In Memoriam

Universal insurance proponent, Dr. Fein

Rashi Fein, Ph.D., of Boston, died of melanoma at age 88. An economist, Dr. Fein was a member of the AAP Center for Child Health Research Board of Directors.

A strong supporter of ethics and humanitarianism in U.S. health care, Dr. Fein began laying groundwork for the formation of Medicare and Medicaid in the 1950s. His preference for a universal insurance program was a perspective conveyed throughout many of his published works, including the 1986 book, Medical Care, Medical Costs: The Search for a Health Insurance Policy.

Dr. Fein served as a member of President Harry S. Truman’s Commission on the Health Needs of the Nation, senior staff member on the Council of Economic Advisers under President John F. Kennedy, senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, director of the Medicare panel under President Lyndon B. Johnson and charter member of the Institutes of Medicine. He also was past chair of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s Scholars in Health Policy Research. He most recently held the title of emeritus professor of economics of medicine at Harvard Medical School.