implementation of emerging technologies. He has written extensively for the popular press on this topic, contributing to publications including *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*, *The Financial Times*, *The Boston Globe*, *Forbes*, *The Atlantic*, and *Timmerman Report*.

Shaywitz has spent the majority of his career in and around biopharmaceutical R&D, and has worked in experimental medicine at Merck, the healthcare practice of the Boston Consulting Group, in strategic planning at Theravance, and served as Chief Medical Officer at DNAnexus, and subsequently as a Senior Partner at Takeda Ventures. He is currently VP-Distinguished R&D Fellow, Data and Digital at Takeda, a Lecturer in the Department of Biomedical Informatics at Harvard Medical School, and an Adjunct Fellow at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington, DC. (*Affiliations listed for disclosure; he is serving on this panel in his personal capacity only*.)

He lives in the Boston area with his wife (a physician-scientist and CEO of a public biotechnology company, Allovir), three daughters, and a clumber spaniel named Roscoe.

Michael L Stephens, ASA, is the Acting Deputy Chief Actuary for Short-Range Actuarial Estimates in the Office of the Chief Actuary at the Social Security Administration. He leads the office's work on developing 10-year projections of the numbers of beneficiaries, total benefits, and the actuarial status of the trust funds for the Social Security program, as well as 25-year projections of recipients and total payments for the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program. He and his staff are also responsible for estimating the short-range financial effect of proposals to change the Social Security and SSI programs. Mike and his staff work on a wide range of issues related to these two programs, including disability experience.

Mike holds a BS in actuarial science from Pennsylvania State University. He is an Associate of the Society of Actuaries and a Member of the National Academy of Social Insurance. He was previously a Council Member for the Social Insurance and Public Finance section of the Society of Actuaries and is currently a Member-At-Large of the Middle Atlantic Actuarial Club.

Shelly Steward, PhD, serves as Director of the Future of Work Initiative, a part of the Economic Opportunities Program. Her team strives to identify challenges faced by workers today and develop policy-based solutions to address those challenges and build a more equitable economy. Shelly is an economic sociologist and applied scholar who has studied the changing nature of work for more than ten years. She is an expert on nonstandard work arrangements and the gig economy and is lead author of the *Gig Economy Data Hub* in collaboration with Cornell University's ILR School. She is also a Research Associate with the Fairwork Project based at the Oxford Internet Institute, which assesses the working conditions of gig economy platforms around the world, and teaches courses on technology and tech policy for the University of California's Washington Program. Her academic interests center on how people understand their position in the labor market and how they navigate increasing insecurity. She has studied work in the tech and oil and gas industries in depth, examining how people make sense of and internalize the rising risk and uncertainty of these sectors. She has written for both academic and popular publications, including the *Washington Post, the Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*, and the *Journal of Consumer Culture*, and has been quoted in major outlets, including the *Wall Street Journal, NBC News*, and *NPR*, among others. Shelly received her doctorate in sociology from the University of California, Berkeley, where she was a National Science Foundation Graduate Fellow. She holds a bachelor's degree with highest honors in sociology from Harvard. Prior to graduate school, she was a middle school science teacher in South Dakota through Teach for America. Outside of work, she volunteers at the National Zoo and enjoys swimming, sewing, and cookies.

Steven Woolf, MD, MPH, is Director Emeritus of the Center on Society and Health at Virginia Commonwealth University, where he is Professor of Family Medicine and Population Health. He holds the C Kenneth and Diane Wright Distinguished Chair in Population Health and Health Equity. Woolf has edited three books and published more than 200 articles in a career that has focused on raising public awareness about the social, economic, and environmental conditions that shape health and perpetuate inequities.

Woolf received his MD in 1984 from Emory University and underwent residency training in family medicine at Virginia Commonwealth University. Woolf is also a clinical epidemiologist and underwent training in preventive medicine and public health at Johns Hopkins University, where he received his MPH in 1986. He is board certified in family medicine and in preventive medicine and public health. He served on the US Preventive Services Task Force and was elected to the Institute of Medicine (now National Academy of Medicine) in 2001.