

Reminder !

NEW YORK PHARMA FORUM PROGRAM THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1999

SPEAKER: **Charles Brecher, Ph.D.**
Professor of Public and Health Administration
Director, Health Policy and Management Program
Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service
New York University

TOPIC: ***A Medicare prescription Drug Benefit: The Politics and Practicalities***

The debate over the Medicare prescription drug benefit reform has been heating up. The pharmaceutical industry overall shares President Clinton's goal of increasing Medicare beneficiaries' access to prescription drugs, but the industry also fears that it could lead to price controls.

Dr. Brecher will speak about the politics and practicalities involved in the passage of a Medicare prescription drug benefit. He will discuss the deciding factors involved in the political outcome of the debate on this topic, which will determine whether or not such a benefit will be enacted. He will also address how and whether this issue will end up as a factor in the 2000 Congressional and Presidential elections. He will also discuss the most likely long-term effects of a Medicare prescription drug benefit on the various stakeholders (the elderly, providers, managed care organizations, pharmaceutical manufacturers, etc.)

Dr. Brecher is a professor, researcher and author specializing in the field of health care finance, municipal finance, urban politics, and methods of policy analysis. He is also leading the fiscal component of the Wagner School's multi-year evaluation of the Robert Wood Johnson foundation's Urban Health Initiative. In addition to his teaching and research at the Wagner School, he serves as Research Director for the Citizens Budget Commission, a nonpartisan civic organization devoted to improving financial management and service delivery by the City of New York and the State of New York.