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## **DONALD BERWICK HONORED BY QUEEN ELIZABETH II**

### **The Honor Recognizes Berwick's Contribution – And That Of The Institute for Healthcare Improvement – To Reforming Britain's National Health Service**

Boston, MA – July 13, 2005 – Donald M. Berwick, MD, MPP, President and CEO of the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI), has been appointed an honorary KBE (Knight Commander, Order of the British Empire) by HM Queen Elizabeth II. The award, announced today, was made to Dr. Berwick, in his capacity as President and CEO of IHI, in recognition of his “distinguished service to healthcare improvement in Britain’s National Health Service.”

The knighthood is honorary, because Dr. Berwick is an American citizen. He will formally receive the honor in a ceremony later this year.

Other Americans awarded honorary British knighthoods in recent years include Bill Gates, Rudolph Giuliani, Alan Greenspan, and Steven Spielberg. Don Berwick joins only a handful of honorary recipients from the fields of science and medicine

Berwick and his colleagues at IHI have worked closely with the National Health Service (NHS) since the mid-1990s on projects such as a Modernisation Plan for the UK’s health care system. In addition to helping UK health care leaders incorporate and adapt the quality improvement methods of IHI and other US institutions, Berwick has endeavored to provide an “outsider” and objective viewpoint for his colleagues in the UK. Berwick was involved in the planning and program setup of the new National Patient Safety Agency. Recently, he became a Fellow at the Royal College of Physicians.

British Consul-General John Rankin, speaking in Boston today, said, “We are deeply grateful for Dr Berwick’s invaluable contributions to improving Britain’s National Health Service and with it the health of people throughout the UK. I am pleased that his work has been recognised with this distinguished honour. His collaborative work with colleagues in Britain exemplifies the partnership between our two nations. The US and UK are both richer for our close collaboration on matters ranging from public policy to scientific research.”

“I feel deeply touched by this honor,” said Dr. Berwick. “My experiences in the UK have been among the most satisfying of my entire career, warmed by deep friendships and energized by the nation's vision and commitment to the NHS - one of the greatest health care institutions in human history. Although this recognition is personal, I am deeply indebted to the scores of my IHI colleagues in the US, the UK, and other nations, who

have been working with me to help the NHS progress. I have learned constantly from them, and from the NHS, itself.”

Donald M. Berwick is one of the world’s leading authorities on health care quality and improvement issues. A member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences, Berwick has worked with several IOM committees, including the two that authored the landmark reports, *To Err is Human* and *Crossing the Quality Chasm*. He is also a clinical professor of pediatrics and health care policy at the Harvard Medical School, and author, most recently of *Escape Fire: Designs for the Future of Health Care*. Trained as a pediatrician, Dr. Berwick has served on the staff of Children’s Hospital in Boston since 1976.

*The Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) is a not-for-profit organization leading the improvement of health care throughout the world. Founded in 1991 and based in Cambridge, MA, IHI is a catalyst for change, cultivating innovative concepts for improving patient care and implementing programs for putting those ideas into action. Thousands of health care providers, including many of the finest hospitals in the world, participate in IHI’s groundbreaking work. ([www.ihl.org](http://www.ihl.org))*