

## **Introduction to the Symposium**

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In this issue, *HMPI* presents the proceedings from the MacEachern Symposium which was held on June 5<sup>th</sup> at the Kellogg School of Management. In future issues, *HMPI* will present proceedings from similar events held at sister schools in the Business School Alliance for Health Management, which cosponsors this journal.

Malcolm MacEachern was a legendary figure in healthcare management. Dr. MacEachern joined the staff of the American College of Surgeons in the 1920s to head up their quality improvement efforts. His efforts culminated in the formation of the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. Dr. MacEachern also devoted himself to training students in Northwestern University's hospital administration program (now Kellogg's Health Enterprise Management Program), which he founded in 1943. This is the oldest accredited program in the nation and the first to establish itself in a business school. Dr. MacEachern died in 1956.

His former students started the Malcolm MacEachern Lecture in 1976, which under the leadership of Professor Edward Hughes, evolved into the MacEachern Symposium. We honor Dr. MacEachern by continuing to hold this annual event, whose highlights include the MacEachern Lecture, which this year was given by Professor Martin Gaynor from Carnegie Mellon University.

This year's symposium examined the remarkable restructuring of the healthcare sector, with the emergence of large hospital-led, vertically integrated systems. Why is this occurring? What does it mean for cost and quality? And, most importantly for today's conference, what are the implications for market competitiveness and antitrust enforcement?

After the symposium, Kellogg hosted its annual Healthcare Forecasting Panel, moderated by Dave Burda. A distinguished panel of academics and executives shared their thoughts on the future direction of the health industry.