FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UC Irvine’s 24th Annual Health Care Forecast Conference Focuses on Health Politics and Policies Under a Republican Congress

IRVINE, CA – (February 12, 2015) - Leading authorities and prominent keynote speakers including Norman J. Ornstein, PhD, television commentator and Resident Scholar at the American Enterprise Institute, will give inside-the-beltway insights on Health Politics and Policies Under a Republican Congress during the 24th Annual Health Care Forecast Conference. Hosted by The Paul Merage School of Business Center for Health Care Management and Policy, the conference begins Thursday, February 19 and runs through Friday, February 20 at the Beckman Center on the campus of UC Irvine.

This year’s conference includes special guests Wendell Primus, PhD, senior policy advisor on health for Minority House Leader Nancy Pelosi, and Sheryl Skolnick, PhD, managing director and director of U.S. Equity Research at Mizuho Securities USA Inc. In total, more than 25 of the nation’s leading health care executives will address the impact of the new Republican Congress and the many challenges to both the Republicans and President Obama in the ongoing debate on ACA implementation. Topics ranging from the ongoing transformation of the health care market and its effect on the competitive landscape, to the consequences affecting revenue and profitability will be discussed. State budget experts and independent analysts will talk about issues related to the enrollment of millions of people in Medicaid, the impact of the ACA on Medicaid and the State Budget, as well as the outlook for Covered California.

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The annual Health Care Forecast Conference has become a leading national forum for discussing the economics and politics of health care. Attendees includes physicians and other health care professionals, presidents, CEOs, trustees and senior management from provider and insurer organizations, senior executives in pharmaceutical, medical device and other health care organizations who define strategy and policy, employers and government officials who define and implement health policy. This highly respected event provides knowledge and insights to leaders in the private and public healthcare sectors who are grappling with complex problems during an era of unprecedented change.

The 2015 Health Care Forecast Conference will be held at the Arnold and Mabel Beckman Center of the National Academies of Sciences & Engineering at 100 Academy Drive, Irvine, CA 92617. Cost for the event is $750.00 per person. For full registration details, a list of speakers and schedule, visit merage.uci.edu/go/hcc.

**About The Center for Health Care Management and Policy**
The Center for Health Care Management and Policy at The Paul Merage School of Business advances knowledge through research and education while providing forums for dialogue on crucial challenges and concerns facing the nation’s health care system today. This interdisciplinary research institute brings together health care scholars, policy experts, and industry professionals to share vital information and a range of perspectives on such fundamental issues as quality of care, cost, and access.

**About The Paul Merage School of Business at UC Irvine**
The Paul Merage School of Business offers four dynamic MBA programs, a Master of Professional Accountancy – plus PhD and undergraduate business degrees – that deliver its thematic approach to business education: sustainable growth through strategic innovation. It graduates leaders with the exceptional ability to help grow their organizations through analytical decision-making, innovation and collaborative execution. In-class and on-site experiences with real-world business problems give students the edge needed to help companies compete in today’s global economy. To learn more, visit: merage.uci.edu.

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**Editor’s Note:** This year, for media only, the Health Care Forecast Conference will be *streamed live* at [http://cast.oit.uci.edu/tltc/Production/PMSOB/2015_HCFC.html](http://cast.oit.uci.edu/tltc/Production/PMSOB/2015_HCFC.html) beginning at 8:00 a.m. on February 19. In addition, media will have the opportunity to email in questions live during the event. Full conference details, including timing and speaker information, are available at [http://merage.uci.edu/Resources/Documents/2015%20Health%20Care%20Conference%20Program.pdf](http://merage.uci.edu/Resources/Documents/2015%20Health%20Care%20Conference%20Program.pdf).