

**“Current Perspectives on Retirement Policy”**  
**14<sup>th</sup> Annual RRC Conference**  
**Preliminary Program**  
National Press Club, Washington, DC 20045  
August 2-3, 2012

**Thursday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**8:00-8:30 am Coffee and Registration**

**8:30-8:45 am Welcoming Remarks: DAVID RUST**

SSA Deputy Commissioner for Retirement and Disability Policy

**Introduction of Center Directors**

John Laitner, University of Michigan Retirement Research Center

Alicia H. Munnell, Center for Retirement Research at Boston College

David A. Wise, NBER Retirement Research Center

**Morning Session Chair:** David Wise, NBER Retirement Research Center

**8:45-10:15 Panel 1: Health**

*The Impact of Changes in Smoking and Obesity on Future US Life Expectancy*

Samuel Preston, University of Pennsylvania

Discussant:

*Trend Growth in Health Consumption and Its Implications for the Earnings-to-Compensation Ratio: An International Perspective*

Barry Bosworth and Gary Burtless, Brookings Institution

Discussant: John Sabelhaus, Federal Reserve

*The Costs and Benefits of Medicaid in Old Age*

John Bailey Jones, University at Albany; Eric French, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago

Discussant: Norma Coe, Boston College

**10:15-10:30 Break**

**10:30-12:00 Panel 2: Saving**

*Personality Traits and Economic Preparation for Retirement*

Michael Hurd and Susann Rohwedder, RAND Corporation; Angela Lee Duckworth, University of Pennsylvania; and David Weir, University of Michigan

Discussant: Suzanne Shu, UCLA

*Do Tax Deferred Retirement Accounts Increase Saving?*

Raj Chetty and John Friedman, Harvard University

Discussant: Jonathan Skinner, Dartmouth College

*401(k) Participant Behavior in a Volatile Economy*

Barbara Butrica and Karen Smith, The Urban Institute

Discussant: James Choi, Yale University

12:00

**Box Lunch**

12:30

**Introduction of Luncheon Speaker: James Poterba, MIT and NBER**

**Luncheon Speaker: ROBERT MERTON**

School of Management Distinguished Professor of Finance

MIT Sloan School of Management

**Afternoon Session Chair:** John Laitner, Michigan Retirement Research Center

1:15-2:45

**Panel 3: Claiming**

*Social Security Reform and Male Labor Force Participation around the World*

Jocelyn Finlay, Harvard School of Public Health; and Gunther Fink, Harvard University

Discussant: Dalmer Hoskins, Social Security Administration

*Behavioral Effects of Social Security Policies on Benefit Claiming, Retirement and Saving*

Alan L. Gustman, Dartmouth College, and Thomas L. Steinmeier, Texas Tech University

Discussant: Damon Jones, University of Chicago

*Financing Retirement with Social Security and Defined Contribution Balances:*

*The Sequential Strategy*

John Shoven, Stanford University; and Sita N. Slavov, American Enterprise Institute

Discussant: James Poterba, MIT and NBER

2:45-3:00

**Break**

3:00-4:30

**Panel 4: Disability Insurance**

*Does Delay Cause Decay? The Effect of Administrative Decision Time on the Labor Force Participation and Earnings of Disability Applicants*

David Autor, MIT; Nicole Maestas and Kathleen Mullen, RAND; and Alexander Strand, SSA

Discussant: Timothy Moore, George Washington University

*Does Access to Health Insurance Influence Work Effort Among SSDI Recipients*

Norma Coe, Boston College and Kalman Rupp, Social Security Administration

Discussant: Joyce Manchester, Congressional Budget Office

*Using the 2008 CPS-ASEC-SSA Matched Data Set to Show Who Is and Is Not Captured in the Official BLS Six-Question Sequence on Disability*

Richard Burkhauser, Cornell University; Andrew Houtenville, University of New Hampshire; and Jennifer Tennant, Ithaca College

Discussant: Nicole Maestas, RAND Corporation

**Friday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**8:00-8:30 Registration and Coffee**

**Morning Session Chair:** Norma Coe, Center for Retirement Research at Boston College

**8:30-10:00 Panel 5: Employment**

*Tax Elasticity of Labor Earnings for Older Individuals*

Abby Alpert and David Powell, RAND Corporation

Discussant: Robert Carroll, American University

*Workplace Characteristics and Employment of Older Workers*

Chinhui Juhn, University of Houston; and Kristin McCue, U.S. Census Bureau

Discussant: Olivia Mitchell, University of Pennsylvania

*How Will Older Workers Who Lose Jobs During the Great Recession Fare in the Long Run?*

Matthew Rutledge, Boston College; and Anthony Webb, Boston College

Discussant: Joseph Piacentini, US Department of Labor

**10:00-10:15 Break**

**10:15-11:45 Panel 6: Reform**

*How Does the Changing Role of Women Affect Social Security?*

Alicia Munnell and April Wu, Boston College; Nadia Karamcheva, Urban Institute; and Patrick Purcell, Social Security Administration

Discussant: Virginia Reno, National Academy of Social Insurance

*The Effects of Increases in the Normal Retirement Age when Age Discrimination Protections are Stronger: Evidence from the Hiring Side*

David Neumark, University of California, Irvine

Discussant: TBD

*The Short-Run and Long-Run Effects of Social Security Reform on Retirees' Consumption and Saving*

Lee Lockwood, Northwestern University; and Dayanand Manoli, UCLA

Discussant: Michael Hurd, RAND Corporation

**11:45 Box Lunch**

**Introduction of Luncheon Speaker: Jeffrey R. Brown**, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign and NBER

**Luncheon Speaker: ROGER FERGUSON**

President and Chief Executive Officer, TIAA-CREF

**Afternoon Session Chair:** David Wise, NBER Retirement Research Center

**1:00-2:30 Panel 7: Disability Insurance**

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**1:00-2:30**      **Panel 7: Disability Insurance**

*Early Retirement or Disability? Projecting Social Security Application Activity in the Current Business Cycle*

Matthew Rutledge, Boston College

Discussant: Kathleen Mullen, RAND Corporation

*Dynamic Wage and Employment Effects on Elder Parent Care*

Megan Skira, Boston College

Discussant: Richard Johnson, Urban Institute

*The Importance of Private and Government Safety Nets: A Comparison of Approved and Denied SSDI Applicants*

Kathleen McGarry, UCLA, and Jonathan Skinner, Dartmouth College

Discussant: Gary Engelhardt, Syracuse University

**2:30**              **Closing Remarks: David Wise**