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A specialist on American national institutions, much of Professor Peterson's scholarship focuses on interactions among the Presidency, Congress, and interest groups, evaluating their implications for policy making, both within the general domain of domestic policy and with special attention to national health care policy and Medicare reform. He has written extensively on how Congress responds to presidential legislative initiatives, exploring how different political, economic, and institutional settings affect coalition building, promote inter-institutional conflict or cooperation, influence the president's legislative performance, and establish the baseline for assessing the performance of individual leaders (including *Legislating Together: The White House and Capital Hill from Eisenhower to Reagan*, Harvard University Press). He has also investigated the ways in which presidents use relationships with organized interests to promote their administration's political or programmatic agendas, based on the presidential objectives and strategic calculations. As a participant in the Annenberg Institutions of American Democracy Project, with Public Policy Department colleague Joel Aberbach he co-chaired the Commission on the Executive Branch and co-edited the volume it produced on the politics and performance of the presidency and bureaucracy (*Institutions of American Democracy: The Executive Branch*, Oxford University Press), which won the Richard E. Neustadt Award from the Presidential Research section of the American Political Science Association. He has also contributed to its study of public and elite opinion on the performance of American institutions (*Institutions of American Democracy: A Republic Divided*, Oxford University Press) and the role of policy research in policy making. In addition, he edited *Health Markets? The New Competition in Medical Care*, Duke University Press; and co-edited both *Uncertain Times: Kenneth Arrow and the Changing Economics of Health Care*, Duke University Press) and the four-volume edited series *Health Politics and Policy* (Sage), as well as edited the special health policy journal issues, *The Managed Care Backlash* and *Who Shall Lead?*

His most recent research, for a book manuscript entitled "The Time Was Right: Political Contexts and Strategic Choices on the Long Road to Health Reform," examines how recognized problems in the health care system, the influence of public opinion, transformation of the interest group community, institutional dynamics in Congress, changes in the context and demands of political leadership, various dimensions of social learning by policy makers, and strategic and tactical choices by presidents both thwarted health care reform in the past and ultimately made possible the enactment of President Obama's Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010.

Professor Peterson has been an elected member of the Council of the American Political Science Association (2008-2010), a founding member of the Association's Organized Section on Health Politics and Policy, and was elected President of its Organized Section on Public Policy. He chairs the National Advisory Committee for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Scholars in Health Policy Research program and is a member of the National Advisory Committees for the Foundation's Changes in Health Care Financing and Organization (HCFO) program.

At UCLA, he served as Chair of the Department of Public Policy from 2002 to 2006. He is a Faculty Associate of the Center for Health Policy Research and the Center for Society & Genetics; Co-Director of the Policy Core for the Center for HIV Identification, Prevention, and Treatment Services; and currently is on the faculty advisory committee of the Center for American Politics and Public Policy and a member of the Community and Policy Advisory Board of the Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars program at UCLA.

Mark received a Bachelor's degree, Master's degree, and PhD in Political Science at University of Michigan.