



A Monthly e-Newsletter From:

IAF Institute for Alternative Futures

January 2006

In This Issue: IAF Reorganizes Leadership Team

IAF Reorganizes Leadership Team

The Institute for Alternative Futures is reorganizing its leadership team to execute its [mission priorities](#) in focused ways that enable IAF to make its greatest contribution to future generations.

Intriguing Ideas

IAF Builds Network to Tackle Health Disparities

To build on the experience and continuity of his 28 years as the founder and president of the Institute, Clem Bezold is now the chairman of the board. He will work strategically with the board to distinguish IAF as a leader in providing techniques for organizational and social transformation. In his daily work as a senior futurist, he will focus his energy on his first passion, working to instill foresight knowledge and practices in government and on core long term projects that use foresight approaches to create equity.

IAF Futurists Help Facilitate White House Conference on Aging

"I will search for areas where using foresight could lead to important advances and enlist the stakeholders and resources to do significant futures work," Bezold said. In 2005 he organized an initiative to explore advances that could reduce health disparities among the poor and disadvantaged. As partners in this work, he recruited the National Cancer Institute and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. (See next story.)

Leadership Networking

Has Futurism Failed?

Jonathan Peck, who joined IAF in 1982, is now IAF's president. The [IAF board](#) has charged him with sustaining IAF's legacy of significant futures work and growing its capabilities into the next generation. His top priority in 2006 will be to create a network of leaders who want to work with IAF toward more strategic, systemic, global and humane decision making. He will also work with the staff to define new strategies and operational practices that will sustain and grow the Institute.

Marsha Rhea Interviewed for Council on Foundations Blog

"As futurists we are good at thinking out ten and more years to a preferred future," Peck said. "IAF will be just as good at executing our [vision and mission](#) every single day. We want to be recognized both for helping our clients define their preferred future and for being partners in making change happen. Our strategic services can help our clients put their vision to work every day."

Upcoming Events:

Willis Goldbeck, who has served as IAF board chairman since 1988, will remain on the board. Goldbeck founded the Washington Business Group on Health and has been a provocative thinker on health issues. He helped IAF establish its reputation as an important think tank on the future of healthcare, including IAF's focus beyond the U.S. "My own professional commitments to global health issues, including increased international travel, led me to step down from the board chairmanship, but I will continue to press IAF to bring futures knowledge and processes to global priorities such as health and sustainability," Goldbeck said.

Chiropractic 2030: Possible Scenario for the Function and State of the Profession. IAF Founder Clem Bezold opening speaker. [Chiropractic Strategic Planning Conference](#) at the National University of Health Sciences. Feb. 17, Lombard, IL.

Intriguing Ideas

IAF Builds Network to Tackle Health Disparities

The next decade will see a myriad of advances in prevention and treatment. Typically the poor and underserved are the last to benefit from such advances.

Imaging the Health Care of the Future. IAF Founder Clem Bezold, opening speaker. American College of Nurse Practitioners [National Nurse Practitioner Summit](#), Feb. 18, Washington, DC.

IAF is building a network to tackle this difficult problem of health equity through its Disparities Reducing Advances (DRA) Project. The DRA Project is a multi-year, multi-stakeholder project designed to identify the most promising advances for bringing health gains to the poor and underserved, and accelerating the development and deployment of these advances to reduce disparities.

The DRA Project officially begins this year with a generous grant from the National Cancer Institute's Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities (under Contract No. NO1-CO-12400.) The project is also supported by the Florida Hospital and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (which provided a grant for a related project focused on using biomonitoring to reduce disparities).

2029: The Future of Pharma R&D. IAF President Jonathan Peck, plenary speaker. Molecular Medicine Tri-Conference. [Cambridge Healthtech Institute](#). Feb. 22, San Francisco.

IAF has already built a strong list of partners to help reduce disparities through the DRA Project including:

- Active Living by Design
- Alliance for Health Reform
- American Cancer Society
- American College of Nurse Practitioners
- Center for Information Therapy
- Center for Minority Health at the University of Pittsburgh
- Clinical Directors Network
- Detroit Medical Center at Wayne State University
- Health Research and Services Administration (HRSA)
- Henry Ford Health System
- Hill Health, New Haven, Connecticut
- Institute for Community Health
- Institute for Healthcare Improvement
- Intercultural Cancer Council
- Leadership by Design
- Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
- Planetree
- Samueli Institute for Information Biology
- Resource Center for Health Policy at the University of Washington

Future Search. IAF Founder Clem Bezold, keynote speaker. [Society for Social Work Leadership in Health](#). April 27, San Diego.

Wiser Futures: Using Futures Tools to Understand and Create the Future. IAF futurists reprise this popular [preconference workshop](#). World Futures Society Annual Conference, July 28, Toronto.

In April, IAF will hold the first partners meeting of this year to look at potential disparity reducing advances and consider criteria for deciding which to enhance and accelerate first. For more information or to join the DRA Project, contact Craig Bettles, cbettles@altfutures.com, 703-684-5880.

IAF Futurists Help Facilitate White House Conference on Aging

Four IAF futurists were facilitators at the White House Conference on Aging Dec. 11-14 in fast-paced sessions to identify strategies for meeting the needs of older Americans particularly as baby boomers join their ranks.

Futurists Jonathan Peck, Clem Bezold, Marsha Rhea and Bill Rowley joined a team of facilitators tasked with helping the more than 1000 delegates efficiently craft specific recommendations for implementing 50 resolutions that the participants had voted as top priorities. It became a fascinating look ahead at where there might be sufficient public will among all sectors of society to make needed changes. Consistent with the need to make aging a national priority, the delegates voted that reauthorizing and updating the Older Americans Act should be the top priority.

Although a number of delegates seized opportunities to object to problems surrounding implementation of Medicare Part D, there was still enthusiasm for creating a Medicare Part E that would provide financing and incentives for long-term care insurance. Ensuring that older Americans have transportation options was another top priority. Strategies for doing this included efforts to improve driver skills, make vehicle design senior friendly, and provide more public transportation options. The idea of privatizing social security had few fans among the delegates.

A common theme in many of the strategies was calling for better funding, integration and coordination of services for the elderly. Many of the delegates work in aging services or related fields and they could recount many ways to tune up existing programs.

The speakers and the delegates also could see tremendous opportunity in the growing number of older Americans. With the right incentives and assistance, they could continue contributing in the workforce, greatly increase the number of volunteers, and lead to changes in community design and engagement that create livable communities.

The [White House Conference on Aging website](#) offers an overview of the resolutions, video and transcriptions from the conference, and background reports. The conference report for the President and Congress will be available in early summer.

Leadership Networking

Has Futurism Failed?

IAF Senior Fellow Robert Olson and David Rejeski, director of the Wilson Center's Foresight and Governance Project, examine whether futurism has failed in the Winter 2006 issue of the [Wilson Quarterly](#).

Their article reviews the use of futures research in the past 100 years to set the stage for a number of scholars writing about the next 30 years. Olson and Rejeski observe that the U.S. may have paid more attention to futures research in the 1970s than policy makers do today, but dozens of other countries have launched elaborate foresight exercises. In the private sector, the authors note that "many of the best-run transnational corporations have been developing sophisticated efforts in such fields as environmental scanning, issues management, and scenario-based planning." They write that futurism may be evolving a capacity to integrate "images of the future that appear to be both positive and realistic and that transcend many of the divisions and arguments of the past."

Marsha Rhea Interviewed for Council on Foundations Blog

IAF Senior Futurist Marsha Rhea talks about important emerging trends, the role of foundations in shaping the future, and her interest in learning in an interview on the Council on Foundations' new [Facing the Future](#) blog.

In this interview Rhea says, "Learning is more than the mastery of a body of knowledge, it's really how we can explore new challenges that we've never even considered before. If you think about the scale of the global challenges that we have facing us, no one person, no one individual, no single country, can address a global challenge. But, how is it that all kinds of organizations can learn together to create new possibilities around a pretty significant challenge?" She acknowledges the role foundations have played in bringing individuals together to collaborate around community solutions.

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