

John E. Wennberg, M.D., M.P.H.

Dr. Wennberg is Director of the Center for the Evaluative Clinical Sciences at the Dartmouth Medical School and currently holds the Peggy Y. Thomson Chair for the Evaluative Clinical Sciences. He has been Professor in the Department of Community and Family Medicine since 1980 and in the Department of Medicine since 1989.

Dr. Wennberg is a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences and of the Johns Hopkins University Society of Scholars. He has received a number of awards, including the Association for Health Services Research's Distinguished Investigator Award, the Baxter Foundation's Health Services Research Prize, and the Richard and Hinda Rosenthal Foundation Award in Clinical Medicine.

Dr. Wennberg is a graduate of Stanford University and the McGill Medical School. His postgraduate training was in internal medicine and nephrology at Johns Hopkins, but he became interested in the application of epidemiological principles to the health care system while pursuing his master's degree in Public Health at Johns Hopkins.

With colleague Alan Gittelsohn, Dr. Wennberg developed a strategy for studying the population-based rates of health resource allocation and utilization (small-area analysis), which revealed large variations in these rates among local and regional health care markets, much of which appeared to relate to the distribution of the supply of resources and to differences in local medical opinion. In collaboration with colleagues in Maine and Boston, he undertook a series of studies designed to reduce scientific uncertainty, primarily in the area of prostate disease (where surgical procedures had been shown to vary by a factor of three or more among neighboring regions). Efforts to clarify the outcomes and the theoretical basis for undertaking prostate surgery led, in turn, to clarification of the importance of patient preference in the rational choice of treatment and to experiments to involve the patient as an active participant in the choice of treatment. Recent research includes a focus on the question of how many physicians are needed.

He cofounded the Foundation for Informed Medical Decision Making in Hanover, New Hampshire, a nonprofit corporation that provides objective scientific information to patients about their treatment choices using interactive media.

Dr. Wennberg is Principal Investigator and Series Editor of *The Dartmouth Atlas of Health Care*, which examines the patterns of medical resource intensity and utilization in the United States. The *Atlas* project also has reported on patterns of end-of-life care, inequities in the Medicare reimbursement system, and the underuse of preventive care.