

Robert E. Hertzka, MD

Dr. Robert E. Hertzka has been both a full-time clinician and a health policy instructor for over 30 years. A graduate of the University of California at San Diego School of Medicine (UCSD), he completed an internship in internal medicine at the University of Maryland and a residency in anesthesiology at the University of California at San Francisco (UCSF). Following two years on the faculty at UCSF, he joined Anesthesia Service Medical Group in 1987 and as of today remains in full-time clinical practice. Concurrent with his clinical practice, Dr. Hertzka has an extensive history of health care policy development, political engagement, teaching, and advocacy.

Once in private practice, he quickly became active with the 35,000-member California Medical Association (CMA), where he soon became their youngest Board Member in history. He went on to chair multiple policy committees, including those charged with developing policy on expanding health care access, and went on in 2004 to become the youngest CMA President in memory. He also chaired their political action committee from 1999-2002.

At the federal level, Dr. Hertzka has had extensive involvement with the American Medical Association (AMA), including eight years (2008-16) on their Council on Health Policy, the group within the AMA charged with developing all their policy on health care access, cost, and quality. While Chair in 2015 and 2016, Dr. Hertzka directed the production of multiple reports about potential improvements in the Affordable Care Act, which added to his previous work on how best to reconfigure Medicare and Medicaid for the future.

Notably in the organized medicine community, Dr. Hertzka is the only physician in history to chair both the AMA Council on Health Policy and the AMA Political Action Committee. While in that latter role in 2003-04, the AMA Political Action Committee raised the most money in its history and was named one of five most effective political action committees in the nation by the prestigious National Journal.

Dr. Hertzka also currently serves on the Board of Directors of the California Chamber of Commerce, something he has done since 2003. Other prior Board service includes three years on the National Coalition on Health Care, ten years on San Diego County's Health Services Advisory Board (including two years as chair), and ten years as the founding chair of San Diegans for Health Care Coverage, an oversight entity for multiple foundation-funded access to care projects.